

6 SEPTEMBER 2022

Meet the Directors: Jeff Harper



Can you tell us about your background, qualifications and experience?

I started my working life as an electrician in Brisbane. I joined the Fire Service in Brisbane and progressed through the ranks and retired as a Superintendent. I was the officer in charge of the Specialist Response Section at that time. A team of 37 helped deliver a range of services, equipment procurement, training materials and face to face training, and operational response. I was also responsible for the Queensland Urban Search and Rescues' team that was registered with the United Nations. My career was focused on planning, preparation, response and recovery for incidents and disasters.

What attracted you to the role of director with Hand Heart Pocket?

As the current Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Queensland, I have an ex-officio role on the Board of the Board of Benevolence for the next three year and it is my responsibility during my term to represent the Freemasons of Queensland in our community work. I am really committed to ensuring we continue our charity endeavours to assist and improve the outcomes of those in need and at risk in our society.

What excites you the most about Hand Heart Pocket's future?

I am excited about the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives. There are several issues that can occur that have a negative impact on an individual's potential to reach his or her goals in life, not always does that individual have control of those circumstances. I am also looking forward to helping Lodges to identify causes that matter to them and build partnerships in their local communities.

It is my hope that when future generations talk about the Freemasons of Queensland, we

are known for our impact in the community, how our Members give their time, energy and dollars to support local causes that matter to them and in particular, how our strategic partnerships support young people and families.

How do you think Hand Heart Pocket can help support Lodges to engage with their community?

Lodges have a greater understanding of the needs in their community. Going forward, the support of Hand Heart Pocket will enable Lodges to not only donate but also provide hands on assistance.

How do you think Hand Heart Pocket will be able to help address the key challenges faced by at-risk young people?

There are a range of organisations that have identified areas of challenge and risk in our communities. Others work on the identification process, highlighting issues. Identifying these partners is important as at times those risks are common and interrelated. However some issues are specific to particular regions. Hand Heart Pocket with our partners have an effective and positive impact on the community, measuring our progress and outcomes.

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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

Find Hand Heart Pocket on:



Free HHP merchandise for your community work

Polo shirt sizes limited to L-4XL,
available in black and in navy
T-shirts available in XS and 2XL only
Caps available in black and in white

Email info@handheartpocket.org.au
to get yours



From the Chairman

Our philanthropy

In the past year we gave as planned over \$5 million to the Queensland community, both in support of the activities of our Members in their communities and our support of young people in need.

Just over \$1 million of that went towards Member-led initiatives in support of local community organisations. It's great to see Members getting back to their community work.

Our financial position remains strong. In the 2021-22 year, the value of our investment assets has remained stable even in the face of very volatile financial markets. This is a good result thanks to our dedicated Investment Committee and Management Team.

Many in our community have endured great hardship over the past 12 months. Natural disasters and cost of living rises have put immense pressure on those doing it tough. Together we are helping communities right here, right now, while also investing in long-term change for young people in need.

Come and join us on 25 October

I encourage our Members to attend the Year in Review event next month to hear more about the work we are doing together and meet many of our community partners. The event will be held on Tuesday 25 October at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. It's free to attend but bookings are essential, as numbers are limited. There's also the option to watch the event online via a live webcast. Members will receive an email invitation with more detail about this closer to the event.

If one of your goals next year is to engage more with your community, then I encourage to come along, as we'll be launching our expanded

Member-led giving and Hardship Assistance programs and explaining how more Members can now get more money for more charities.

Partners and friends are more than welcome to attend this public event.

As part of the event we will also have a question-and-answer session where audience members can ask questions from our Board and guest speakers. Members can also submit their questions one week in advance by emailing us through

boardsec@handheartpocket.org.au

Bursaries for young social entrepreneurs

Later this month the Social Enterprise World Forum will get underway in Brisbane. This event is being hosted by White Box Enterprises, a well-known social enterprise in Queensland. We've partnered with White Box to help 23 young social entrepreneurs, who would otherwise not be able to attend, to learn about using their entrepreneurial skills to create a positive social impact in their community. Of the bursaries, 15 were awarded to young Queenslanders valued at \$2,000 each and eight bursaries were awarded to young people in Papua New Guinea valued at \$2,500 ea.

Partnering for change

We build strategic partnerships with organisations that deliver life-changing programs for young people in need. Bravehearts has been one of our youth-focussed partners since 2020 and we have recently extended this partnership recognising the need for this important program in our community. Over the past two years our funds have supported the Turning Corners program which supports young people who have or are at risk of engaging in harmful sexual behaviours to turn their lives around.

This year we have committed a further \$400,000 to this same program.

Our partnership with Micah Projects has also evolved. Two years ago we gave the not-for-profit organisation \$400,000 and a \$400,000 interest-free loan to purchase their hub on Brisbane's southside, a place where they support vulnerable young families to break down barriers and overcome issues such as domestic violence, trauma, poverty and homelessness.

This year we awarded \$1.5 million over three years to fund two programs, the Young Mothers for Young Women and Being Your Best programs to help vulnerable parents navigate parenthood and re-engage in education and training. This includes a new program for young fathers. These programs will support young parents in Brisbane and in Caboolture where there is the greatest need for these support services.

Prepare and recover from a disaster

I am also proud to announce a partnership with the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, to support communities in Queensland preparing for and importantly, recovering from natural disasters.

This complements our partnership with GIVIT which supports disaster relief efforts in the immediate aftermath of natural disasters here in Queensland.

We have donated \$112,500 to FRRR's Strengthening Rural Communities grants program, which will be distributed to community organisations in the form of up to \$25,000 grants, over the next year. To find out more visit the FRRR website frrr.org.au. Most community organisations can apply. Applications for the current grant round close in late November.

Alasdair Begley

Chairman



FRRR

Foundation for Rural
Regional Renewal



MICAH PROJECTS



**Breaking Social Isolation
Building Community**



Good together: matched giving and Member-led



Burrum District Respite Centre in the small community of Howard on the Fraser Coast received \$20,000 towards the expansion of facilities. Star of the East, Maryborough, Fraser Coast United and Munduberra-Burnett Lodges made the donation with the help of Hand Heart Pocket. Around 55 local residents visit the centre each week to stay socially connected.

Getting together for a BBQ or even kicking a ball around with mates is helping to break down the stigma for young men seeking mental health support. North Australian Lodge with the support of Hand Heart Pocket donated \$8,400 towards the Mates Space program run by *headspace* Woolloongabba so that more young men feel supported to seek help. The funds were raised at recital of Antonio Vivaldi's The Four Seasons in the Masonic Memorial Centre.



A local service that helps vulnerable over 65s to get to and from specialist medical appointments in Gympie, the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane, has received \$12,000 from the Gympie and District Freemasons Association. The donation will cover the maintainance and insurance costs for one of Gympie Medical Transport's new vehicles over the next three years.

In June we brought you the story of Enoggera-Thistle, Barron Barnett and Thespian Lodges donating \$50,000 to 4 Aussie Heroes Foundation, with the help of Hand Heart Pocket. The not-for-profit has since received the keys to their new tractor to help with the upkeep of their 32 hectare retreat site. 4 Aussie Heroes run life-saving mental health rehabilitation programs for current and former defence force personnel and first responders.



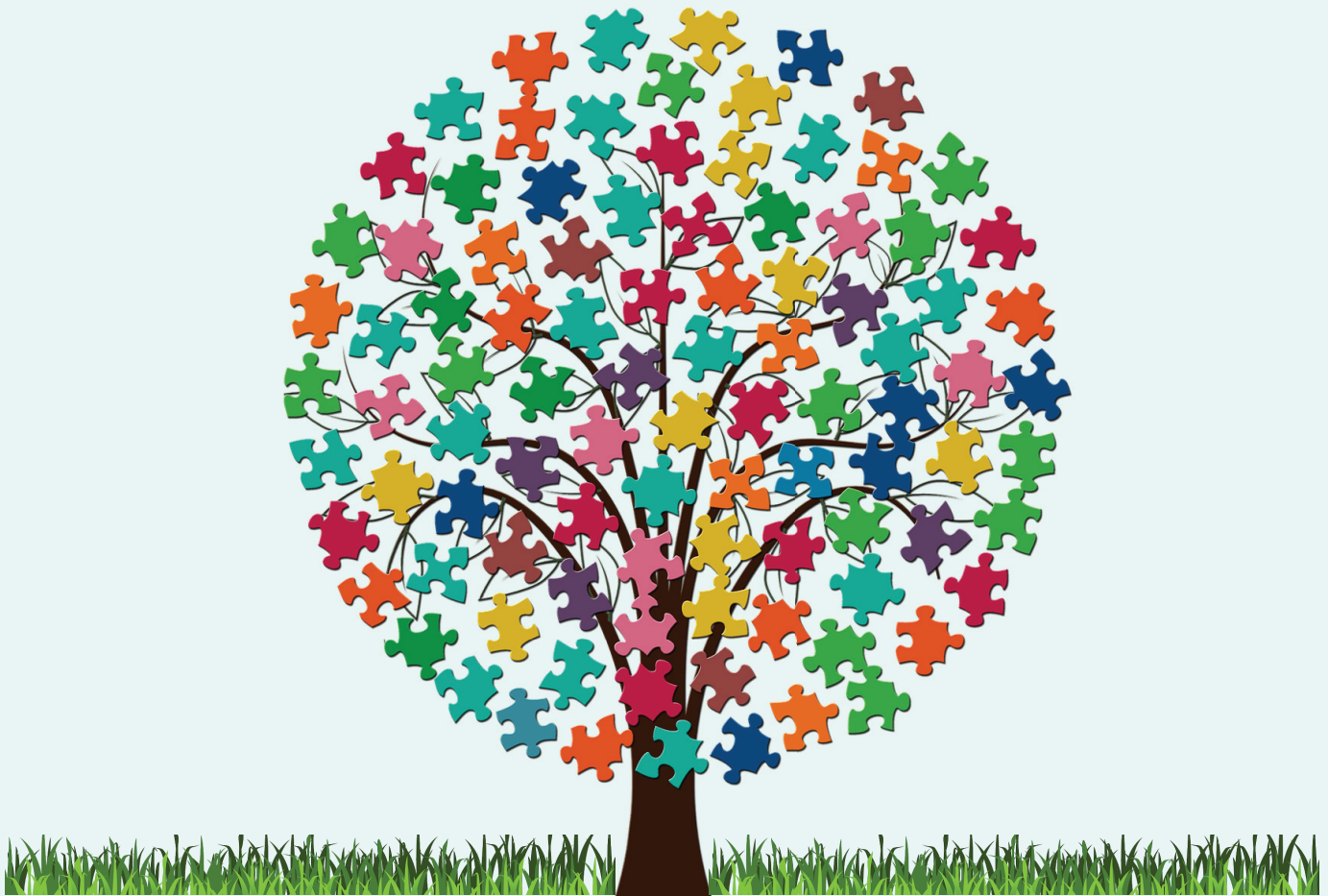
We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Lands on which we operate across Queensland, especially the Jagera and Turrbal people of Meeanjin (Brisbane), and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

Share the good news. If your Lodge has supported a local charity with the help of Hand Heart Pocket send in a photo for inclusion in our newsletter and website.

Read more at www.handheartpocket.org.au/news

Join us in person or online as we showcase Freemasons' social impact in the community

2022 Year in Review event



Tuesday 25 October at 10am
Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

- RSVP for in person attendance is essential
- All Members will be emailed a link to register online soon
- Partners and friends welcome
- Close to public transport and free onsite parking
- A link to view the event online will be issued the day before the event via email

Don't miss the Q&A panel discussion

Submit your questions at least one week in advance to boardsec@handheartpocket.org.au