



Freemasons
Foundation Victoria

The Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation ABN - 97 577 321 065

Freemasons Benevolent Fund ABN - 77 505 868 957

ANNUAL REPORT

2020 | **21**

Contributing
to a better
Victoria



OUR VISION

To contribute to a stronger and healthier Victoria through thoughtful and purposeful charitable support and community involvement.



OUR MISSION

To invest in programs and initiatives that are expected to provide stronger and healthier communities and by supporting individuals through access to education.

Tax Deductible Donations

Donations over \$2 to The Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation are tax deductible. To donate, please visit www.freemasonsfoundation.org or call (03) 8535 4780.

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Chairman's Report



I was honoured in November last year to be appointed as Chairman of Freemasons Foundation Victoria (FFV).

I would like to sincerely thank the three Members of the Foundation, Richard Elkington, Anthony Bucca and Keith Murray for the confidence they placed in me.

I would also like to congratulate and thank my two predecessors, Philip Mayers AM and Myles King OAM KSJ. Since 2018 they both successfully led the Foundation. Myles resigned from the Foundation to take on the role as President of the Board of General Purposes and Phillip has been a tower of strength supporting myself and the Foundation as the Deputy Chairman of the Foundation. He also very ably Chairs the very important Working Group of the 1889 Bequest Society.

Both registered charities which form the Foundation were the subject of compliance activities from the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) this year. I am particularly pleased to report that the Foundation passed all the compliance enquiries and questioning with which we were presented. The outcome from their investigations was that the Foundation is complying with all the statutory requirements of the ACNC for which myself and all the Directors were particularly pleased. A special thanks must go to Neil Cripps, our Executive Officer, for the way he administers the Foundation.

Our Foundation has continued to support Lodges in their philanthropic pursuits all around Victoria, in the metropolitan suburbs of Melbourne and right around country Victoria. I am always impressed by the work of the Lodges and the Foundation is always willing to support their causes when it fits within our guidelines and is within our financial ability.

COVID-19 has again meant that many Victorians have been the subject of extreme disruption to both their family and working lives. The Foundation has been able to support many Brethren and their families as well as supporting the Victorian community in general. It has been a very tough couple of years, and I repeat the call I have made many times, in many forums, that we are here to help. Please do not suffer in silence. If you need help or know of someone who needs support, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us.

I'd like to thank the many Brethren both here in Victoria, and other parts of the World who supported our Disaster Relief efforts. In total just under one million dollars was distributed to many causes around Victoria.

In improving financial markets our investments have grown from just under \$52 million in 2020 to just under \$60

million as at the 30th of June 2021.

An outstanding effort when we consider that \$1,746,045 was distributed to the Victorian community. I am extremely proud that our Fraternity donated almost \$1m to the Disaster Relief effort.

This means that since 2014 when the Foundation was reinvented after the merging of The Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation and the Freemasons Benevolent Fund, we have gifted \$13,873,402. A hearty congratulations to everyone who has been involved in this outstanding achievement.

The Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation achieved a surplus of \$221,425 this year and the Freemasons Benevolent Fund achieved a surplus of \$925,053.

I was particularly proud to officially launch the 1889 Bequest Society at the Grand Installation in March this year. It is a group chaired by Philip Mayers AM and is intended to invite the engagement of all Brethren to consider bequeathing part of their Estate upon their death to the Foundation.

I was also extremely honoured to announce a \$1 million commitment over 4 years to fund a project with Cancer Council Victoria to eliminate cervical cancer in Victoria. We would be the first jurisdiction in the world to eliminate cervical cancer. What a wonderful project to be part of!!!

I would like to formally acknowledge and thank our financial advisors JB Were for their wonderful advice during these very challenging times. We have stuck to our long-term strategy and our returns have been magnificent. A big thankyou to Grant Cashin and Clint Rippon from JB Were.

I'd like to conclude by sincerely thanking all the Directors of Freemasons Foundation Victoria. We all contribute significant time and effort to further the cause of our wonderful Foundation and your experience and expertise is much appreciated. The support and council you give me is always wise and reassuring.

All Freemasons in Victoria should feel very proud of the achievements of our fantastic Foundation.

Rodney Lavin JP
Chairman

“The Foundation has been able to support many Brethren and their families as well as supporting the Victorian community in general.”

Our Impact



Investment Income

\$3.2 million



Application Approval Rate

93%



Funds Distributed

\$1.7 million



Managed Funds for Charitable Activities

\$59.6 million



Applications Approved

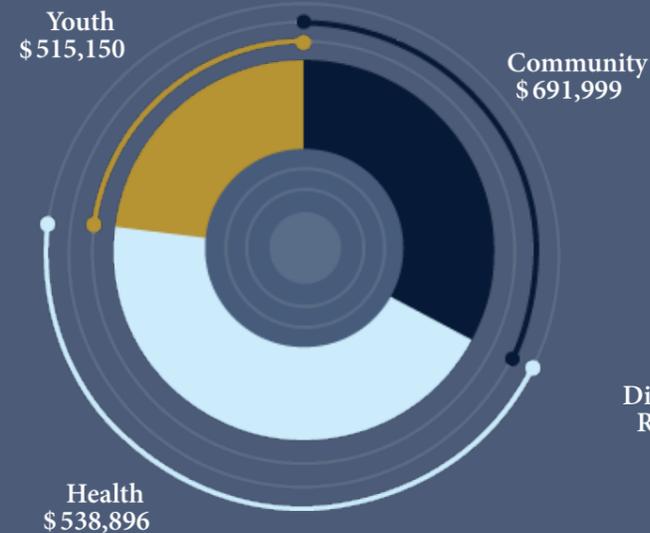
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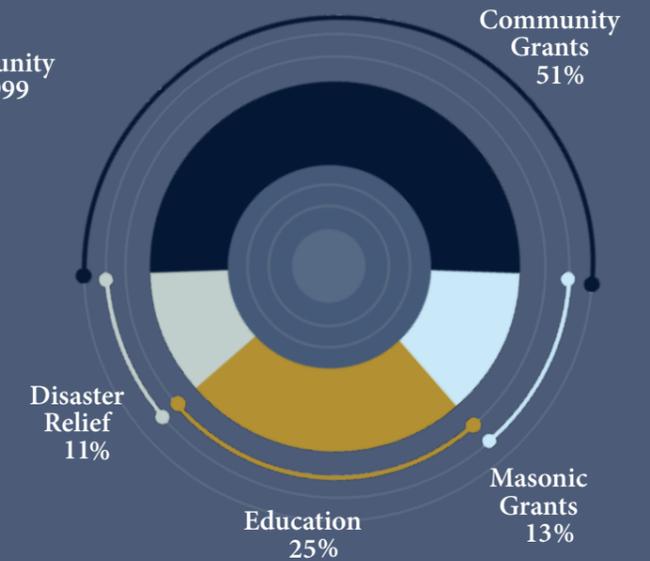
Administration Expenses as a percentage of net assets

0.6%

Grant Distribution



Grant Program Distribution



Organisational Structure

MEMBERS

Richard Elkington, Grand Master	Member since April 2018
Anthony Bucca, Deputy Grand Master	Member since June 2020
Keith Murray, Past Grand Master	Member since April 2016

DIRECTORS

Rodney Lavin JP, Chairman	Chairman since November 2020 Director since November 2018
Philip Mayers AM, Deputy Chairman	Director since November 2016
David Gibbs AM	Director since November 2014
Peter Henshall	Director since November 2020
Garry James	Director since November 2018
Xavier Murtagh	Director since November 2020
John Patterson	Director since November 2018

STAFF

Neil Cripps, Executive Officer	Company Secretary since November 2016
Jacintha Chiang, Marketing Coordinator	June 2018 - June 2021
Michael Halls, Volunteer	January 2021

The Board of Freemasons Foundation Victoria Limited (FFV), in its role as Trustee for The Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation (FPCF) and Freemasons Benevolent Fund (FBF), is committed to high standards of corporate governance and implementing policies and procedures which reflect these standards.

To maintain these high standards of corporate governance the Board

- properly identifies, discloses, and manages any conflicts of interest,
- acts honestly, in good faith and in the best interest of FPCF or FBF,
- uses care and diligence in fulfilling their functions, and
- does not take improper advantage of their position.

Board of Directors



Mr. Rodney Lavin JP
Chairman



Mr. Philip Mayers AM
Deputy Chairman



Mr. Peter Henshall
Director



Mr. Garry James
Director



Mr. Xavier Murtagh
Director



Mr. David Gibbs AM
Director



Mr. John Patterson
Director



Mr. Neil Cripps
Executive Officer and
Company Secretary

Method of Support

GRANTING INTO THE COMMUNITY

Since our establishment in November 2014, the Foundation has provided significant funds to contribute to a stronger and healthier Victoria via our granting programs.



A. FFV MASONIC GRANTS

This is the cornerstone of our philanthropic giving. Whenever possible, approved Masonic Orders will be supported in their local community charitable works with not-for-profit organisations of a charitable purpose in the areas of Education, Health Projects & Medical Research, Community Development, Youth Development Programs and Indigenous Programs.



B. FFV COMMUNITY GRANTS

Available to ACNC registered charities to apply directly to FFV to support a specific project or part of a project for programs and initiatives in the areas of Health Projects & Medical Research, Community Development, Education, Indigenous Programs and the Arts.



C. MAJOR IMPACT GRANTS

Designed to support/contribute to substantial projects in Victoria. One-off grant over a specified number of years. The grant range is between \$250,000 - \$500,000 in the areas of Health & Medical Research, Education, Community Support and Indigenous Programs.



D. DISASTER RELIEF FUND GRANTS

Ongoing fund established in January 2020 for recovery, reconstruction and prevention projects for the communities of Victoria impacted by disasters.



E. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The provision of financial relief to current members of Freemasons Victoria and their dependants or spouse who are in financial need or require other support which cannot be provided by Government or other agencies.

FFV EDUCATION SUPPORT

Since 1912, Freemasons have been awarding Victorian Masonic Scholarships. The aim of the programs is to aid the youth of Victoria to achieve their education goals.



A. FFV EDUCATION

Supporting Victorian Craft Lodges with their local community scholarships, bursaries and awards for primary, secondary and tertiary students.



B. FFV SCHOLARSHIPS

Available annually to secondary students and 1st year tertiary students taking into consideration each student's results, financial need or difficulties and school and community activities.



C. FFV BURSARIES

Provide support to Post-Secondary students undertaking their first tertiary course who require financial assistance with their studies.

Contributing to a Better Victoria



Lodge of the Great Ocean Road

Although times are tough at the moment Anglesea and Aireys Inlet Foodlink have, due to donations such as those from the Foundation and the Lodge, been enabled to continue to provide emergency stocks of non-perishable food, toiletries and vouchers for fresh fruit and vegetables to those in need.



Portland Lodge

The assistance provided from the Freemasons Foundation Victoria is crucial in allowing disadvantaged Secondary students to access much needed equipment/books etc. which otherwise would be unattainable. It is greatly appreciated.



Eureka Mums

Thank you for sharing our belief that every child deserves to be safe. Your donation is greatly appreciated by all of us here at Eureka Mums. Your donation will help towards essential items such as a child car restraint for safe travel. You are helping parents and families who are facing very tough times, or are in crisis, and need urgent assistance. Your donation means that together we can help many families enjoy the precious experience of early childhood, and give their children the safe start they deserve.



Lodge Devotion

As Secretary of the Lodge and a stakeholder in the Freemasons Foundation, I feel great confidence when dealing with Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House. Further, internally, our members saw the Benevolent aspect of Freemasonry in action, and we constantly mentioned this was greatly supported by the Foundation which provided the majority of funds.



Lodge of the Great Ocean Road

Currently all food aid organisations are finding the call on their services increasing as time moves on and Torquay Food Aid is no exception. The support from the Foundation and the Lodge has and will enable this organisation to support many people and families over the months ahead, particularly as we move into 2021 and the government support under the COVID-19 pandemic decreases.



Gippsland Lakes Lodge

The Wairewa Hall was threatened by the 2020 bushfires and nearly lost as they didn't have a generator to power any firefighting system, with this grant the hall committee have been able to purchase a generator and associated fire fighting equipment to enable the community to be protected from any future bush fires.

The community have expressed great appreciation to the Foundation and believe that the purchase of this equipment will save lives in the future.

Wombat Housing Support Services - Making a difference with Freemasons

"Thank you to Freemasons Foundation Victoria for our \$20,000 grant & Old Scotch College Collegians for our \$1000 grant. (COVID-19 Recovery & Response Grant). Wombat Housing Support Services is a not-for-profit organisation that provides a free service to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in the inner western suburbs of Melbourne. Wombat provides a broad range of housing related support services aimed at assisting people to obtain and maintain independent, long-term, stable accommodation. Wombat consists of 9 programs which provide services for young people, families, single adults and people in public & community housing. Last year Wombat provided case management support to over 700 young people, adults & families.

Often people using the service require help to cover day to day expenses while they are getting their lives back on track. The majority of our clients have limited income and support networks. The experience of homelessness can mean that their education is often disrupted, employment difficult to obtain or maintain and the sense of not feeling connected to the wider community. The Freemasons grant will specifically enable clients impacted by COVID-19 to re-build their lives with the ability to access essential items, wellbeing and job ready items they would not ordinarily have the opportunity to provide for themselves. This financial assistance has already made a considerable impact on the lives of those people that we support.

Recently we supported a family to move from emergency accommodation to their long term housing property. With the Freemason grant the case manager was able to provide the family with essential items that they could not afford to buy immediately and help them settle into their new home. Without this assistance the family would have not been able to secure their new tenancy.

This is just one example of how we are assisting people with the COVID-19 Response & Recovery grant."



"Thank you so much. I don't have access to bank account at the moment because I've had to shut it because someone was stealing my money, and I literally have no food."
ADULT HEART CLIENT
(COVID RESPONSE)

"Client was experiencing financial hardship and was rough sleeping in his car. His registration was due and the client had no means to pay this. Given that this was his only transport & form of accommodation the grant assisted to keep the client safe whilst assisting him to look for long term accommodation."
ADULT CASE MANAGER
(COVID RESPONSE)

Quotes taken from Wombat Grant Report 2020-21

FFV Masonic Grants

Anglesea & Aireys Inlet Foodlink
Support for the emergency relief program.
\$4,000
Lodge of the Great Ocean Road

Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House
Support the emergency relief program providing meals to local disadvantaged people living in public housing.
\$5,000
Lodge Devotion

Bendigo Community Health Services
Program helping the elderly to stay connected with the community during COVID-19.
\$5,000
Golden and Corinthian Lodge

Khalsa Shaouni Inc
Support for the emergency relief program.
\$5,000
The Sunshine Wisdom Lodge

Australian Volunteer Coast Guard - VF8 Geelong
Combined with the Lodge contribution, the funds purchased a defibrillator.
\$1,360
Meredith Lodge

1st Baulkamaugh Scouts
First Aid training for scouts and leaders.
\$3,400
Rupertswood-Numurkah Lodge

Combined Churches Caring Melton
Support for the emergency relief program.
\$5,000
The Melton Lodge

Eureka Mums
Purchase of infant car seats for distribution to families in need.
\$3,000
Sturt-Buninyong United Lodge

Freemasons Community Relief
Food parcels for distribution to families in need in the Bayside area.
\$10,000
Freemasons Foundation Victoria



Fronditha Care
Purchase of overbed tables for new facility.
\$7,500
Gregorios Lodge

Hepburn Regional Community Cheer
Support for the emergency relief program.
\$1,000
Mount Franklin-St. George Lodge

Heywood & District Secondary College
Provide funds to assist disadvantaged students to meet the cost of school necessities.
\$600
Portland Lodge of Victoria

Inspirational Quilts
Funds to make quilts donated to children admitted to hospital.
\$4,300
Freemasons Foundation Victoria

Lara Food Relief
Support for the emergency relief program.
\$1,100
Lara Lodge

Latrobe Regional Hospital
Combined with the Lodge contribution, the funds purchased a defibrillator.
\$7,796
Morwell Lodge

Les Twentyman Foundation
Support "Back to School" program.
\$5,000
Grand Master

Mallee Family Care
Support local youth with their educational aspirations.
\$1,000
Mildura Lodge

Mildura Legacy Club
Support local widows with property maintenance.
\$1,000
The United Memorial & Merbein Lodge



Lockington Bush & District Bush Nursing Centre
 Combined with the lodge contribution, the funds purchased a lifting chair to assist in the lifting of people who have fallen and have difficulty in getting off the floor.
\$2,800
 Kyabram Lodge

Portland Secondary College
 Provide funds to assist disadvantaged students to meet the cost of school necessities.
\$600
 Portland Lodge of Victoria

Presentation Family Centre
 Solar panels to help reduce costs.
\$7,500
 Middle Park Lodge

Quantum Support Services
 Creation of a scope to enable social research.
\$5,000
 Grand Master

Riding for the Disabled - Shepparton
 Assist with purchase of equipment and upgrade facilities enabling disabled clients to participate in programs.
\$2,500
 Lodge Eshcol

Royal South Street Society
 Support the annual Festival of Bands & Strings Eisteddfod.
\$8,000
 St. Johns Lodge

Shepparton Foodshare
 Support for the emergency relief program.
\$5,000
 Lodge Eshcol

Shepparton Foodshare
 Support for the emergency relief program.
\$5,000
 Goulburn Valley St. George Lodge

Shepparton Foodshare
 Support for the emergency relief program.
\$5,000
 Rupertswood-Numurkah Lodge

Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop Medical Research Foundation
 Contribute to research project to develop new therapies for the treatment of diabetes.
\$5,000
 Lodge Liberation



Scouts Victoria
 First Aid kits to all Victorian Scout groups.
\$35,000
 Baden Powell Lodge, Lord Carrington Lodge, The Mornington Lodge, Gregorios Lodge, Lodge of Progress, Lodge of Commerce, Duke of Sussex Lodge, United Service Lodge, Lodge Amicus, Melbourne St. Clair Reunion

Sleep Bus Ltd
 Support the cost of running the Sleep Buses.
\$2,000
 Williamstown Lodge

Smith Family
 Support the "Learning for Life" project.
\$10,000
 Grand Master

St Peter's Eastern Hill Charitable Foundation
 Support for the emergency relief program.
\$5,000
 Bank Place Lodge

Swan Hill Health
 Mental Health First Aid training.
\$5,000
 Swan Hill Lodge

Tallygaroopna Mens Shed
 Upgrade kitchen facilities.
\$900
 Rupertswood-Numurkah Lodge

The Boys' Brigade Victoria - Wyndham Company
 Assist with purchase of equipment for programs.
\$5,000
 Victorian Naval and Military Lodge

Order of Saint Lazarus Victorian Commandery Charitable Trust
 Support for the emergency relief program.
\$5,000
 Victorian Naval and Military Lodge

The Think Pink Foundation
 Support for the Think Pink Foundation.
\$5,000
 SEAVIC Lodge

Torquay Food Aid
 Support for the emergency relief program.
\$4,000
 Lodge of the Great Ocean Road

Uniting Ballarat
 Winter Warmth 2021 - doonas.
\$2,700
 Sturt-Buninyong United Lodge



Springvale Benevolent Society
 Support for the emergency relief program.
\$7,200
 The Spring Vale Lodge

Uniting Sale
 Support for the emergency relief program.
\$2,000
 Gippsland Lodge

Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency
 Support children programs.
\$5,000
 Grand Master

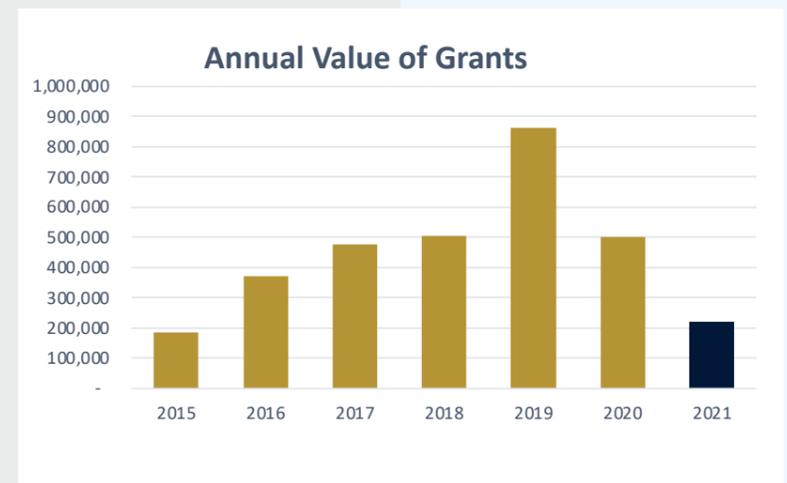
Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop Medical Research Foundation
 Contribute to research project targeting the brain's immune system to understand, prevent and treat post-traumatic stress disorder.
\$5,600
 Lodge Liberation

West Wimmera Health Service
 Contribute to the purchase of new medical equipment to provide cataract surgery at Nhill Hospital.
\$4,000
 The Lowan Lodge,
 West Wimmera Blue Lounge Social Club

Total Masonic Grants
44

Total Paid
\$220,856

Lodge Contributions
\$78,779



Sub Fund Grants

The Think Pink Foundation
 A unique aspect of SEAVIC is that we have a strong commitment and engagement of our partners in our Social, Charity Committees and in the South. This provides a holistic approach to include our families to strengthen and engage both existing and new members into Freemasonry. As part of the Charity committee and profile our ladies and members have requested sponsorship of a cancer charity that is Melbourne based and fits our profile. As many of us have been exposed to the excellent work at Think Pink we see this as an ideal partner. To assist in providing nursing after care, wigs and subsidized accommodation to those suffering from cancer.
\$2,000
 SEAVIC 8

Tertiary Scholarships
\$2,000
 Tresco Lodge

Yarram Secondary College
 Student Awards
\$500
 Tarra Lodge

Total Paid
\$4,500

FFV Education Support

Heywood & District Secondary College

We have been extremely fortunate to have the continued support of the Freemasons Portland Lodge and Freemasons Foundation Victoria. The support they give to our students is amazing and I know our students are very grateful to receive these scholarships. In receiving these scholarships, students are able to purchase text books or attend camps to help assist them in their studies.

Rutherglen High School

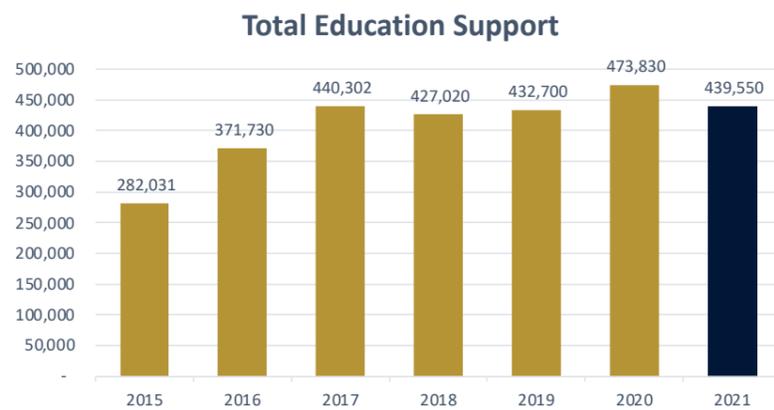
Once again we thank the various community partners and organisations that make these Awards (and several thousand dollars in total) available to our students. Investing in our young people is the best investment in our future. We are all immensely proud of our students.

Mount Clear College

We are very excited to be able to present these substantial awards to our students who have excelled in the area of leadership. It is quite amazing to witness our students' enthusiasm and their inspiration when a special award is offered and the recognition they receive for their hard work when being presented with an award.

Healesville High School

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous sponsorship of our 2020 Year 7 and Year 8 Endeavour Scholarships. I am very proud of all the students who were acknowledged for their academic success, contributions to our music program, sporting success, citizenship and personal endeavours. These scholarships support students to achieve their potential and promote continued success in their educational pursuits. Without your generous contribution, we would not be in a position to provide these scholarships.



\$439,550
PAID

49 payments to
Tertiary students
\$262,000

80 payments to
Secondary students
\$70,300

12 payments for
scholarships
at Victorian Tertiary
Educational Institutes
\$60,000

34 payments
supporting Lodges
with their local awards
\$47,250
(Lodge contributions \$27,200)

203 students received
an award

5 tertiary
students

88 secondary
students

110 primary school
students

FFV Community Grants

Entertainment Assist

Third instalment for provision of mental health programs for people working in Australian performing arts and entertainment industry
\$168,000

Hope Bereavement Care

Support for the Support After Suicide program which supports individuals and families after sudden and unexpected death.
\$112,700

Let's Talk Foundation

Partners with Let's Talk to help activate the whole community of South West Victoria in removing, over time, the stigma around mental health and thereby increase the health and wellbeing of our community.
\$100,000

Monash Health

Fifth instalment for the purchase of medical equipment for the provision of paediatric services to the Victorian community.
\$300,000

Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices

Development of software, training content and infrastructure to support a good quality and extensible online learning environment.
\$107,870

The Order of Australia Association Foundation

Scholarship for tertiary student
\$15,000

Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation

Support for Blue Ribbon Day and Blue Ribbon Foundation Charity Ball
\$50,000

Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation

Contribute to the purchase of new Intubation equipment for the emergency departments at Frankston and Rosebud hospitals
\$29,000
Supported by Baxter Lodge & Lodge of Honour

Total Paid
\$882,570

Hope Bereavement Care – Support After Suicide program

A recent grant of \$112,700 from Freemasons Foundation Victoria to Geelong's Hope Bereavement Care will enable Hope to continue its service as well as expand services to include an additional resource that will focus on models of support likely to help people less likely to seek counselling, in particular men. The program will focus on community capacity building, extending non-counselling bereavement support and promote good grief and mental health.

Rodney Lavin, Chairman of Freemasons Foundation Victoria, said that the grant would help Hope in its suicide bereavement counselling, referral service, group-based support and consultation.

This continues the financial support given by Freemasons to Hope since its inception four years ago. SAS Geelong has experienced significant increases in demand during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hope Bereavement Care offers free information, support and counselling when grieving the death of a child, the sudden and unexpected death of an adult and those experiencing the loss after suicide.

In 2017, Hope established the Support After Suicide (SAS) support service after local parents, bereaved by suicide, advocated for a suicide specific local bereavement services and worked to link Hope and Jesuit Social Services (JSS), who deliver Support After Suicide across Victoria with the Bellarine Otway District Freemasons, who provided seed funding.



Suicide Bereavement Counselling

Free bereavement counselling for individuals, couples and families, by a qualified bereavement counsellor either face to face or by telephone.

- 33 clients
- 230 sessions

Referral Service

Provision of suicide bereavement referral services. Due to the success of the promotion of SAS self-referrals have increased.

- Responded to 29 new referrals



Let's Talk Foundation – Breaking the Silence Around Mental Illness



Photo Credit: Peter Morgan

The Let's Talk Foundation's message has never been more relevant than during these uncertain times as our communities live through lockdowns, restrictions and public health challenges.

Let's Talk's growth since its inception has challenged the grass roots organisation to meet the needs and requests from the community but with the support of Freemasons Foundation Victoria (FFV) Let's Talk Southwest will strengthen its outreach thanks to a \$300,000 funding boost over 3 years. FFV's commitment to Let's Talk will mean working groups can be established by locals to meet local needs in Colac and Hamilton.

The funding from FFV will enable Let's Talk to employ a Community Engagement Officer in both locations to support the establishment and continuation of these groups and to cater for the wider south-west region.

Rodney Lavin, Chairman of Freemasons Foundation Victoria, congratulated the organisation on the essential work they undertake in the local community and that Freemasons Foundation is very pleased to support a worthy cause.

“Break down the stigma around mental health, encourage help-seeking behaviour and raise the level of community competence in supporting someone with mental health issues.”

Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices

There are more than 500,000 people in Victoria with the authority to witness Stat Decs and certify true copies of documents (both Federal and State). The majority of these people are completely unaware of their witnessing and certification requirements and responsibilities. As a result, many documents are completed incorrectly and returned unaccepted. This leads to frustration and inconvenience to the community and in some cases significant losses and missed opportunities.

Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices (RVAHJ) is the peak body for Justices of the Peace and Bail Justices in Victoria. The Association focuses on providing excellent independent, trusted and respected semi-judicial services (witnessing, attestation, bail/remand hearings etc) for the community at no cost.

The funds will help the development of software, training content and infrastructure to support a good quality and extensible online learning environment.



“Improving the skill sets of up to 500,000 authorised witnesses all around Victoria”



Monash Health Foundation

Freemasons Foundation Victoria has a long history of substantial support for projects and equipment across Monash Health, particularly Monash Children's Hospital. These initiatives have made a significant impact on the lives of Victorian children and adults. A summary of each initiative is included below.

RetCam Digital Imaging System

RetCam is the gold standard in imaging equipment used to identify the most preventable blinding complications for premature babies - Retinopathy of Prematurity. With the donation from Freemasons Foundation Victoria, Monash Children's Hospital purchased an additional, portable RetCam enabling all Monash Health nurseries to use the RetCam, including the nurseries at Dandenong and Casey Hospitals.

Monash Health's newborn service cares for more than 200 premature babies every year. All premature babies need to have regular retinal examination from one month until the retinal development reaches maturity. This means that up to 14 babies need this review each week.

COVID-19 Research Program

Thanks to the wonderful generosity of Freemasons Foundation Victoria and their matched giving, Monash Health was able to raise more than \$500,000 for COVID-19 research projects, through a community appeal.

The program funded eight innovative projects aimed at improving care for people with COVID-19. The impacts of this research will continue to be felt.

Paediatric Emergency Department - Vital Equipment

- A portable EEG (electroencephalogram) machine, which assists in early diagnosis for children who come to the Emergency Department after having a seizure.
- A mobile x-ray device, which means children patients do not have to be transferred to the Radiology Department for an x-ray.
- A vascular ultrasound machine that guides intravenous access in paediatric patients. This means that cannulas can be inserted swiftly, reducing the stress and anxiety often felt by young patients and their parents. The machine also significantly reduces the number of skin punctures and associated pain and infection risk.

Zeiss Microscope

This super-specialist microscope is helping faster and more efficient analysis and diagnosis of a patient's conditions.

Urodynamics Machine and Image Intensifier

Urodynamic tests are used to diagnose urinary conditions. Most tests are related to the bladder's ability to retain urine and then to release it completely without starting and stopping. This important machine is helping our clinicians diagnose and analyse issues with a patient's bladder and/or urethra, ensuring treatment can proceed without delay.

“Monash Health and the Monash Health Foundation are exceptionally grateful to Freemasons Foundation Victoria for your generosity to our 2020 urgent appeal. Your funds supported medical research to help people with COVID-19.” Ron Fairchild, Director Monash Health Foundation

Information taken from COVID-19 Grants: Final Research update October 2021, Monash Health Foundation and Freemasons Foundation Victoria

Disaster Relief Fund Grants

Financial Assistance

Financial relief to current members of Freemasons Victoria impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and East Gippsland Fires.
\$5,000

Wairewa Hall Committee

Purchase a generator for the hall so as to ensure power in the possibility of a loss of mains power to the area.
\$7,000

Wairewa Hall Committee

Construct a secure cage/enclosure at the Hall to house the Generator, air conditioner unit and the sprinkler / hall water pump.
\$7,038

Freemasons Community Relief

Provide food parcels to people in the Bayside area impacted by the latest COVID-19 lockdown.
\$5,000

Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal Public Fund

Assist with some of the cost to clear debris and fencelines in difficult access areas on private property in the Upper Murray impacted by the January 2020 bushfires & resulting landslides & floods.
\$99,880

Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

Free concert for people in Mallacoota.
\$15,000

Gippsland Farmer Relief

Food hampers and back to school supplies for East Gippsland Farmers impacted by the drought.
\$50,000

Additional \$15,866 received

Total donations received \$581,598

\$188,918 distributed 2020/2021

Total distributed since January 2020 - \$920,918

A donation of \$50,000 in 2020 to Life Education Victoria, under lockdown, has contributed to making a difference to the lives of kids in Victoria. The funds were allocated towards the organisation's "Building the Bridge" project in 2020.



life smart kids

giving kids the smarts to deal with the hard stuff

“The first of our 8 pilot schools for 2021 launched their campaign recently. The feedback from this school was that it exceeded expectations in lesson structure, delivery, time frame and quality of presenter.”



Information and images provided by Life Education Victoria



The grant will enable us to continue with our objective of looking after farming families who are experiencing financial stress from any means and who are struggling to feed their families.

Bequest Society



Bequest Society

In 1889, the Board of Benevolence was established at the time of the formation of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria (UGLV) with a donation of 500 pounds by Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Sir William Clarke, Baronet.

The philanthropic giving by Freemasons within Victoria over the past 130 years is something that we can all be immensely proud of. It is the aim of the Foundation to continue this tradition for generations to follow.

One way to support your Foundation is to make a bequest to the Freemasons Benevolent Fund. Your bequest will become part of Freemasons' philanthropy in Victoria well into the future

What is a Bequest?

A bequest is a gift included in your Will, a bequest can be:

- a portion (%) of a person's whole estate
- a portion (%) of the residual estate (that is, the sum remaining after creditors have been paid)
- a set sum of money
- property (land, goods or chattels, bric-a-brac)
- shares, cash, hybrids, life insurance policy, annuities and other types of investments
- works of art or memorabilia

Making a bequest to an entity is accomplished in two ways: by including the entity in a Will or by adding a codicil to an existing Will.

Bequest Society

Many organisations establish a bequest society. They are particularly successful for organisations that have a long history. The main purpose of a bequest society is to thank and acknowledge people in their lifetime. Furthermore, a bequest society exists to inform, steward and assist people plan their estate. It also provides the organisation an opportunity to learn how the bequestor's bequest should be used.

In summary:

- Bequest Societies exist to thank and acknowledge people in their lifetime
- Bequest Societies help to inform and educate potential bequestors about the possibilities they can consider with their intending bequest
- Bequest Societies are a very useful vehicle for promoting bequests via the pictures and stories they produce that can be shared

Making a bequest today will not change your bank balance tomorrow.

“The philanthropic giving by Freemasons within Victoria is something that we can all be immensely proud of.”

1889 Bequest Society

The **1889 Bequest Society** was established to recognise and acknowledge people in their lifetime and can assist people to discover how they can create their own legacy.

If you have included Freemasons Foundation Victoria or either of its 2 registered charities;

The Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation or Freemasons Benevolent Fund, in your Will please let us know and you will be invited to join the **1889 Bequest Society**.

1889



Bequest Manefield

In 2002/2003, Freemasons Victoria's Benevolent Fund received a bequest from Sydney George Manefield to support education.

Over the last 5 years Freemasons Foundation Victoria has faithfully honoured Sydney Manefield's request by awarding the Sydney George Manefield Scholarship. This money was given to seven tertiary students from regional Victoria to support them to meet their education costs. For example, travel, tuition fees, books and computers.

Charity has always been a key tenet of Freemasonry. If you want to become part of Freemasons' philanthropy in Victoria and create your own legacy to support a cause you admire and respect, like Sydney Manefield, please call our office on 8535 4780 or visit our website www.freemasonsfoundation.org/1889bequestsociety. The website has a link to click that explains the 1889 Bequest Society and how we thank our bequestors.

Making a bequest is easy and does not mean you have to re-write your will because you can simply add a codicil.

Scholarship Testimonial

My name is Robin Alvear and I was the fortunate recipient of the Sydney George Manefield Residential Scholarship in 2019. In order to attend university after graduating high school, I was required to relocate from Swan Hill in rural Victoria to Melbourne. Moving to the big city and living by myself was very daunting, but the Manefield Scholarship helped make the transition much more manageable. The scholarship enabled me to relocate to Melbourne, and helped me finance my accommodation and material costs for my university degree.

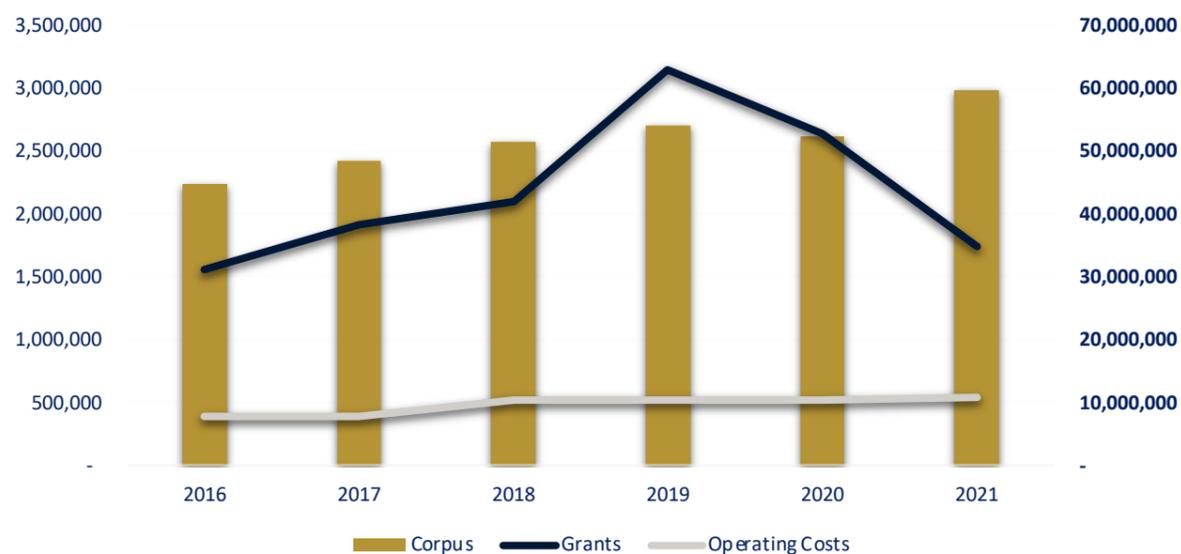
The Manefield Scholarship was not only a monetary benefit; it was also a form of validation and belief. It was a form of recognition that my ambitions and my efforts were appreciated and supported, and it helped further my aspiration to make a little difference in the world around us. And for that, I am very thankful to the Freemasons Foundation Victoria.

Robin

Financial Summary

	The Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation		Freemasons Benevolent Fund	
	2020/2021	2019/2020	2020/2021	2019/2020
Investment Income	1,015,004	932,514	2,181,684	2,025,307
Other Income	31,606	542,271	201,027	164,926
Funds Distributed	(699,180)	(1,280,000)	(1,045,865)	(1,360,045)
Operating Expenses	(126,005)	(119,034)	(411,793)	(398,483)
Net Surplus/ (Loss)	221,425	75,751	925,053	431,705
Net Assets	19,153,409	16,861,186	42,698,203	37,091,758

To obtain a copy of the full financial reports for the year, please visit our website www.freemasonsfoundation.org



Become Involved

One of the most important aspects of Freemasonry is charity which is a tenet we learn at the beginning of our Masonic career. As the charitable arm of Victorian Freemasonry, the Foundation is the philanthropic face of all Brethren within our local communities. It goes without saying that we can only carry out the tremendous work we do within the community with the assistance of Masonic Lodges and the generous giving of our Brethren.

Make a Donation

Your help can support the Foundation to continue assisting the Victorian community.

A Gift in Your Will

A simple way to help us continue our work within the community is by making a bequest as part of your Will.

Create a Named Sub-Fund

Preserve your donation and provide for a long-term gift to your chosen charity in years to come via the creation of a named sub-fund within our charity structures.

Freemasons Foundation Victoria says thank you to all of the individuals and Masonic Lodges who have contributed financial support during the year and to Freemasons Victoria for ongoing support.

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ANNUAL REPORT

Contributing
to a better
Victoria



Freemasons
Foundation Victoria

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