



FREEMASONS
FOUNDATION VICTORIA

ANNUAL REPORT
2022-2023

Improving the lives and
opportunities of Victorians



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 Donation

Donations over \$2 to The Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation are tax deductible.

To donate, please visit www.freemasonsfoundation.org or call (03) 8535 4780.

Freemasons Foundation Victoria acknowledges Aboriginal Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pays respect to their culture and Elders past, present and emerging.

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A Message from the UGLV Grand Master



As Grand Master of Freemasons Victoria and Chairman of Members of Freemasons Foundation Victoria, I congratulate the Foundation and the board for their philanthropic giving in the name of Freemasonry over the past twelve months.

FFV has achieved tremendous impact, and I am particularly proud of the support provided to Lodges' charitable activities. With the Masonic Grants program, Lodges have gifted more than \$380,000 to local communities and almost \$80,000 to local student awards programs. It's not celebrated widely, but the work of Lodges across the state is of great benefit to Victoria's youth, as well as many vulnerable community members and the not-for-profits that serve them.

In response to the devastating flooding events of October 2022, we proudly collaborated with on-the-ground community organisations and local Freemasons to provide essential support where it was needed most. With Freemasons Victoria's support, the Foundation also assisted several brethren who were impacted by these floods. I would like to thank John Glover and Rod Lavin for their efforts in supporting those brethren who needed assistance. I would also like to thank David Gibbs AM for his valuable contribution to FFV over the eight years in his role as a Director.

I sincerely encourage all of our Lodges and the Foundation to continue to build strong relationships and continue to create a positive impact on the lives of Victorians.

MWBro. Anthony Bucca
UGLV Grand Master

Chairman's Report

Improving the lives and opportunities of Victorians.

Dear Esteemed Members, Partners, and Supporters,

With great pleasure and renewed purpose, we welcome you to the 2022-23 Annual Report of Freemasons Foundation Victoria.

This report encapsulates our achievements over the past year and also exemplifies our steadfast commitment to our new motto, "Improving the lives and opportunities of Victorians."

This motto serves as a guiding light for our endeavours and reflects our dedication to enhancing the wellbeing and prospects of individuals and communities across Victoria.

In the following pages, you will discover the impact of our collective efforts. We are proud to share the stories of resilience, empowerment and progress that have unfolded throughout the year, with the support of your Foundation.

As Freemasons, we have a shared belief that charity and generosity are a core part of a life lived well. So too is working together and I want to thank and acknowledge the many Lodges that have identified local projects to support. Vital projects and pivotal organisations are often identified through your connections to the communities where you live, and dedication to these causes has made a significant difference in the lives of many and for that, we are deeply grateful.



This year we witnessed the strength and resilience of communities affected by the devastating 2022 floods. It is a testament to the indomitable spirit of Victorians and a reminder of the importance of community support during challenging times.

Neil Cripps, our dedicated Executive Officer, deserves special recognition for his leadership and tireless efforts that have driven our organisation's success, and so too, Michael Halls, a committed volunteer whose contributions have extended our community reach.

A warm welcome to Theresa Mangion, our Grant and Communications Officer, who commenced in July 2023. We look forward to your valuable contributions to our team. We'd also like to thank all our directors for their guidance and commitment to our shared vision. Together, we are poised to make an even greater impact in the years ahead.

In closing, I sincerely thank all the volunteers, and those who donated to the Foundation and have joined the 1889 Bequest Society. Your contributions and commitments are all greatly appreciated and mean that as we move forward, we will have the capacity to expand opportunities, and make a meaningful difference in the lives of more Victorians in the years to come.

Thank you for your unwavering support and for joining us in our pursuit of **"Improving the lives and opportunities of Victorians."**

Rodney Lavin JP
Chairman

Our Impact

Freemasons Foundation Victoria (FFV) is the charitable arm of Victorian Freemasonry. For Freemasons, greatness in life is measured by deed, character, charity and the positive effect one leaves on this world through generosity of spirit.

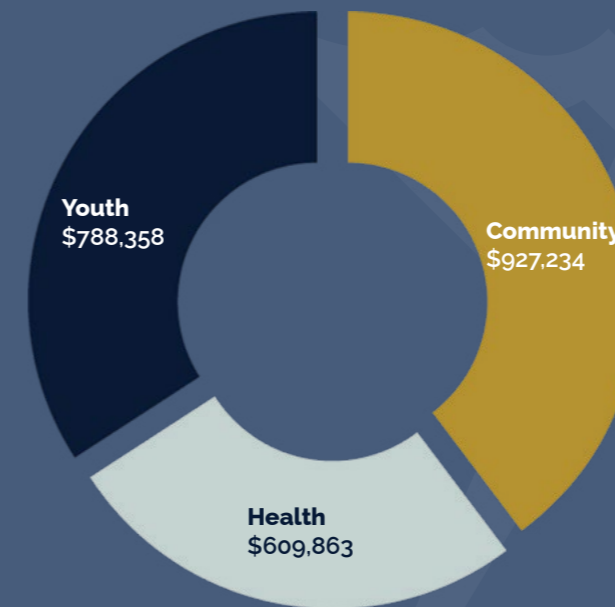
Thanks to the gifts of Victorian Freemasons, past and present, public donors and our careful investment of funds, since November 2014 FFV has contributed \$18.8 million into the Victorian community.

We remain focused on our objective of contributing to a stronger and healthier Victoria. We do this by supporting organisations engaged in Health Projects & Medical Research, Community Support, Education and Indigenous Programs.

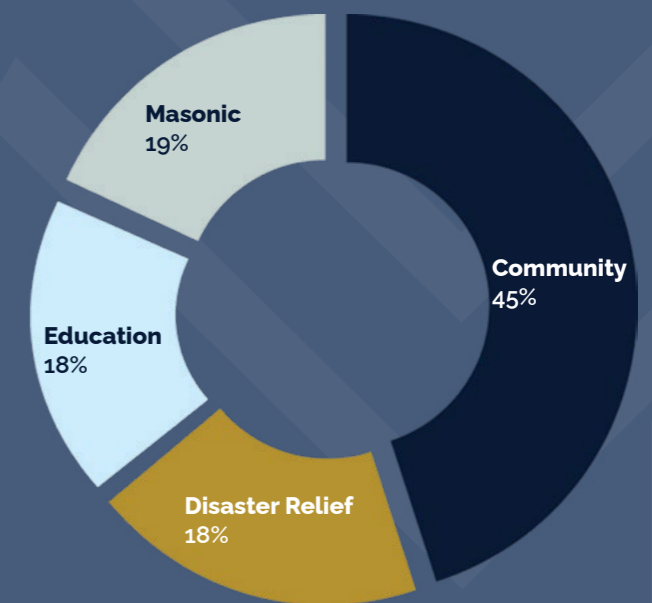
We also offer support to the youth of Victoria to achieve their educational goals.

\$2,325,455
Total funding awarded
in 2022-23

Grant Distribution



Grant Program Distribution



Governance

Freemasons Foundation Victoria (FFV) manages two registered charities - The Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation (FPCF) and Freemasons Benevolent Fund (FBF).

The Board of FFV, in its role as Trustee for these two charities, 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.

Organisational Structure

FFV Members are senior Freemasons, and include the Freemasons Victoria Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Immediate Past Grand Master. The role of Members is to appoint Directors for a specific term. There must be five directors who are Freemasons before a non-Freemason director may be elected.

MEMBERS

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Anthony Bucca | Member since June 2020 |
| Richard Elkington OAM | Member since April 2018 |
| Peter Henshall | Member since March 2023 |
| Myles King OAM | Member - March 2022 to March 2023 |

DIRECTORS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Rodney Lavin JP, Chairman | Chairman since November 2020 Appointed November 2018 |
| Philip Mayers AM, Deputy Chairman | Appointed November 2016 |
| David Gibbs AM | Appointed November 2014, retired November 2022 |
| Peter Henshall | Appointed November 2020, resigned October 2022 |
| Garry James | Appointed November 2018 |
| Xavier Murtagh | Appointed November 2020 |
| John Patterson | Appointed November 2018 |
| Matthew Schofield | Appointed May 2023 |

STAFF

Neil Cripps, Executive Officer Company Secretary since November 2016

Our volunteers:

- Michael Halls – Bequest Working Party
- Rosemary Evans – Bequest Working Party, 1889 Bequest Patron
- Garry Sebo AM – 1889 Bequest Patron
- Geoffrey Thompson – Bequest Working Party
- Myles King OAM – Bequest Working Party
- Belinda Trembath – Bequest Working Party
- Christian Wood – Board Observer
- Ashley Melnacs – Board Observer

Members



Anthony Bucca



Richard Elkington
OAM



Peter Henshall

Directors



Rodney Lavin JP
Chairman



Philip Mayers AM
Deputy Chairman



Garry James



Xavier Murtagh



John Patterson



Matthew Schofield

Staff



Neil Cripps
Executive Officer

Method of Support

Each year, FFV contributes to programs that relate to the following sectors; Health Projects, Medical Research, Community Support, Education and Indigenous Programs. Our programs are designed to be able to fund a diverse range of programs and initiatives and to benefit current and future generations.

It is thanks to our generous donors that FFV is able to continue to deliver this support and celebrate the impacts of our grants and partnerships.

If you appreciate the work of FFV, you can make a contribution to either of our Funds. Those who would like to leave a legacy in their name can leave a bequest to FFV and become a member of the 1889 Bequest Society. This year, we partnered with Safewill to make it easy and affordable for anyone to write their Will online.

Community Support

FFV Masonic Grants

This is the cornerstone of our philanthropic giving. Whenever possible, approved Masonic Orders will be supported to extend their charitable works with local community not-for-profit organisations that are aligned with our focus areas.

FFV Community Grants

Through this program, ACNC registered charities can apply directly to FFV to support a specific project or part of a project, program or initiatives in our funding areas.

Major Impact Grants

Designed to contribute to substantial projects in Victoria, FFV makes one-off grants, usually distributed over multiple years that help make a significant impact in one of our chosen focus areas.

Disaster Relief Fund

Established in January 2020, this fund supports recovery, reconstruction and prevention projects for communities impacted by disasters.

Benevolence

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 in achieving their education goals.

FFV Lodge Education

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

FFV Scholarships

Available annually to secondary students and first year tertiary students, scholarship applications are assessed on the student's results, financial need or difficulties and school and community activities.

FFV Tertiary Support Scholarships

Providing support to tertiary students undertaking their first tertiary course who require financial assistance with their studies.

Higher Education Scholarships

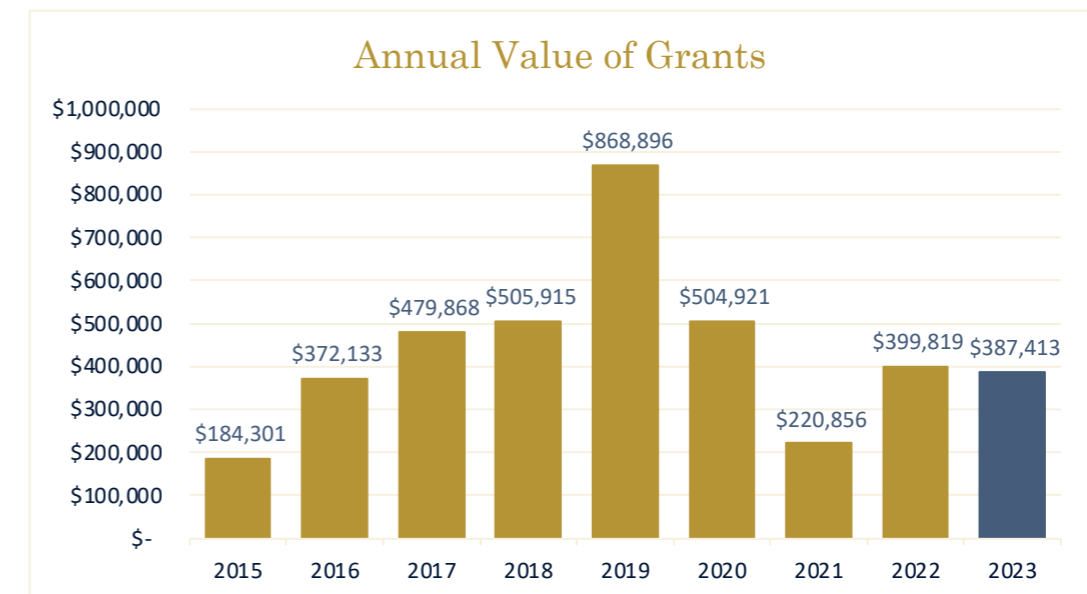
Partnering with Victorian Tertiary Institutions, FFV funds several scholarship places at major institutions. These scholarships are managed by the Tertiary provider and granted annually.

Masonic Grants

FFV's Masonic Grants program assists Victorian Craft Lodges, Mark Lodges and Chapters to amplify their philanthropic activities in the local community. It is open for applications 11 months of the year, from 1 July.

On average, Lodges have increased their charitable giving four-fold because of this program.

68 Grants totalling
\$387,413



Each financial year, the Grand Master of United Grand Lodge of Victoria may nominate charities of his choice that he wishes to support. This can be supported to a maximum of \$25,000, subject to the charities meeting FFV's eligibility guidelines and the Chairman of FFV agreeing to the request.

Since 2014,
816 Masonic Grants made
valuing more than
\$3.9 Million

Victoria Police Legacy
Youth support program
\$2,000
Grand Master's Discretion

Victoria Police Legacy
Youth support program
\$10,000
Grand Master's Discretion

Focus Individualised Support Services
Sensory garden upgrade
\$5,000
Grand Master's Discretion

Melbourne City Mission
Youth homelessness
\$5,000
Grand Master's Discretion

Joseph's Corner
Digital transformation project
\$1,500
Grand Master's Discretion

Specialist Hoops
Support all abilities basketball team
\$1,500
Grand Master's Discretion

Very Special Kids
Continuing specialist care for children and young people with life-limiting conditions and their families.
\$10,000
Chairman

Victoria Police Legacy
Youth support program
\$10,000
Chairman

39th Battalion Arthur Grassby Scholarship
Arthur Grassby Scholarship
\$13,500
Gippsland Lakes Lodge, Bairnsdale Daylight Lodge, Mitchell River Lodge, Union Lodge of North Gippsland, Orbost Lodge

Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre Trust Fund
Digital SLR camera
\$1,000
Lodge Belvoir

Ambulance Victoria
Patient support equipment
\$1,320
Swan Hill Lodge

Anglesea Community House
Foodlink, local food support program
\$1,320
Lodge of the Great Ocean Road

Anglican Parish Council
Gannawarra Memorial Toy Run
\$10,000
Cohuna Lodge

Australian Men's Shed Association - Devon North Men's Shed
Thickneser purchase
\$2,300
Sale Daylight Lodge

Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association
Support of Queenscliff Coast Guard Service
\$5,000
Bellarine Otway and Western District

Backpacks 4 VIC Kids
South-West Victoria Santa Sack program
\$2,000
Grand Chapter Burgundy Ladies

Bairnsdale Regional Health Services
Equipment for oncology unit
\$15,000
Gippsland Lakes Lodge, Bairnsdale Daylight Lodge, Union Lodge of North Gippsland, Mitchell River Lodge

Banyule Community Health
Project 3081 Angels, acquiring prams and car seats
\$5,000
Admiral Collingwood Lodge

B'nai B'rith Courage To Care (VIC)
CTC Upstander program
\$5,000
Middle Park Lodge

Central Highlands Rural Health
Creswick Health upgrade project
\$10,000
Creswick Havilah Lodge

Christ Church Geelong
Meals program
\$3,000
Geelong Lodge of Unity and Prudence

Clunes Primary School
Energy breakthrough
\$250
All Nations Lodge

East Grampians Health Service
Pulmonary rehabilitation program
\$4,440
United Ararat Lodge

Eastern Palliative Care Association
Purchase of palliative care equipment
\$4,400
Blackburn United Lodge

Eastern Palliative Care Association
Equipment for home support
\$5,000
Lodge of Quest

Epworth Medical Foundation
Epworth Hospital - Paxman cap
\$1,500
Geelong Lodge of Unity and Prudence

Focus Individualised Support Services
Sensory garden upgrade
\$10,000
Seaford Lodge

Freemasons Community Relief
Christmas food parcels
\$10,000
Gardenvale Mobility Lodge

Goulburn Valley Health Foundation
Trans Perineal Biopsy Machine
\$55,000
Valley Chapter, Shepparton-Mooroopna Lodge, Goulburn Valley Lodge of Mark Master Masons, Eschol Lodge, Goulburn Valley Royal Ark Mariner Lodge, Star of Valley Preceptory

Geelong Food Relief Centre
Distribution of food to the local community
\$10,000
St Andrews in the South

Hamilton Scout Group
Equipment storage shed
\$600
Hamilton Grange Lodge

HerSpace Limited
Online support hub
\$5,000
Richmond Lodge

Heywood & District Secondary College
Student welfare fund
\$700
Portland Lodge of Victoria

Heywood & District Secondary College
Standing Tall mentoring program
\$4,000
Portland Lodge of Victoria

Hotham Mission
Support of youth and families in North Melbourne and surrounding areas
\$3,500
North Melbourne Lodge

Integra Service Dogs Australia
Purchase service assistance dog
\$5,000
The Army Lodge, Victorian Naval & Military Lodge, United Service Lodge

Interchange Outer East
Sibling program
\$9,940
Family activities for families with a child with a disability
Canterbury Lodge

Interchange Outer East
Sibling program
\$22,500
Lodge of Good Companions, Monash Lodge, Lodge of Rapport, Canterbury Lodge

Joseph's Corner
Digital transformation project
\$7,716
The Sunshine Wisdom Lodge

Kyeema Support Services
Providing white goods for residential homes
\$4,500
Portland Lodge of Victoria

Lazarus Community Centre
Project assisting people in need
\$2,123
St Andrews in the South Lodge, Geelong Lodge Unity and Prudence, Moorpanyul Lodge

Lifeline Loddon Mallee
Lifeline remote phone hub, Mildura
\$2,000
The United Memorial & Merbein Lodge

Limbs 4 Life
Peer support program
\$4,400
Blackburn United Lodge

Limbs 4 Life
Peer support program
\$5,000
Richmond Lodge

Mildura Legacy Club
Maintenance of air-conditioners
\$1,000
The United Memorial & Merbein Lodge

Monash Health Foundation
Eye tracking in medicine and surgery to improve paediatric patient care
\$7,000
The King David Lodge

More Than Opera
Performance: Pieces of Margery - A glimpse of life with dementia: fear of loss, change, and love
\$8,500
The Lodge of the Golden Fleece

NextSense
Cochlear bears
\$600
Lodge of Concentration

Portland Secondary College
Student welfare fund
\$700
Portland Lodge of Victoria

Portland Secondary College
2023 Re-Engagement program
\$4,000
Portland Lodge of Victoria

Presentation Family Centre
Saltbush Balnarring beach roofing project
\$5,000
Middle Park Lodge

Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia
Project designed to distribute information to men diagnosed with prostate cancer
\$1,200
Henty Lodge

Quilts of Valour Australia
2023 'Campaign for 20' quilts project
\$5,000
The Army Lodge

Rebecca Jane Foundation
Provide funerals for still-borns and infants
\$5,000
The Army Lodge

Riding For the Disabled Association Victoria - Colac
Facility repairs
\$500
Colac Lodge

Riding For the Disabled Association Victoria - Colac
MobiMe access pathway
\$2,204
Colac Lodge

Royal Freemasons
Gregory Lodge working bee
\$5,000
Western District

Royal South Street Society
Supporting children in performing arts
\$9,000
St Johns Lodge

Shepparton Sailability
Light towing vehicle
\$4,160
Rupertswood-Numurkah Lodge

St John of God Health Care
Paxman cap
\$1,500
Geelong Lodge of Unity and PrudenceVictoria

Sunraysia Gang Show
Let There Be Sound program
\$5,120
The United Memorial & Merbein Lodge
Mildura Lodge

The Think Pink Foundation
Support services
\$5,000
SEAVIC Lodge

Torquay Food Aid
Food aid
\$1,320
Lodge of the Great Ocean Road

Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) - Ballarat
Winter Warmth 2022
\$1,600
Sturt-Buninyong United Lodge

Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) - Wodonga
Tents for the homeless
\$1,500
Lodge Belvoir

Victoria Police Legacy
Youth support program
\$4,000
Sandringham District Lodge

Wangaratta RSL Sub Branch
Bob Iskov Kokoda scholarship
\$1,500
Wangaratta Lodge of St John

Weary Dunlop Foundation
Supporting medical research to identify biomarkers associated with synaptic learning for the early diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease
\$10,000
Lodge Liberation

Sixty years of food relief, from plum puddings to pandemic grocery vouchers

Community Development

Freemasons Community Relief has a history of delivering food parcels in the community that goes back 60 years. At Christmas time in 1963, Lodge St Leonard distributed 50 parcels to Freemasons and community members who had fallen on hard times. They were joined by Lodge Cerberus in 1974. The invitation to become involved was extended to all Masonic Lodges meeting in the Sandringham Temple in 1977 and by the 1980s, they were delivering more than 150 parcels a year across the Bayside area, and 250 by the mid-80s. Back then, it was known as Bayside Masonic Lodges Christmas Parcels.



The name changed to Freemasons Community Relief (FCR) in 2019, as the need for support continued to grow in the community. Grant Chapple, Freemasons Community Relief Secretary, said what started out as Christmas parcels full of food and plum puddings, grew to include a mid-year drop in the last five or six years, and shot up further still when COVID hit.

"With the pandemic, it became difficult to deliver hampers to the charities we support. So, in 2021 the committee investigated sending grocery vouchers for distribution to the needy. This has proved quite successful and enabled us to continue our support even when the food supply chain has faltered due to shortages.

"When we are able to do hampers, FCR supplies green and yellow bags filled with different food and beverage items to be distributed to each needy person or family," Mr. Chapple explained.

FCR used to hand deliver the parcels but this is now done through 16 charity groups from St Kilda to Hastings. They also support Freemasons and their families who are in need and each year ask Lodges to advise the committee if they believe any of their members need support.

Even with the pandemic largely in the past, in light of cost of living increases, the need for support hasn't abated. Bayside Lodges fundraise for the parcels and Masonic Grants provide additional funding so they can reach as many people as possible.

"Getting donations to the value that we want to provide through our charity is no easy feat. The Freemasons Foundation has made life a lot easier for us - they've been a godsend."

"Without the Freemasons Foundation and Masonic Lodges support our group would have ceased to exist!"

Ready to roll at Colac RDA

Community Development

Colac Riding for the Disabled club has a dozen clients who visit weekly to enjoy the wheelchair horse carriage, pony riding or the mechanical horse, otherwise known as an eucizer. It's a significant event for participants with severe disabilities, requiring numerous volunteers to ensure safety.

They faced a challenge with wheelchair access to the horse carriage area. The solution was roll-up mats for grassy terrain, but funding was needed. Jim Prigg and Brendan Scanlon worked on a grant application with assistance from FFV, resulting in a grant to purchase the mats.

This simple project significantly improved safety and access for wheelchair users, allowing them to reach the horse carriage area in all seasons, and the volunteers are very pleased with the outcome. "That's the great thing about what the Foundation does - it doesn't have to be bigger than Ben Hur," Jim said.

Joyce Hoycroft, Colac RDA Secretary, thanked the Freemasons for supporting their cause.

"Both our clients, as well as volunteers, will benefit from easier and safer access to the horse drawn carriage area. With some clients either being wheelchair dependent, or experiencing some mobility impairment, suitable access enables participation. Their participation to drive a horse drawn carriage delivers a strong sense of achievement within our equine program."

When local Freemasons visited to see the project in person, they were struck with its importance. Jim Prigg said that it's clear the activity brings young people so much joy.

"For many of the Colac RDA clients, the weekly trip to what this wonderful group of volunteers provide is their major outing. To see the looks of gratitude and enjoyment on their faces was truly worthwhile and inspiring."

As Jim remarked, "If this is what makes Freemasonry such a wonderful organisation with the support of the Foundation, then I will continue to look for opportunities in my local community to support such organisations and groups. Thank you to Neil Cripps and the Freemasons Foundation Victoria."





Veteran health research supported in memoriam

Health

Colonel Sir Ernest Edward 'Weary' Dunlop AC, CMG, OBE was an Australian surgeon renowned for his leadership while being held prisoner by the Japanese during World War II. He restored morale in the prison camps and jungle hospitals. He devoted himself to the health and welfare of former prisoners-of-war, and their families, and worked to promote better relations between Australia and Asia. In addition to being a courageous leader and compassionate doctor, he was a Freemason.

In 1985, the Weary Dunlop Medical Research Foundation was established to encourage medical researchers to study the health conditions of Veterans, serving personnel and their families.

Since Sir Edward passed away, an annual memorial has been conducted, traditionally on his birthday, the 12 July. This July marked the 30th Anniversary of these events.

Lodge Liberation No.674 has attended these Memorials for several years and built a valuable relationship with the members of the Weary Dunlop Medical Research Foundation, their other supporters and researchers.

This year's moving ceremony was conducted in the Sanctuary of the Shrine of Remembrance and led by President of the Weary Dunlop Medical Research Foundation, Robert Winther OAM. It was attended by more than a 100 Distinguished Guests and representatives of ex-POW Associations. The Ode was recited by Diana Dunlop, granddaughter of Weary Dunlop.

Freemasons Neil Nyholm and Ron Ferdinands presented the Weary Dunlop Medical Research Foundation with the proceeds of their fundraising for the year, which when added to a Masonic Grant, totalled \$12,420. The Weary Dunlop Medical Research Foundation used this donation to award a grant to Dr Monica Langiu's research to identify biomarkers associated with synaptic learning for the early diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease - a type of cognitive/memory impairment that heavily affects veterans.

Through the work of young Victorian medical researchers, Weary Dunlop's legacy lives on.



Supporting students to re-engage and find success in South Portland

Education / Youth Development

At a house on the hill in South Portland, a satellite campus of Portland Secondary School caters for students who have disengaged from mainstream education.

For children who have left school after major challenges including trauma, mental health issues, anxiety and neurodivergence, the Portland Secondary College Re-Engagement Program improves their chances of success in life. Teachers at the program foster strong and supportive relationships and assist students to make a positive contribution to their community by transitioning to further education, training, or employment.

The program opened in 2011, with 26 students. Since then, they have educated more than 200 young people. Many have completed their education and moved into employment or apprenticeships.

The FLO (flexible learning options) school has a junior and a senior class running three hours each day. There's a heavy focus on hands on or applied learning, and improving literacy and numeracy skills.

For the past seven years, Portland Lodge and FFV have supported the Portland Secondary College Re-Engagement program with grants for IT, furniture and class facilities, health and wellbeing activities, excursions and camps. In 2022, a \$5,000 donation enabled students to learn about Indigenous issues and culture in the area. The students visited the local Budj Bim World Heritage Area and Tower Hill in Warrnambool and planted an Indigenous garden at the back of the campus. Working with local tour guide Brayden Saunders, the students learned about meeting places, trading, smoking trees for cooking eels and seasonal food gathering.

Lauren Logan, Campus Manager, one of two staff provided by Portland Secondary College, said the students were incredibly engaged with these excursions, always asking when the next one would be held.

"Connection to Gunditjmarra Country, which is where we are, has really improved for our students now. And that connection to community is really important for wellbeing, as well as the educational side of it."

In 2023, a further \$5,000 grant funded the purchase of table settings for an outdoor classroom and ceiling fans to keep the indoor temperature comfortable, which is important for some of the kids with sensory processing issues. It also helped fund the school camp and other health and wellbeing activities.

The students appreciate these donations - they even cooked up a bacon, egg and sausage breakfast for local Freemasons to thank them for this year's grant.

"The local Freemasons came out to Budj Bim with us one day, so it was nice to see them interacting with the students and the students speaking with another generation."

"The FFV funding provides opportunities that the students wouldn't otherwise get - things they get to experience, being able to improve their confidence and self esteem, and getting out and interacting. The more they do and achieve, the more they can stand up with their heads held high and feel like they can achieve."



Sub-Fund Grants

Named Sub-Funds allow FFV to preserve a donation or bequest to provide gifts to chosen charities or cause areas in years to come. The initial investment is grown via donations and pooled fund investment returns and granting can begin once the balance reaches \$11,000 (from an initial donation of \$2,000 or more).

This year's Sub-Funds granted a total of \$51,150 to benefit local students and support causes close to the hearts of Lodge members and donors.

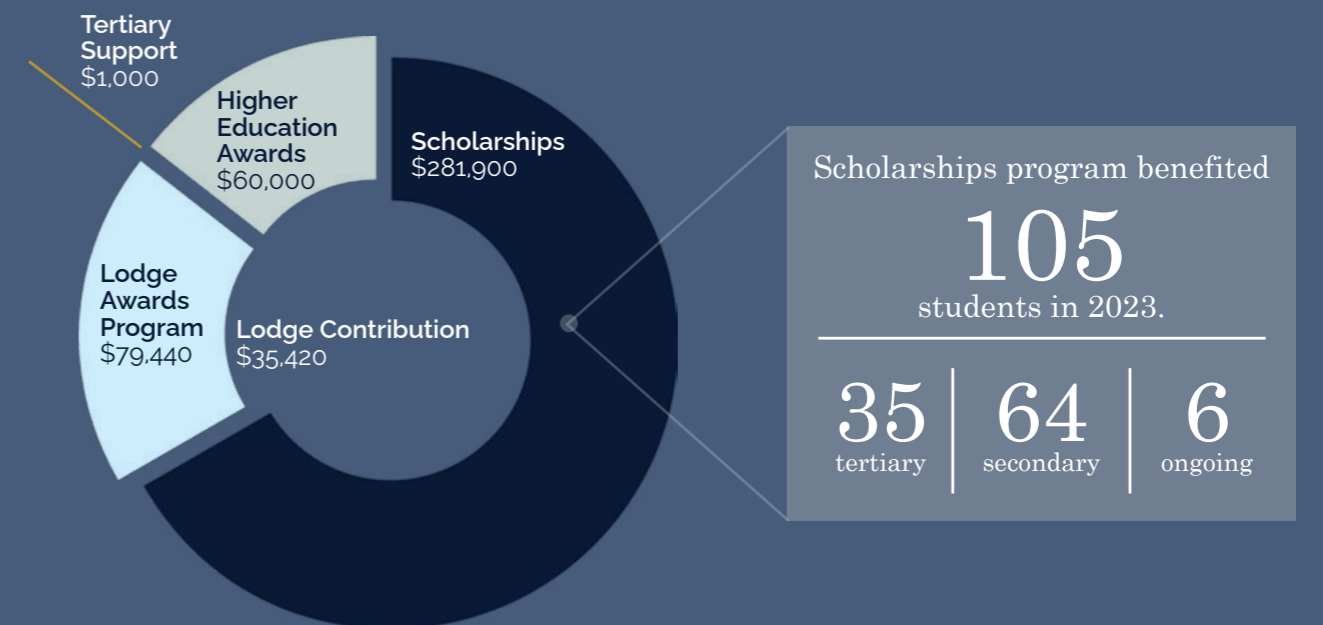
- **Kerang Lodge Sub-Fund** granted \$7,000 to Kerang District Health to fund a Nursing Scholarship.
- **SEAVIC Lodge Sub-Fund** granted \$1,450 to support services run by the Think Pink Foundation.
- **Tresco Chisel United Lodge Sub-Fund** granted \$2,000 for their Tertiary Scholarships program.
- **Tarra Masonic Lodge 127 Sub-Fund** granted \$500 to Yarram Eisteddfod for program support, and \$200 for a student award at Yarram Secondary College.
- **Anonymous Sub-Fund** granted \$6,000 to Epworth Medical Foundation to fund a Nursing Scholarship.
- **Friends of Epworth Sub-Fund** granted \$34,000 to Epworth Medical Foundation to support the EJ Whitten Prostate Cancer Research Centre.



Education Support

FFV supports the youth of Victoria in achieving their education goals, distributing more than \$350,000 in secondary and tertiary scholarships and awards each year.

\$422,340
in Education Support



Since 2014,
1,174 scholarships
valued at
\$2,702,400

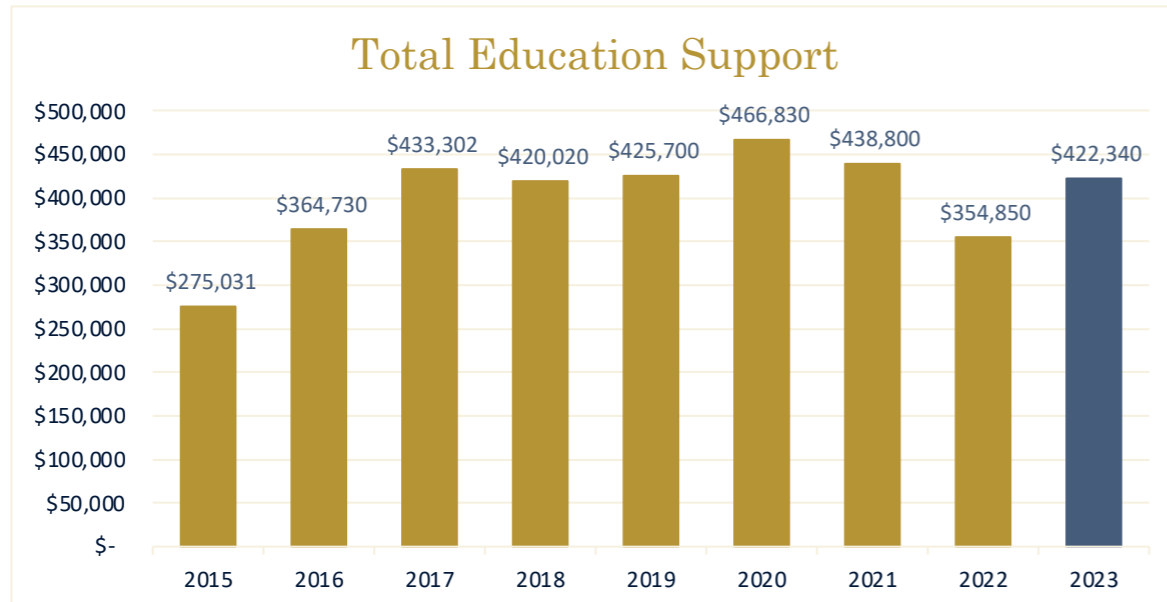
\$505,521
supporting Lodges
with local awards

Total education support to date
\$3,601,603

Lodge Education Support



Total Education Support



FFV Scholarships

This year, FFV awarded Scholarships totalling \$281,900 to 105 students. These awards included secondary scholarships of \$600 or \$1,500; \$5,000 tertiary scholarships; and one \$10,000 tertiary scholarship. Additionally, six recipients of multi-year scholarships from previous years continued to receive support.

Our Scholarship Presentation evenings held in May presented a wonderful opportunity to host young Victorians from across the state to award them with their scholarships and celebrate their futures. Some recipients travelled from as far as Bendigo and Ballarat to gather at Freemasons Victoria in East Melbourne.

For many students, the cost of education can be a significant barrier to achieving their dreams. However, these scholarships are not just financial aid but are also a symbol of recognition for the hard work and determination of these young people.

Our thanks goes to guest speakers Heather Little, Monash University and Belinda Trembath, Open Universities Australia, and our MC's Xavier Murtagh and Wes Turnbull.

Community minded FFV Scholarship recipient has justice in mind

Ms. McKeely Hol, recipient of the Freemasons Foundation Victoria Scholarship, comes from the small country town of Portland. She was School Captain at Monivae College and involved in a range of volunteer roles in the community.

"I have a big passion for the community and absolutely love having the opportunity to give back. I think this passion was definitely strengthened by being in a small town."

After studying legal studies in VCE, she developed an interest in the legal system, and participated in the Deakin Accelerate Program, completing the first two units of her law degree alongside her year 12. McKeely is now studying a Bachelor of Laws at Deakin University, Burwood.



“

Moving five hours away from my friends and family at the start of the year was a big step that was definitely made easier by the support of the Freemasons. The scholarship has relieved me of the financial pressure of moving away for university and enabled me to focus on my studies, wellbeing and forming new connections.

The scholarship has also enabled me to take up new hobbies to keep a balance between my demanding course and my wellbeing. I feel that with the scholarship I have more time available to me to be able to excel in my studies and get closer to my dream career of becoming a lawyer.

McKeely Hol, 2023 FFV Scholarship Recipient

”

11 Higher Education Scholarships totalling \$60,000

Federation University

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

ACU AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

Longerenong College

MARCUS OLDHAM We mean business.

MONASH University

RMIT UNIVERSITY

SWINBURNE * NE * SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

VU Scholarship makes study possible against all odds

Victoria University is one of 10 tertiary institutions at which FFV has established scholarships for students. Matthew Scott is this year's VU Achievement Scholarship recipient. He is in his first year of a Bachelor of Science Degree at VU, where he chose to study because of the Block Model, which means he studies one subject at a time, while effectively managing his chronic fatigue and pain.

"The scholarship is life-changing for me because it allows me to do something that I've not been able to do before."



"I remain both impressed and inspired by students like Matthew who defy the odds and commit to study. And it's only because of generous supporters like the Freemasons Foundation that VU is able to offer some of our best and brightest the opportunity of an education.

Together, the Freemasons Foundation and VU are helping Matthew follow his passion and hopefully, become a dentist one day."

Yvette Peterson, Associate Director Alumni & Development, Engagement & Advancement, Victoria University.

FFV Tertiary Support Scholarships

Tertiary education is an expensive endeavour, yet our Tertiary Support program is undersubscribed. Tertiary students who need financial support to complete their studies can apply to the FFV Tertiary Support program. In FY 2022-23 only one of these scholarships was awarded, valued at \$1,000.

Lodge Education

Many Lodges run local scholarship and awards programs that benefit students who are deserving of support because of either academic achievement or financial need.

It was another strong year for FFV's Lodge Education Support program. In 2022-23 Lodges accessed FFV support to deliver \$79,440 towards the education of Victoria's youth through masonic scholarship and awards programs.

Lodges themselves contributed \$35,420 to these programs. In total over 230 scholarships were awarded through Lodge Education programs.

All Nations Lodge

\$200
2 Awards
Clunes Primary School

Allara Lodge

\$900
6 Awards
Eastbourne Primary, Boneo Primary, Rosebud Primary, Rye Primary, Dromana Primary, Tootgarook Primary

Beechworth Lodge St John

\$1,000
3 Awards
Beechworth Secondary College

Benambra Lodge

\$2,200
5 Awards
Tallangatta Secondary College, Tallangatta Primary School, St Michaels Primary School, Tallangatta (Catholic School)

Golden & Corinthian Lodge

\$2,400
10 Awards
Local Bendigo Region Primary Schools, Local Bendigo Region Secondary Schools

Bogong Lodge

\$800
1 Award
Beechworth Secondary College

Carisbrook Lodge

\$900
2 Awards
Highview College, Maryborough Education Centre

Cosmopolitan Lodge

\$1,300
26 Awards
Queenscliff Primary School, Point Lonsdale Primary School, St Aloysius Catholic Primary School, Ocean Grove Primary School, Surfside Ocean Grove Primary School, Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary School, Wallington Primary School, Leopold Primary School, Clifton Springs Primary School, Drysdale Primary School, St Thomas Primary School, St Leonards Primary School, Barwon Heads Primary School,

Gippsland Lakes Lodge, Bairnsdale Daylight Lodge, Mitchell River Lodge, Union of North Gippsland

\$23,000
44 Awards
Lakes Primary School, Swan Reach Primary School, Toorloo Arm Primary School, Nicholson Primary

School, St Brendan's Primary School, Nungurner Primary School, Tambo Upper Primary School, Metung Primary School, Lakes Entrance Secondary College, Buchan Primary School, Lucknow Primary School, Clifton Creek Primary School, Paynesville Primary School, Eagle Point Primary School, Lindenow South Primary School, Bruthen Primary School, Lindenow Primary School, Bairnsdale 754 Primary School, Bairnsdale West Primary School, Bairnsdale Secondary College

Guiding Star Lodge

\$1500
10 Awards
Sebastopol Primary School, Ballarat Grammar

Keysborough St. Andrews Daylight Lodge

\$400
2 Awards
Mordialloc Beach Primary School, Mentone

Lara Lodge

\$700
7 Awards
Lara Secondary College

Leura Lodge

\$1,250
13 Awards
Camperdown College, Cobden Technical College, Derrinallum College, Lismore Primary School

Lodge Belvoir

\$1,750
10 Awards
Wodonga Senior Secondary College, Catholic College Wodonga, Wodonga Middle Years College, Albury Wodonga

Lodge of Concentration

\$1,000
8 Awards
Norwood Secondary College

Lodge of the Great Ocean Road

\$2,560
16 Awards
Aireys Inlet Primary School, Anglesea Primary School, Bellbrae Primary School, Lisieux Catholic Primary School, Lorne P-12 College, St Therese Primary School, Torquay Coast Primary School, Torquay College

Lodge of Unity

\$750
1 Award
Bright P-12 College

Mitchell River Lodge

\$3,000
2 Awards
Bairnsdale Secondary College

The Mornington Lodge

\$2,000
2 Awards
Mornington Secondary College

Orbost Lodge

\$500
1 Award
Orbost Secondary College

Portland Lodge of Victoria

\$1,250
9 Awards
Heywood & District Secondary College, Portland Secondary College

Rosebank Lodge

\$1,000
4 Awards
Beeac Primary School

Rupertswood-Numurkah Lodge

\$1,500
1 Award
Numurkah Secondary College

Rutherglen Lodge

\$500
4 Awards
Rutherglen High School

Southern Cross Lodge

\$500
2 Awards
Maldon Primary School

St George Lodge

\$2,700
18 Awards
Amphitheatre Primary School, Avoca Primary School, Bealiba Primary School, Carisbrook Primary School, Clunes Primary School, Dunolly Primary School, Inglewood Primary School, Maryborough Education Centre (Primary), Moonambel Primary School, Natte Yallock Primary School, Newstead Primary School, St Augustine's Primary School, Talbot Primary School, Tarnagulla Primary School, Timor Primary School, Wedderburn Primary School, Yandoit Primary School

Sturt-Buninyong United Lodge

\$580
2 Awards
Mt Clear College

Talbot Lodge

\$300
2 Awards
Talbot Primary School

The United Memorial & Merbein Lodge

\$2,500
12 Awards
Merbein P10 College, Ouyen P12 College, Red Cliffs Secondary College

Tresco Chisel United Lodge

\$17,000
4 Awards
Tertiary Awards

Warrnambool Lodge

\$2,000
4 Awards
Warrnambool College, Emmanuel College, Brauer College, Merri River School

Zetland Lodge

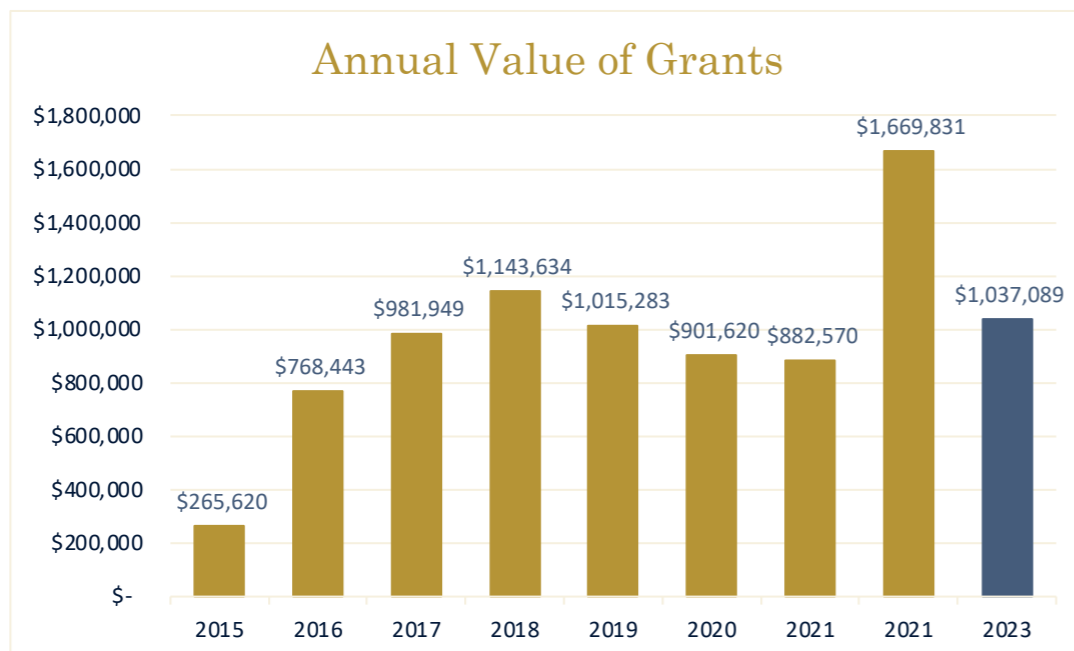
\$1,500
12 Awards
Malmsbury Primary School, Tylden Primary School, Kyneton Primary School, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Primary School, Langley Primary School, Redesdale Mia Mia Primary School

Community Grants

In the 2023 Community Grant round, FFV awarded \$567,089 in grants to 25 charities across the length and breadth of Victoria. Another four grants were instalments of multi-year funding awarded and ongoing impact partnerships, representing an additional \$470,000 in funding.

30 Grants totalling \$1,037,089

Since 2014, 227 Cumulative investment via Community Grants \$8,666,039



Abbey Solo Foundation
#givingtogetherness
\$5,000

Aboriginal Literacy Foundation
The ALF Aspire Girls Catch-up program Western Victoria
\$10,000

Biala Peninsula
Biala therapy support for children with disabilities and additional needs
\$6,518

Canteen - The Australian Organisation for Young People Living with Cancer
Vic Explore program
\$19,483

Chelsea Community Support Service
Fair Start school support program
\$5,000

Dungala Kaiela Foundation
Nanyak Burras 2023 - First Nation student support
\$47,350

FareShare
Empowering students to support people in hardship
\$30,000

Fitted for Work
Womens Economic Empowerment program
\$25,000

Freemasons Community Relief
Christmas parcels
\$10,000

Freemasons Community Relief
Christmas parcels
\$15,000

Inspirational Quilts
Quilts for Kids
\$4,474

Life Education Victoria
Adapting Healthy Harold Heroes program - developing future leaders of mental health and wellbeing
\$50,000

Love in Action Wallan
Don't Spend Christmas Alone
\$5,000

Melbourne Symphony Orchestra
MSO Regional Tour 2023
\$28,000

Mums Supporting Families in Need
Food packs
\$10,000

NextSense
Cochlear-implant program for children and adults in Victoria
\$38,639

OzHarvest
Youth NEST program
\$37,900

Red Nose Australia
Treasured Babies
\$10,000

Shepparton Foodshare
Shepparton Foodshare commercial kitchen
\$40,420

Spinal Research Institute
Engage and Collaborate: a program for a healthier and stronger SCI community
\$47,860

Sport & Life Training
Clubs with Heart
\$20,000

St Kilda Mums
The 2030 Vision - IT upgrade
\$10,270

St Kilda Police and Citizens Youth Club
Mobile Activity Centre (MAC) Park Towers
\$10,000

The Reach Foundation
Regional student wellbeing program - across Greater Mildura
\$24,881

Western Chances
Western Chances alumni mentoring program
\$31,294

Woor-Dungin
Aboriginal partnership program
\$25,000

Aiming for pitch perfect service at NextSense

Health

Freemasons have been supporting NextSense (formerly Taralye) for more than 20 years. Today, the registered NDIS provider works with children, adults, and their families, supporting them through diagnostics, assessments, early intervention, and education.

In 2023, a Community Grant from FFV allowed NextSense to expand its Cochlear Implant (CI) services in Victoria. This program supports recipients of all ages, from pre-surgery assessments to lifelong mapping services. Early implantation in children significantly improves their language and communication skills, while for adults with significant hearing loss, CI can reduce the risk of dementia.

With the grant, NextSense acquired an Audiometer and two Real Ear Measurement (REM) machines, enabling them to offer CI suitability assessments, rehabilitation, and mapping services at their Blackburn and Moonee Ponds sites. This one-stop approach minimises the need for patients to travel extensively for care.

"This ensures consistency and continuity of care that will involve our audiologists, ENT specialists, early intervention therapists, speech pathologists and occupational therapists forming a multi-disciplinary team of support around the children and their families."



Left-to-right: Vesna Maric (Manager for Clinical Audiology and Cochlear Implant Programs in Victoria), Wayne Healy (Cochlear Implant patient), Neil Cripps, (Executive Officer of FFV), and Rodney Lavin (Chairman of FFV) in the Cochlear Implant clinic in Blackburn.

Furthermore, Canterbury Lodge, Clifton Hill Lodge, Lodge of Concentration, Malvern Waverley Mark Lodge, Melbourne Shrine Club and United Press Lodge all combined with FFV to contribute over \$7,800 to support various initiatives at NextSense, including a mobile farm and magician for playgroup celebrations, equipment and fauna for the Blackburn clinic's aquarium, personalised teddy bears for children receiving Cochlear implants, professional development for staff, and grounds upkeep for their Blackburn property. These efforts ensure NextSense can maintain its vital services for the community.



Leaving no gap in education costs: Chelsea Community Support Service

Community Support / Education

Being ready to attend school in warm, comfortable, quality clothing with the appropriate text books and supplies provides a greater sense of belonging and builds self-esteem for children, enabling them to better engage with their education and the opportunities on offer.

In 2020, Chelsea Community Support Services Inc. (ChelCSS) launched the Fair Start School Support Program to help families in the City of Kingston. This program, funded by pandemic response grants, supports vulnerable families who often face financial hardships. It provides school uniforms, textbooks, and other school necessities to children from various schools.

Families seeking education support are generally already linked with ChelCSS for other services, often come from single parent or grandparent households and are on fixed incomes or government payments.

When faced with school related costs at the end of the year and trying to make it through Christmas, programs like this can relieve the financial pressure and mental burden.

In 2023, a \$5,000 grant from FFV supported 28 families and 50 children, covering uniform costs and educational expenses, even helping early school leavers attend TAFE.

ChelCSS works in partnership with State School Relief who provide vouchers that cover 50-60% of the retail cost of uniform items, with the FFV grant covering the gap.

This year, they were proud to be able to help a 17-year-old who wanted to return to school. Providing a laptop meant Lucian, pictured, could return to study and complete Year 11 and 12, so he could enrol in TAFE. His single mother was experiencing financial hardship and could either pay for fees or buy the laptop – but not both.

"My son and I both were made to feel relaxed and comfortable and it was an easy conversation to have with the Support Worker to ask for Education Support Assistance. To have such an amazing program that supports youth and their education is truly helpful. It also took away the extra financial stress of purchasing a laptop which assisted my wellbeing. I thank Chelsea Community Support and all the awesomeness that they offer to support persons, families, and youth in need."

Chelsea Community Support Services continues to be a lifeline for families and youth in need, providing essential support and opportunities.



Connecting Communities through Music: Melbourne Symphony Orchestra's Regional Touring Program

Community Support

Music has the power to positively impact community health and wellbeing and the MSO believes that all Victorians should have access to these benefits, regardless of geographic location. Thanks to the ongoing support of FFV, the MSO continues to bring enriching and meaningful musical experiences to communities across the State.

Support from FFV enabled thousands of people in regional communities to access cultural opportunities through mainstage gala concerts, school concerts and a program of wrap-around learning and engagement opportunities. In early 2023 alone, a program of school performances and workshops took place in Wangaratta and Shepparton, in addition to a side-by-side rehearsal with the Goulburn Valley Orchestra; a Classic Kids concert for schools in Bendigo; and a gala concert with pre-concert talk in Ballarat, featuring internationally in-demand and highly celebrated Australian conductor Jessica Cottis.

The unique opportunity to work side-by-side with MSO's world class musicians can be transformative for local orchestras.

Goulburn Valley Orchestra's Music Librarian and Percussionist, Wade, states: "The rehearsal with MSO was one of the best I have been to. Every person learned something from the whole experience, and it was just a brilliant rehearsal. I left there on an absolute cloud nine."



An Evening with the MSO conducted by MSO Assistant Conductor Carlo Antonioli - Wangaratta

Orchestra Cellist, Emma, said: "I thoroughly enjoyed the rehearsal we had alongside members of the MSO, with Aaron Wyatt as conductor. Both Aaron and the members of the MSO were warm, encouraging and their presence was an inspiration. I felt that I had a much better understanding of the cello part and how it fit alongside the other parts of the orchestra and our playing as an ensemble was lifted to a new level. I am very grateful for the generosity of the MSO for their attendance at their rehearsal, the experience was invaluable."

Supporting sporting clubs with healthy values inside and out

Community Support / Education

SALT (Sport and Life Training) has been working with Victorian sporting clubs for eight years to foster mental resilience and healthy values in their teams and broader community. They received a Community Grant to deliver their Wellbeing and Mental Health module to sporting clubs. This initiative, called the Clubs with Heart webinar series, engaged nine clubs, including the City of Melbourne Bowls Club, the Warrandyte Netball Club, and others.

The program focuses on creating clubs and team environments that cater to both competitive and personal development needs. More than 100 clubs have participated in the series. The funding allowed SALT to offer Masters Football Clubs the Club Wellbeing Package, including interactive mental health sessions at clubrooms with a unique Live Quiz platform so people can give anonymous real-time feedback about how they are *really* travelling.

The sessions are followed by online training for Club Wellbeing Teams to help facilitate a healthy and supportive community. This isn't just about young people either - for people of all ages, the local sports club may often be their closest community.

Parkside Spurs FC Wellbeing Coordinator Jo Richardson said their two sessions were highly engaging and well received.

"SALT facilitators took time to meet and understand the culture of the club. They were experienced and knowledgeable in mental health. The sessions raised awareness and highlighted the important role the football club can play in supporting players, volunteers and families.

Clubs like the Plenty Valley Masters and the Western Spurs Masters have also received this training, and they now join SALT alumni that number over 700 clubs throughout Australia via 2,500+ educational sessions across 18 different sports.

FFV is certainly proud to be supporting such an integral community endeavour.

Following the fourth instalment of the Clubs with Heart webinar series, SALT can now say they have had participation from more than 100 clubs!



Inviting philanthropy to share on-Country with First Nations organisations

Indigenous Programs

By developing strong, sustainable and supported Indigenous organisations, and by linking them with effective financial and pro-bono support, Woor-Dungin believes significant progress can be made towards tackling Indigenous disadvantage, promoting Indigenous culture and ensuring the vibrancy of Indigenous community organisations.

FFV has enabled Woor-Dungin to undertake the important work of bridging the gap between philanthropy and First Nations community-led initiatives. A Community Grant provided financial support for a series of on-Country visits involving introducing representatives of grant making bodies to a range of inspiring Aboriginal community organisations, many in rural areas, working towards advancing the health and wellbeing of their people.

In February 2023, Paula McLeod of the McLeod Family Foundation participated in an on-Country visit to Gunditjmara country (Southwest Victoria), taking in WornGundidj, Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and Kirrae Health Service. As a result of the visit, the McLeod Family Foundation made a generous donation to WornGundidj's bush nursery. Scan the QR code to watch a video about the visit and its significance.



Off the back of the connections and relationships nurtured in the course of the on-Country visits, Woor-Dungin has noted not only a dramatic increase in the numbers of First Nations partners applying for and receiving philanthropic funding, but has also drawn new members into its network of participants in a range of other initiatives, including monthly Yarning Circles, Indigenous Governance Training and Grant Writing Workshops – all key to the development of a thriving Aboriginal community sector.

"The grant we have received from Freemasons Foundation Victoria has given a huge impetus to our work with mob across Victoria," says Woor-Dungin CEO, Kirsty Sword Gusmão. "The expansion of our reach and growth to our networks has meant that we have doubled participation in our regular Yarning Circles and capacity building initiatives and boosted the interactions and shared learning amongst Aboriginal community leaders and grant making sector partners."

Impact Partnerships

We believe healthy communities are a vital cornerstone of our society.

FFV makes multi-year impact grants to substantial, meaningful projects that have the potential to make significant positive impacts to the most vulnerable Victorians.

These are a one-off grant over a specified number of years covering areas of Health / Medical Research, Education, Community Support, and Indigenous Programs.

Impact Grants:

- Cancer Council Victoria received \$250,000 – the 2nd instalment of funding for the Eliminate Cervical Cancer Fund.
- Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation received \$45,000 – the 1st instalment of funding to support Blue Ribbon Day.
- Let's Talk Foundation received \$100,000 – the 3rd instalment of funding for the Colac & Hamilton Hubs Community Education Program.
- Entertainment Assist Intermission received \$75,000 for their prevention based program for entertainment workers.

Let's Talk turns up the volume across South West Victoria

Let's Talk was created to break the stigma of talking about mental health. By raising awareness, encouraging help seeking and increasing community knowledge and competence in supporting people with mental illness and distress, Let's Talk benefits the whole community and aims to prevent devastating outcomes like suicide.

Research suggests that rural communities are more at risk of mental health problems, with higher rates of stigma, limited access to resources, and often isolating lifestyles.

Having supported Let's Talk Foundation with funding for signage in 2020 (in Mortlake and Warrnambool outskirts), and recognising the critical need for proactive efforts, FFV provided a \$300,000 grant over three years.

This impact grant has enabled Let's Talk to employ Community Engagement Officers for Warrnambool and Colac, implement a database for better volunteer and donor management, and engage a communications and grant specialist to support the team in writing funding applications.

Their framework emphasises Leadership, Education, Support, and Promotion, visible through initiatives like signage in sports clubs, talks with local councils, and a successful Walkathon engaging 250 participants. In 2022, a pilot program in Terang involved community leaders facilitating open conversations about mental health, crucial in a tight-knit farming community.

A recent restructure led to hiring key personnel, enhancing capacity, and planning for a formal program evaluation, speaker training, and promotional material. Let's Talk, with FFV's support, gained substantial momentum in addressing mental health issues in South West Victoria, aiming to eliminate stigma, save lives and activate communities for long-term change.



Presentation in Dixie which was attended by over 100 people.



Walk the Walk 2022.

Disaster Relief

Our Disaster Relief Fund was established in January 2020. It has been pivotal in providing emergency relief funding and ongoing support to both disaster affected Freemasons and community organisations in hard-hit areas of Victoria. A key consideration in directing the funding is that it has a direct and immediate impact on those affected by disasters.

In October 2022, Victoria experienced a major flood crisis. Some towns experienced the highest river peaks in decades. The extensive impacts of this disaster prompted FFV and Freemasons Victoria to commit a combined \$700,000 toward flood relief projects across the state.

In 2022-23, FFV distributed
\$418,463



The funding that has been directed into flood-hit communities in Victoria this financial year includes:

Dungala Kaiela Foundation
 Emergency relief for First Nations families disadvantaged by floods
\$50,000

Rochester Community House
 300 recycled woollen blankets for the Rochester Citizens blanket delivery project
\$23,463

Rochester Cemetery Trust
 Urgent cemetery restoration repairs
\$10,000

FareShare
 Emergency relief program, which includes delivering cooked meals to Rochester families
\$50,000

The Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project
 Emergency relief program for community members
\$30,000

Benevolence
 Emergency relief payments to 22 Freemasons impacted by 2022 floods, of which \$153,000 was contributed by Freemasons Victoria
\$180,000

Rochester Community House
 Emergency relief, which includes procuring sought after items such as heaters, clothes dryers and blankets to increase comfort of families through the winter
\$50,000

Rochester Primary School
 Establishing a wellbeing reset facility
\$25,000

1889 Bequest Society



Bequest Society

In 1889, a donation of £500 was received from Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Sir William Clarke, 1st Baronet. This gift is still giving.

The 1889 Bequest Society was established to thank and acknowledge people in their lifetime for making a bequest.

On a sunny St. Patrick's Day, the 1889 Bequest Society gathered at the Victoria Golf Club for their second Annual Lunch. FFV regards this event as an opportunity to update valued supporters on the work of the Foundation, thank them for their goodwill, and welcome new Society members. Patron Rosemary Evans emphasised the crucial role bequestors play for FFV, and guests heard from Julia Edwards, CEO of Entertainment Assist, who spoke about FFV's support in mental health for the entertainment industry during COVID, benefiting 11,000 individuals.



Financial Summary

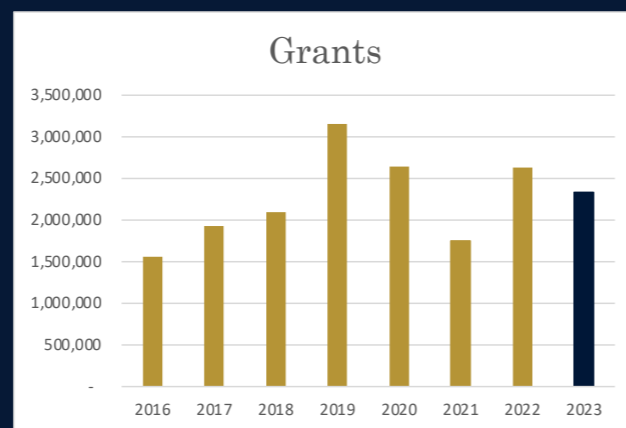
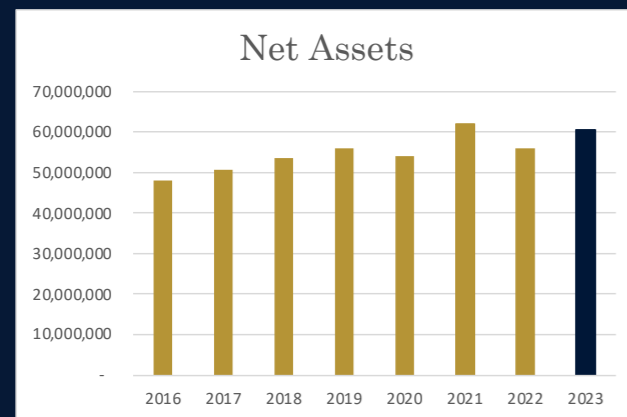
As at 30 June 2023, the Foundation had \$58.9M of funds under management which is administered by JBWere. For the 12 months ending 30 June, the total portfolio return was 12.69%.

One of the key responsibilities of the Board is the monitoring of the investment activities via a robust Investment Policy with the objectives including:

- Invest in a manner that provides a level of return to fund the mission, objectives and purpose of the Foundation, its outgoings and build a legacy for the future; and
- Manage risk through prudent financial management and diversification.

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

| | The Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation | | Freemasons Benevolent Fund | | Total | |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2022/2023 | 2021/2022 | 2022/2023 | 2021/2022 | 2022/2023 | 2021/2022 |
| Investment Income | 889,783 | 804,384 | 1,910,620 | 1,741,589 | 2,800,403 | 2,545,973 |
| Other Income | 304,179 | 950,962 | 184,895 | 28,057 | 489,074 | 979,019 |
| Funds Distributed | -813,475 | -840,074 | -1,511,980 | -1,780,549 | -2,325,455 | -2,620,623 |
| Operating Expenses | -142,292 | -139,159 | -471,757 | -453,696 | -614,049 | -592,855 |
| Net Surplus/ (Loss) | 238,195 | 776,113 | 111,778 | -464,599 | 349,973 | 311,514 |
| Net Assets | 19,602,361 | 17,967,840 | 41,009,999 | 38,011,446 | 60,612,360 | 55,979,286 |



Become Involved

To Freemasons, greatness in life is measured by deed, character, charity, trust and the positive effect one leaves on this world through generosity of spirit.

FFV manages two registered charities - The Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation and Freemasons Benevolent Fund.

We welcome contributions to either Fund, which will enable us to increase the reach and impact of our support. Donations to The Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation are tax deductible, and those who would like to leave a legacy in their name can make a bequest to FFV and become a member of the 1889 Bequest Society.

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.



Freemasons
Foundation Victoria

Improving the lives and opportunities of Victorians

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