

# POCKET

FROM THE



24 FEBRUARY 2023

## More dollars help Members engage with their communities





# From the Chairman



Our big focus so far this year has been rolling out our expanded Dollars 4 Dollars program to make sure more Members are being recognised for their work in the community.

### Members and community

Now, when you give, fundraise or volunteer, Hand Heart Pocket will match your donation to double your giving and maximise your impact.

We have held a number of meetings with Lodges to introduce the expanded program to Members, starting in the Carpentaria District last October and in the North Queensland District this month.

We are also lining up meetings in Redcliffe, Brisbane and the Gold Coast later this year, so be on the lookout for an invitation from us soon.

For larger donations we have Local Community Partnerships, where Lodges can pick a charity and support them over a couple of years.

This encourages Members to have a greater visible presence in the

community and to make a bigger difference with our support in a structured way. There are two Local Community Partnerships currently underway in Toowoomba and Miles and I'm pleased to report that there are several more in the pipeline.

We have partnered with UnitingCare to provide free financial counselling and relief to those facing financial hardship in our community.

Through UnitingCare we have helped a number of people to get on top of their finances and have provided one-off grants to those facing financial hurdles they cannot overcome alone. Members can refer people to this free service by contacting the HHP team directly on 07 3493 6000.

### Our financial position

We expect to announce a number of youth-focussed partnerships with new and existing partners before the end of this financial year. The team is co-designing these partnerships right now and we are on track to distribute \$5 million this financial year.

As at December 2022, Hand Heart Pocket's total charitable giving was \$252,035, of which \$132,135 has been distributed so far.

\$84,927 went towards our Members' giving. \$22,730 has supported six families facing hardship and \$24,478 went towards our youth-focussed strategic partnerships for young people in need.

Our net assets as at 31 December 2022 was \$204.8 million, growing 1.16% since 30 June 2022.

### Our evolution

We have produced an informative video about our legal history and I encourage anyone interested in learning more about this to check it out. It covers all of the legislative changes that have shaped us as an organisation, from 1908 to today. It is saved in the Member Area of our website which you can access using the login details on the back page.

### Board Member retires

In December 2022, Board Member Kirby Leeke informed me about his intention to retire from the Board and I accepted his resignation. I wish to thank Kirby for his service and expertise which I and fellow Board Members have valued highly.

Kirby has been a Freemason for over three decades and previously served on the Board for a 14-year period. He always has Members best interests at heart and I thank him for his contribution and wish him all the best for the future.

It will take some months to complete the recruitment process to appoint a new Member Director. I will keep Members updated so that any interested Members can understand the appointment process.

**Alasdair Begley**  
Chairman

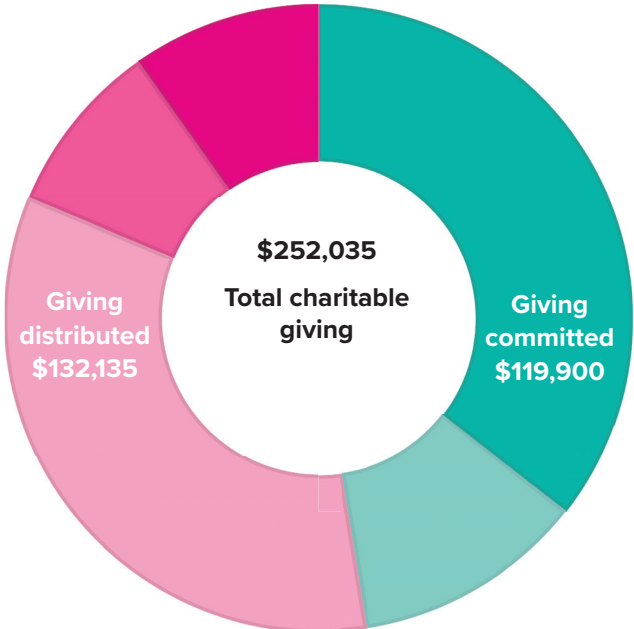
## Our philanthropy 2022-23 (as at Dec 2022)

### Giving distributed \$132,135

- 10% Youth at risk giving
- 9% Hardship assistance
- 34% Member-led local giving

### Giving committed \$119,900

- 35% Youth at risk committed
- 12% Member-led local giving committed



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

# Alan Sims: Decades of service to the community recognised with prestigious honour



**Cairns Freemason Alan Sims says he was gob smacked when he found out that he was one of four Freemasons in Queensland to be awarded the prestigious Order of Service to Benevolence (OSB) jewel in the last year.**

Presented by the immediate past Grand Master Paul Holland, Alan says he never expected the recognition.

"I get a lot of satisfaction from doing community work, I see it as living out our Masonic values. I am so honoured to receive an OSB," Alan said.

"I've been volunteering and supporting the local community for over 30 years."

Initiated into Murray Lodge in November 1983, Alan was a regular volunteer at the Carpentaria Freemasons Homes at Whitfield. He drove the bus taking residents on outings as well as men's group BBQs.

In the mid-1980s he was a Member and later president of the Masonic Debutant Ball Committee.

He was also on the Fete Committee and took a hands-on approach with setting up these events.



A devastating workplace accident, the Cairns' propane gas explosion, which made headlines in August 1987, left Alan unable to return to paid work.

After a period of recovery, Alan counted his blessings and decided to dedicate himself to his community work to help others.

"I spent so much time at the Freemasons Homes and Retirement Village that a lot of the residents thought I was on the payroll," he said.

For the past 20 years, Alan (through Murray Lodge) has supported the Royal Flying Doctor Service after two personal incidents gave him new perspective of their lifesaving work. To this day, Alan is overcome with emotion when recalling their efforts.

"The RFDS plane was tied up for about 18 hours to save my Grandson. Then a few years later the RFDS went up to the Gulf where my son was in bad shape with Sepsis. He was within an hour of not being with us when they arrived," he said.

Over the years, Alan, Murray Lodge and Hand Heart Pocket have given \$55,000 to the RFDS.

**You can also volunteer for your chosen charity and access Dollars 4 Doers to double your impact in your local community.**

**Find out more by going to our website:**

**[handheartpocket.org.au/matched-giving](http://handheartpocket.org.au/matched-giving)**



Alan is also the Hand Heart Pocket Champion for the Cairns region, helping Lodges and Members understand how they can access HHP's programs for their community.

You can also find Alan volunteering at the COUCH Cancer Wellness Centre in Cairns, helping to keep the gardens tidy and lush.

He and his wife Helen also organise outings for fellow residents at the retirement village where they live, with Alan being the volunteer bus driver.

Within Freemasonry, Alan has served as Master of Murray Lodge several times and has also been a District Grand Director of Ceremonies for four years and a District Grand Junior and Senior Warden too.

Congratulations Alan on your well-deserved recognition, you are an example to us all.

Freemasons Mike Aldrich, David Roberts and David Hall were also announced as OSB jewel recipients in the most recent round of announcements. We will bring you their stories of community service over the coming months.





## Good together: Dollars 4 Dollars



Instead of getting a present for the retiring Grand Master, the Grand Lodge team made a matched donation of \$2,910 to Sheltered by Grace, a homeless shelter in Logan City.

The Immediate Past Grand Master, Paul Holland and his wife Waveny also donated \$2,000 worth of men's and women's underwear, socks, leggings, slippers, thongs, toiletries and personal grooming products for the residents, generously gifted by Mrs Holland's friends and contacts.

The Summer months in Cairns are hot and sticky. So when the local Freemasons from Murray Lodge heard that the local Royal Flying Doctor Service (Qld Section) had to hire an air conditioner to keep the aircraft hanger cool for engineers working on their aircrafts, they were having none of it. Recently, the Lodge made a matched donation of \$5,000 for a huge air conditioner, saving the charity hundreds in hiring fees.



The trauma of losing a baby at birth is heightened when families have to stay in a hospital's maternity ward.

Now grieving families in the Moreton Bay region can stay in Redcliffe Hospital's Jacaranda suite, a dedicated home-like maternity bereavement suite – giving them the space to grieve and receive specialised care in private, away from the hospital's maternity ward.

Tynwald Lodge made a matched donation of \$13,228 towards the initiative alongside other community groups and local businesses, helping with the fit-out of the two-bed space.

Genealogy Sunshine Coast is teaching locals how to use digital technology to preserve local history for future generations to enjoy.

The not-for-profit community organisation recently received a matched donation of \$2,000 from Maroochydore Lodge to support the running of the educational program.

The donation came following support received from the group to develop the Lodge's 75 year book.







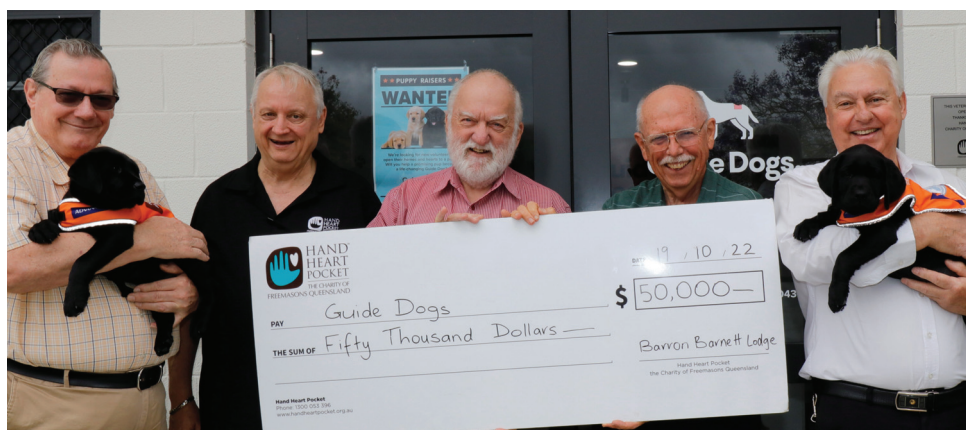
## Good together: Dollars 4 Dollars continued



Legacy has thanked Maroochydore Lodge for making a matched donation of \$1,000 to support families of injured veterans or those who have given their lives for this country.

The service supports 893 widows and widowers and 21 young people locally. In addition to providing financial help, Legacy also supports children's education and development as well as supporting aging widows to remain socially connected.

For a person with low or no vision, getting out and about in the community can take a lot of planning, if they use a cane. The freedom that comes with having a Guide Dog is lifechanging, knowing they'll be safely guided and able to be more spontaneous. Recently, Barron Barnett Freemasons Lodge donated \$50,000 to Guide Dogs with the help of Hand Heart Pocket, to cover the cost of training one guide dog.



Pyjama Angel volunteers play a very special role in the lives of children in foster care and can make an enormous difference through their presence.

The Queensland Masonic Touring Club (QMTTC) made a matched donation of \$5,000 to the organisation towards the training of five Pyjama Angels and for the resources needed to carry out the weekly educational activities and life skills with the children.

## Free HHP merchandise to kickstart your community work

- Polo shirts in black and in navy available in large-4XL only
- T-shirts in white available in small and 2XL only (large logo)
- Caps in black and in white
- Aprons one size fits all (smaller)
- Biros and lapel pins

Email [info@handheartpocket.org.au](mailto:info@handheartpocket.org.au) to place your order today and we will post these out to you free of charge





# More Dollars 4 Dollars: Give, fundraise or volunteer and HHP will match your donation, to double your giving

You can give, fundraise or volunteer for the causes that matter to you and we will match it with a donation.

Lodges can now volunteer for a charity and be matched by Hand Heart Pocket through Dollars 4 Doers.

Members can also now make a personal donation or volunteer for a charity and be matched through Personal Dollars 4 Dollars and Personal Dollars 4 Doers.

## How to access Dollars 4 Dollars and Dollars 4 Doers

Choose

Choose your eligible charity  
(make sure it qualifies for matching from HHP)

Do

Make your donation to your charity or do your volunteering or fundraising activity

Apply

Download the Application Form from HHP, complete it and send it in with your receipt or letter

Match

HHP will pay a matched donation directly to the chosen charity

Download our forms using the QR code or by going to [handheartpocket.org.au/matched-giving](http://handheartpocket.org.au/matched-giving)



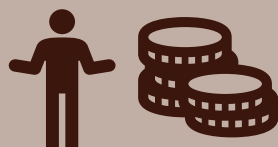
**EXISTING**

**Lodge Dollars 4 Dollars**



**NEW**

**Lodge Dollars 4 Doers**



**NEW**

**Personal Dollars 4 Dollars**



**NEW**

**Personal Dollars 4 Doers**

## Get out there and commit to a cause



**Your Lodge can give, fundraise or volunteer for a local charity and help bring a bigger initiative to fruition, with the assistance of HHP.**

The Toowoomba and District Masonic Council is working towards contributing \$36,000 over two years to Protea Place, to support vulnerable women impacted by homelessness or domestic and family violence to make a fresh start in life.

The funds will help Protea Place purchase furniture, white goods and essentials for the women they have helped find secure housing for.

Here are Emmanuel and Roberto alongside Protea Place CEO, Amanda Dalton, volunteering as ushers at the Protea Place Gala, one of the activities that HHP will match with a donation.

In Miles, Murilla Lodge has committed to supporting people in need through the Murilla Community Centre.

They are raising funds through a manure drive across the region – which goes to show that activities can be tailored to suit your community.

They will also volunteer at the Centre's annual Community Bookfest and more regularly at their bookshop and have their hours matched.



# Support to help Queenslanders overcome financial hardship, a lifeline for someone in need

Any one of us can be affected by financial hardship at any time.

Right now it is particularly tough for people, with cost of living pressures impacting many household budgets.

People that have never needed financial help before are sadly finding themselves in need.

Our partnership with UnitingCare means that we can bring the right people together around the table to support families and individuals to get back on track with their finances.



Free financial counselling and relief in times of hardship

Speak to an experienced Financial Counsellor usually within 72 hrs of being referred

Your choice of face-to-face, phone or virtual appointments

Advice that is free, confidential and tailored to your situation

Receive a one-off grant from HHP on the recommendation of the Financial Counsellor

Download our brochure using the QR code or by going to [handheartpocket.org.au/hardship-assistance/](http://handheartpocket.org.au/hardship-assistance/)



## Entertain the kids or grandkids on a budget

If your finances are already stretched, finding ways to entertain the kids or grandkids during the school holidays can add to the stress. UnitingCare's financial counsellors provide advice and support every day to families experiencing financial stress, and they have some great tips for school holiday fun.

'There are lots of activities that are free or low cost,' says Senior Financial Counsellor Janene O'Donnell.

'Catch a magic show or do some Easter-themed crafting at your local shopping centre – they often have free activities for school holidays.'

'Head to Bunnings for some DIY fun – make a mosaic, do some woodwork, or make a lava lamp at one of their free workshops for children.'

Local libraries are another place to check out, with a program of story time, crafts and games available throughout the holiday season.'

'If the weather is good, why not get outdoors?' says Ms O'Donnell.

'You could go walking in a national park, or swim at the beach if you are near the coast. Add some extra fun by making a list of things you will try to spot while you are out and about – don't forget local parks and botanical gardens as another option.'

'Head to a playground in your area or explore one in a different part of town,' says Ms O'Donnell.

'Many parks have barbeque facilities or you could go on a picnic.'

The kids can get involved in preparing the food, and you could also take the bikes or scooters along for some two-wheeled adventures.'

And the fun doesn't have to stop on rainy days. 'Pick up some craft supplies and get creative at home.'

With a little planning, you can keep the kids entertained, and keep your bank balance healthy.

Article provided by UnitingCare

How to refer someone in your community that needs help

Reassure



Give them our Hardship Assistance brochure and let them know help is available. Encourage them to reach out when they are ready

Reach out



Ask them to call the HHP team to provide some basic details and consent to be referred for financial counselling with UnitingCare



## Keep up to date with our work

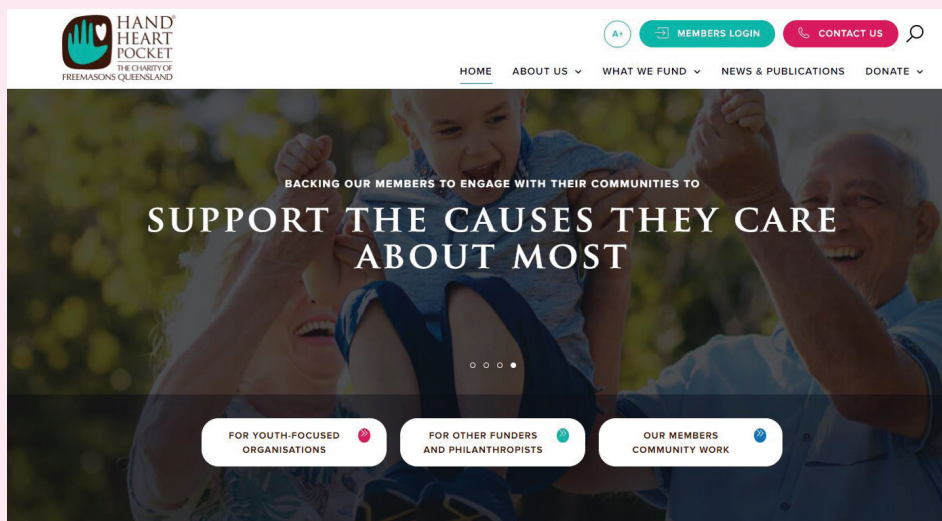
The Hand Heart Pocket website has all the latest news and information you need to keep up with the work of Hand Heart Pocket and its Members.

You can even read this newsletter online in our dedicated Member-area.

### Login details

**Username:** HHP

**Password:** handheartpocket



## A fascinating look at our legal history

Ever wanted to get a better understanding of our organisation's history and the legislative changes that have shaped us?

Watch the new 20-minute video that we're put together about our evolution from 1908 to now.

Explained in laymans terms, without jargon and complicated terminology, this video is easy to follow, provides a succinct summary and perspective you might not have had before. Login to the Member area of the HHP website to view this.



### Contact us:

Hand Heart Pocket, Executive Office  
Mosaic, Level 1, 826 Ann St,  
Fortitude Valley Q 4006

PO Box 1202, Fortitude Valley Q 4006

Tel 07 3493 6000 Fax 07 3112 3960

info@handheartpocket.org.au

**www.handheartpocket.org.au**

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:



## New handy pocket guide for Members

Our new handy pocket guide will fit perfectly in your top pocket.

It's a small brochure summarising how we work together to help people in need in the community.

Keep one for yourself and give out the others to the people and charities you meet during your various interactions locally.

Contact the HHP team to request copies to be sent to you.

