FROM THE POCKET

HAND HEART POCKET
THE CHARITY OF FREEMASONS QUEENSLAND

JUNE 2025

Youth are our future, we need to look after them

Supporting the future of our society has been the biggest highlight for outgoing UGLQ Grand Master Jeff Harper, during his time as a Hand Heart Pocket Board Director.

“Youth are the future of any society,” Mr Harper said. “They’re going to be the future leaders, they’re going to run society, so we need to look after them,” he said.

He’s proud of the support Hand Heart Pocket provides young people in need.

He was particularly moved during the 2024 Year in Review event.

“Hearing from young people at our Year in Review, they told their stories, and you can see what Hand Heart Pocket has done to help them into the future,” Mr Harper said.

After six years working in the Deputy and Grand Master roles, Mr Harper is looking forward to returning to his own lodge, Kaye based on the northside of Brisbane.

During his time leading UGLQ, he has enjoyed meeting Members around Queensland and Papua New Guinea and learning about the local work they’re doing.

When it comes to Hand Heart Pocket’s Matched Giving, he said that the Local Community Partnerships are important for Lodges to take up.

“Each individual lodge is focusing on work in their own community and identifying where they can help in their own community,” Mr Harper said.

“They understand what the needs of the town are,” he said.

While Mr Harper has long been retired from his career in disaster management, he still appreciates the partnership Hand Heart Pocket has with GIVIT, to enable financial support to people impacted by disasters.

“You need the people on the ground, people on the ground know where the money needs to go,” he said.

“The most important thing is that GIVIT has great experience in disaster assistance and recovery. Working with them ensures that the money goes to the right people, in the right places at the right time.”

Although he has fond memories of his work at Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, reflecting on the spate of recent disasters, Mr Harper said he was happy to pass the reins of the control room over to the next generation. Much like he will be doing when it comes to the Freemasons of Queensland and Hand Heart Pocket.

“I’ve loved being on the Board of Hand Heart Pocket, it's doing good work, and it will continue to do good work into the future,” Mr Harper said.



Above: *Retiring Grand Master Jeff Harper.*

From the Chairman



Protecting and leveraging our capital and assets is one of Hand Heart Pocket's key strategic objectives. During periods of market volatility, having experts making the right decisions is a key ingredient of investment success.

As at the end of the last quarter, since the end of the previous financial year, we have seen a return on financial assets and cash of 8.31 per cent.

This is a significant positive result, and I commend the Investment Committee's due diligence and risk management during this market volatility.

As at the end of March, for the financial year to date, our total charitable giving totalled more than $2.31 million. I'm proud to report that this included more than $250,000 of Member-led local Matched Giving. In tough economic conditions and with time-constrained schedules, the core values of Freemasonry continue to stand strong, and Brethren, you continue to find it in yourselves to give to those in need.

I've enjoyed reading the Matched Giving stories in this newsletter, and I hope you will too. We'd love to hear about more of these stories, so please don't hesitate to send them to us.

As this will be the last From the Pocket newsletter under Jeff Harper's leadership, I'd like to acknowledge the work Jeff has done and thank him for his ever-considerate contributions as Board Director, it's been a pleasure to work with him in this capacity. May his next chapter continue to be as rewarding as the last.

Alasdair Begley

Safe sailing in stormy markets

Markets were volatile in April, as the implications of US trade policy impacted stocks, bonds, and currencies. The month started with President Trump's announcement of a set of tariffs that were broader and more punitive than expected. Equity markets sold off just after the announcement, although they recovered much of their losses over the following days after President Trump softened the approach.

The Investment Committee (IC) has been reducing our exposure to investment risk since the beginning of 2025 and portfolio risk is currently at its lowest since COVID in 2020.

The IC continues to be updated weekly by the Chief Investment Officer who monitors risk, liquidity and developments in global markets. Additionally, during these particularly volatile times, the IC has met weekly to ensure good governance and timely decision making.

The IC continues to allocate the portfolio to long term investments with steady returns to ensure our target return is delivered.

Win a stay at the Whitsundays

On the Gold Coast, Southport Lodge has donated $2,000 to Rosies Youth Mission Inc, coupled with the Hand Heart Pocket Matched Giving, taking the total to $4,000.

Rosies is an institution on the Gold Coast, having operated since 1987 when it was set up as a safe place for young people to visit during Schoolies Week. It wasn't until 1990 that they started operating all year long, focusing on helping people experiencing homelessness.

Led by Mick McCluskey, Southport Lodge is holding a raffle to make further funds available for giving. First prize for the raffle is five nights' accommodation for a family at the Whitsunday Apartments on Hamilton Island, which will be a fantastic prize for the lucky ticket holder.

To enter the raffle, email Southport Lodge via SouthportNo62@outlook.com.

A boost for FNQ cancer patients

In Far North Queensland, Alan Sims from Pyramid Highleigh Lodge has been busy raising funds for the Cairns COUCH Wellness Centre.

COUCH, which stands for the Cairns Organisation United for Cancer Health, exists to improve the health and wellbeing of people living with cancer in Far North Queensland. The centre provides integrated cancer care to enhance the quality of life for clients, their families and friends.

With Hand Heart Pocket's Matched Giving, Mr Sims raised a total of $5,000 for the centre.



Above: *Alan Sims presenting Emily Rossi with a cheque for the funds raised by Pyramid Highleigh Lodge.*

Sizzling support for Encircle

If you visit Bunnings in Stafford, Brisbane, then there's a good chance you've seen Gary Goodwin and his team from Celtic of Ithaca Lodge running the sausage sizzle on a Saturday.

Mr Goodwin runs a tight ship when it comes to a Bunnings sausage sizzle. The same crew split the day into two shifts, each with specific roles whether it be turning snags and frying onion, taking customer orders, prepping or delivering the customer orders. There's even a former Grand Master on the team – Alan Townsend.

Mr Goodwin estimates they go through more than 50 loaves of bread and more than 70 kilograms of sausages for a single sizzle at Stafford.

How's this for a hot tip – he uses cash from collecting cans to cover most of the supply costs, meaning there's more money left over to donate.

With Hand Heart Pocket's Matched Giving, Celtic of Ithaca Lodge donated $4,000 to Encircle. Encircle is community services organisation with neighbourhood centres based across North Brisbane, including Caboolture, Kallangur, Kedron, Lawnton, Redcliffe and Strathpine. They provide a range of community support for people experiencing homelessness, young parents, families and seniors.



Above: *Celtic of Ithaca Lodge donating to Encircle.*

Rick helps raise funds for riders

On the Sunshine Coast, in Gympie, Members from the Cooroy Queen Alexandra Lodge have used Hand Heart Pocket Matched Giving to give a total of $5,600 to the Sunshine Coast Riding for the Disabled Association (SCRDA).

SCRDA provides supported equine-based therapeutic riding, driving and on-ground programs for all people with a disability on the Sunshine Coast.

The charitable giving has been led by Cooroy Queen Alexandra Lodge's Rick Templeton.

Members help buy equipment

On the Sunshine Coast, Mooloolah Lodge has donated $4,630 to Bloomhill Cancer Care in Buderim, which was matched by Hand Heart Pocket taking the total giving to $9,260.

Bloomhill Cancer Care provides compassionate care for people of all ages on the Sunshine Coast, impacted by cancer.

Mooloolah Lodge's contribution goes towards the purchase of lymphoedema control equipment.

Bloomhill Cancer Care Oncology Nurse and Lympoedema Therapist Debbie Myers said the equipment will provide her clients with welcome pain relief.

"This equipment makes an enormous positive difference for those in the process of healing from cancer surgery," said Ms Myers.



Above: *Oncology Nurse Debbie Myers with new equipment.*

Lodges reap rewards

It's been six months since Hand Heart Pocket's Board Chairman Alasdair Begley announced the Chairman's Rewards, and multiple Lodges have jumped at the opportunity which will see $323,000 worth of Local Community Partnership giving.

Mr Begley said it had been a tremendous response by participating Lodges.

"It is fantastic to see more Lodges reaching out to explore Local Community Partnerships in their areas," Mr Begley said.

"The Local Community Partnerships give Lodges and Members a meaningful way to get involved locally – whether it's helping charities launch new programs or supporting essential services for community members experiencing tough times."

One example of a thriving Local Community Partnership is Myora Lodges' partnership with Redland Community Centre, south of Brisbane.

Member Roger Brady has been a driving force behind this successful partnership, which has seen more than $65,000 given to the Centre's Homeless United program.

Hand Heart Pocket staff and Board Directors were treated to a site visit at Redland Community Centre in April, where Centre staff and Myora Lodge Members gave a presentation on the work they do, as well as a tour of the facilities.

This quarter has also seen the Hand Heart Pocket team visit several Lodges to share information on Local Community Partnerships. The team received a warm welcome by Members at Camp Hill, Tamborine and the District Grand Lodge of Carpentaria.

Camp Hill Lodge Members have been working with their chosen charity, Friends With Dignity, for some time, and will be continuing this work via a newly established Local Community Partnership. Friends With Dignity has been supporting adults and children impacted by domestic and family violence for the past 10 years.

Tamborine Lodge is establishing a Local Community Partnership with Young Diggers, which provides services and programs to assist those who serve and have served in the Australian Defence Force, First Responders and their families.

While the Chairman's Rewards promotion has ended, we wanted to thank all Lodges who have participated in the Local Community Partnerships.

For any Members or Lodges that want to get involved, please don't hesitate to contact us to help with any questions you may have. Please contact us via (07) 3493 6000 or info@handheartpocket.org.au.



Above: *Redland Community Centre staff and Myora Lodge Members.*

Students help school to thrive

Hand Heart Pocket has entered a new partnership with Y-Care South East Queensland Y-Schools Thrive Model.

Y-Schools Queensland provides tailored education programs and vocational training to secondary students who would benefit from an alternative learning environment, using a model called Thrive.

Y-Schools recognises that the needs, ambitions and experiences of students have changed and continue to change rapidly.

Hand Heart Pocket's giving will support students to actively help design the education and wellbeing model, in partnership with the Queensland University of Technology's Faculty of Creative Industries, Education and Social Justice.

Young people share their stories

Hand Heart Pocket's chief executive officer Sara Parrott was invited to participate in the Queensland Family and Child Commission's Youth Summit.

It's the second year that the Youth Summit has been held, and the objective is to hear directly from young people. This year's Youth Summit was a one-day event, with each young speaker given six minutes to present their advocacy piece on stage to an audience of decision and policy makers, with Ms Parrott being one of these.

The young people presented ideas for positive change with the aim of improving the lives of children, young people, their families and communities. Ms Parrott then provided a reflection speech afterwards.

Hand Heart Pocket's Social Impact and Engagement Manager Roslynn Black was in the audience and said it was a moving experience.

"I doubt there was a dry eye in the house. It was an absolutely amazing day and such a privilege to be in the company of these extraordinary young people," said Ms Black.



Above: *Hand Heart Pocket CEO Sara Parrott at the 2025 QFCC Youth Summit.*

Dates for your diary

2025 Year in Review
Thursday 6 November

308 Queen Street Brisbane City
or watch the livestream

Invitation for all Members to follow

Members Year in Review
Wednesday 3 December

Just before the Quarterly Communication

311 Ann Street Brisbane City

Invitation for all Members to follow

Update your details

Have you moved? Prefer to receive this newsletter by email?
Update your contact details by email or phone:

info@handheartpocket.org.au (07) 3493 6000

Send us your photos

We're a social bunch here at Hand Heart Pocket, and we want to promote your great work via our social media!
Send us your pics and volunteering event details to communications@handheartpocket.org.au

2024-25: Our Giving (as at 31 March 2025)

Total charitable giving $2,314,735

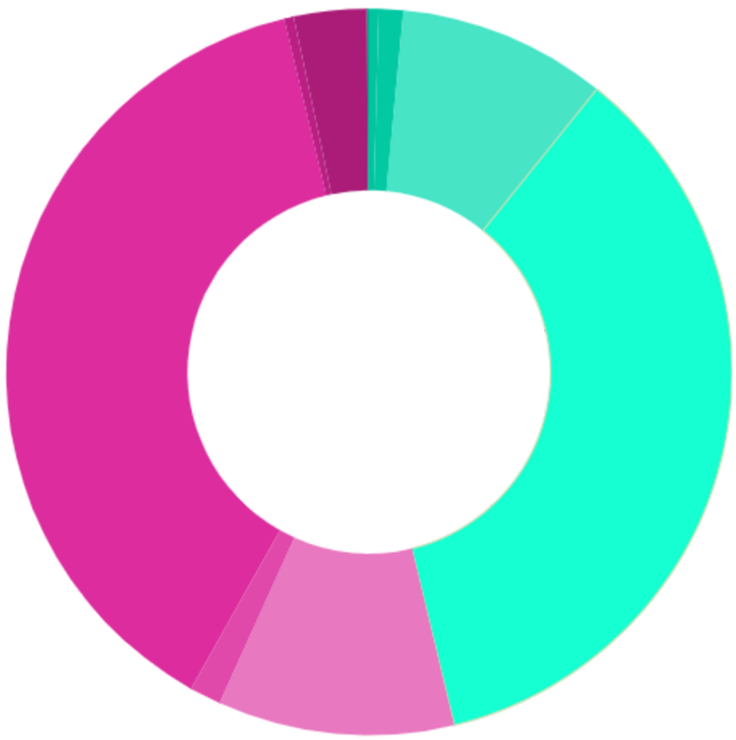
Giving distributed $1,244,735

- 38.1% Strategic Youth Partnerships
- 10.5% Member-led local giving
- 1.4% Hardship Assistance

Giving committed $1,070,000

- 35.4% Systems Change Partnerships committed
- 9.3% Strategic Youth Partnerships committed
- 1.1% Hardship Assistance committed

Note: Our audited financials are published each year in our Annual Report and on our website.



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The Board of Benevolence and of Aged Masons, Widows and Orphans' Fund trading as Hand Heart Pocket the Charity of Freemasons Queensland
ABN: 54 216 065 828 **Charity No:** CH2627

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