

POCKET

FROM THE



MARCH 2026

Farewell and thank you: Alasdair Begley's legacy of impact

When Alasdair Begley joined Hand Heart Pocket in 2017, he faced an organisation at a crossroads. Now, eight years on, as he steps down as Chairman, he leaves Queensland's largest philanthropic foundation stronger, more trusted, and more impact-focused than ever.



"Alasdair's unwavering commitment to good governance, strategic thinking, and genuine partnership has set the standard for everything we do today. We're deeply grateful for his eight years of dedicated volunteer service." – Sara Parrott, CEO, Hand Heart Pocket

Restoring trust through governance

One of Alasdair's first priorities as Chairman was to rebuild trust by bringing clarity and transparency back into governance of the charity, by focusing on our role to benefit the community.

With Alasdair as Chairman, the Board renewed leadership, resolved regulatory issues, and implemented best practice governance, from improved risk management to greater reporting that saw detailed financials published in every annual review.

This renewed approach was recognised by our Members and community partners who told us directly and through our surveys that Hand Heart Pocket has achieved "highly regarded leadership and governance".

A clear purpose and bold ambition

Once stability was restored, Alasdair helped shape a new purpose-led strategy: to partner for change for people in need.

"If we are to honour the legacy of our forebears, then we must tackle the social issues of today and be strategic in our giving," Alasdair wrote in the 2020-2021 Annual Review.

At the centre of this shift was an audacious 10-year goal: to ensure 10,000 young people have access to the opportunities they need to thrive.

"Alasdair's vision was clear from the start," Hand Heart Pocket CEO Sara Parrott reflected. "He understood that real impact requires focus, measurement, and long-term commitment. He challenged us to think bigger about what we could achieve," Ms Parrott said.

Careful financial stewardship

Under Alasdair's chairmanship, the organisation delivered average returns of 9.37% over five years.

Between 2021-25, Hand Heart Pocket contributed more than \$27.34 million to the community, while growing retained earnings by \$42.66 million – a clear demonstration that strong stewardship enables greater impact.

A Responsible Investment and Philanthropy Policy aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals was embedded during his time.

Championing Member engagement

Perhaps the most significant shift under Alasdair's leadership has been the rise in Member engagement. Since 2021, annual Member engagement with Hand Heart Pocket programs has tripled.

As a result of Members giving their time to causes they care deeply about, 335 local community organisations have been supported, and more than \$1.37 million in Matched Giving has been distributed.

Putting young people at the centre

One of Alasdair's lasting legacies is giving young people a real voice in decisions that shape their futures.

By creating opportunities for young people to share their lived experience and advocate for Youth Foyers, their voices helped secure Queensland Government funding for eight new Youth Foyers, which will benefit nearly 3,200 young people over the next decade.

The commitment to include young people in our decision making continues today through our Youth Ambassador Program, co-designed with the Youth Advocacy Centre.

Alasdair finishes as Chairman but his legacy lives on as Members, young people and Hand Heart Pocket work together to benefit our community.

Hello: From our new Chairman



Welcome to my inaugural edition of From the Pocket as your Chairman. I want to begin by extending my gratitude to former Chairman, Alasdair Begley, for his eight years of outstanding leadership, which has established a solid foundation for us.

It's a great time to be stepping into the role as Chairman. The start of a new year brings with it a fresh sense of energy and purpose, and there's a lot to be excited about as we look ahead.

Our financial position

Our financial position remains strong. As at December 2025, our net assets totalled \$235.18 million, and charitable giving for the financial year so far has reached \$3.05 million. This strength means we can continue supporting people when it matters most, while planning for long-term social impact.

Three priorities for the future

As I look ahead, three priorities will guide my work as Chairman:

First, strengthening Member engagement. My hope is that every Lodge feels connected, empowered and proud of Hand Heart Pocket. When Lodges are engaged, our collective impact becomes stronger.

Second, delivering on our strategic goal. We aim to create lasting change for 10,000 young people by 2030 and we're already halfway there. Staying true to this goal matters because it's not about one-off assistance, it's about helping young people to change their life trajectory.

Third, ensuring long-term sustainability. With more than 115 years of history behind us, protecting and growing our assets is a responsibility I take seriously. Through strong governance and responsible investment, we're building a resilient future for generations to come.

A seat at the table

One of the most exciting things on the horizon is the refreshed purpose-led strategy for 2026-30. We're listening closely to young people, and staying attentive to the economic and social challenges Queenslanders are facing.

When I think of this work, I picture a table where Members, partners, young people and communities come together to create real change. But we can't do it alone – we need more voices, more courage and more Members working together.

So I ask, will you join us at the table? Scan the QR code to watch my video



Craig Reimers

Getting to know Craig Reimers: Leading with values and community

After almost 20 years as a Freemason, and having served Hand Heart Pocket as a Champion and Deputy Chair, Craig Reimers steps into the role of Chairman with a strong sense of purpose and deep commitment to the Members and the communities he serves.

Craig describes his leadership journey as something that unfolded naturally, guided by the people around him. His first involvement with Hand Heart Pocket came through Greg Short, Freemason and former Director of Hand Heart Pocket, whose quiet leadership left a lasting impression.

“His deep commitment to the values of both Hand Heart Pocket and Freemasonry inspired me to want to contribute in any way that I could help,” Craig recalls.

That early encouragement set him on a path that led to joining the Board in 2021 and later serving as Deputy Chair under the guidance of Alasdair Begley.

Craig has seen firsthand how Members' generosity can change lives. A standout was Toowoomba & District Masonic Council's support for The Haven, operated by YellowBridge QLD – a home for young people unable to live with their families. Hearing directly from those young people about the difference it made remains deeply meaningful for Craig.

Craig is also energised by younger Freemasons stepping forward and getting involved. He believes early involvement in charity turns Masonic values into lived action. “It develops leadership and life skills, and often becomes a defining moment,” he says.

When asked what lasting change looks like for young people, Craig speaks about stability, security and helping them to build real pathways to a different future. “It's about shifting the systems that shape young people's lives, so that every young person has what they need to succeed,” he says, a philosophy that underpins his aspirations as Chairman.



Above: Craig Reimers joining young people in a strategy workshop

About Craig Reimers

Craig brings extensive management experience to the role of Chairman, with expertise in quality assurance, personnel management, workforce development and service delivery. He has worked across both the public and private sectors.

He is deeply passionate about creating social impact within the broader Queensland community.

Latest Member-led giving

Hand Heart Pocket supports Members' giving through Matched Giving (Dollars-for-Dollars and Dollars-for-Doers) and Local Community Partnerships. We match fundraising and volunteer hours dollar for dollar – up to \$5,000 for Lodges and \$500 for individuals each financial year, and help Lodges build long-term relationships with local charities.

Matched Giving



Above: Members of JS Popham Conclave donated \$600 to Brighter Lives Townsville Hospital Foundation

JS Popham Conclave Members presented a \$600 cheque to the **Brighter Lives Townsville Hospital Foundation** for their annual Christmas appeal.



Above: The "Tibro-garden" gang joined forces to help In the Paws of Angels

Tibrogargan Lodge Members rolled up their sleeves to support **In the Paws of Angels**, with the garden gang volunteering their time and effort for this worthy cause.

Local Community Partnerships



Above: Arran Hassell, Master of Tamborine Lodge, presents their fundraiser proceeds to Karen Gibbs, General Manager of Young Diggers

Tamborine Masonic Lodge donated \$1,000 to **Young Diggers** from a successful BBQ fundraiser. Young Diggers aids veterans and their families with transition support and mental health services.

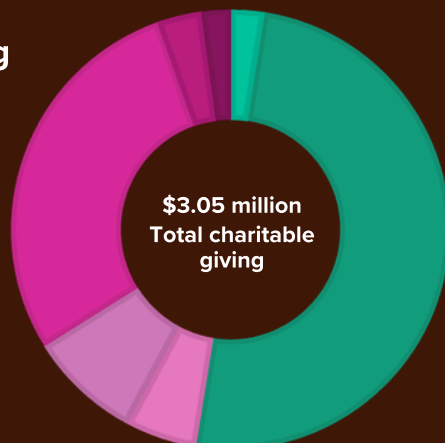


Above: Freemasons John Playford (left) and Michael Likta-Fry (right) hand over a cheque to Alison McLean (centre) of Townsville's Meals on Wheels

North Queensland Freemasons donated \$535 to **St Andrews Meals on Wheels Townsville** through raffles, supporting meal delivery and social connections for Townsville and Charters Towers residents.

2025-26: Our Giving

(as at 31 December 2025)



Giving distributed \$1,449,610

- 28.5% Strategic youth partnerships
- 8.3% Hardship assistance
- 5.3% Member-led local giving
- 3.3% Systems change
- 2.1% Disaster partnerships

Giving committed \$1,605,000

- 50.1% Strategic youth partnerships committed
- 2.5% Member-led local giving committed

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

We'd love to see your good work! Send your pictures (at least 1MB) and volunteering event details to info@handheartpocket.org.au or tag us on Facebook at [@HandHeartPocket](https://www.facebook.com/HandHeartPocket)

Connecting with Members and youth partners in PNG



Above: Roz Black, Social Impact Partnerships Manager (fourth from left) and Sara Parrott, CEO (centre) connect with young participants at the Hand Heart Pocket Strategy and Solutions Workshop with Save the Children

In November 2025, Hand Heart Pocket made its first visit to Papua New Guinea. CEO Sara Parrott and Manager, Social Impact Partnerships, Roz Black travelled to Port Moresby for five days.

The visit provided an invaluable opportunity to see firsthand how our strategic youth partners, Save the Children and UNICEF, are supporting young people, and to explore new ways we can work together, particularly during times of disaster.

A highlight of the trip was spending time with **Save the Children's Life Skills for Success program**, which Hand Heart Pocket has supported with \$1.1 million since 2020. Over this time, the program will have helped up to 570 young people aged 14 to 24 build essential skills for education and employment. They also connected with delivery partners who provide entrepreneurship training and financial literacy support.

Sara and Roz later met with **UNICEF** to learn more about the **Girls Empowered program pilot**, supported by Hand Heart Pocket with \$500,000 over two years.

The visit concluded with a dinner attended by 13 Members from Port Moresby Lodge and New Guinea Lodge, offering a chance to share updates on Hand Heart Pocket's work and explore ways to expand programs like Matched Giving and Local Community Partnerships to strengthen connections with our PNG counterparts.

Contact us:

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Recent Lodge visits

Since September 2025, representatives from Hand Heart Pocket have met with Members from Burleigh Lodge, Queensland Lodge and United Tradesman's Lodge to share more about the work we do and the impact we can have in local communities by working together.

If you would like a presentation from Hand Heart Pocket at your next Lodge meeting, please email info@handheartpocket.org.au or phone (07) 3493 6000.

Upcoming Lodge visits



10 April 2026, 7.30-8.30pm
Tibrogargan Lodge
Caboolture Masonic Centre



11 June 2026, 8-9pm
Theodore Unmack Lodge
Eight Miles Plains
Masonic Centre

SAVE THE DATE: Governance workshop

Members will soon be invited to express interest in attending our upcoming Governance workshop. If you have skills and experience that could contribute to Hand Heart Pocket's ongoing leadership, including potential future Board Director opportunities, we encourage you to come along and learn more.



21 May 2026
Hand Heart Pocket
Level 1/826 Ann St,
Fortitude Valley

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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