

New Grand Master shares his vision of commitment, connection and care

In July, more than 600 Freemasons packed the Grand Hall in Brisbane's Masonic Memorial Centre to mark the official installation of newly elected Grand Master, David Gray.

A Member for over 35 years, the self-described "ordinary, everyday bloke" now holds the highest position in Freemasonry in Queensland and Papua New Guinea.

Addressing the crowd, David declared that a full Grand Hall is indeed a wonderful sight.

David joins the Hand Heart Pocket Board as a Director during his tenure as Grand Master. He called on Members to help improve the lives of young people in Queensland and Papua New Guinea by working with Queensland Freemasonry's charitable arms, including Hand Heart Pocket.

"It has been fantastic over the past few months to see the tangible impacts of the work Hand Heart Pocket is doing in the community. I really encourage Members and Lodges to get involved, and make the most of the available programs," David said.

"Hand Heart Pocket is doing good work and the commitment of the people on the Board is impressive. I am looking forward to helping to build even stronger partnerships between Members and Hand Heart Pocket. The more we can do together, the bigger our community impact can be."

This sentiment aligns with the new challenge commissioned by David, which includes the three words that will shape his leadership as Grand Master: commitment, connection, and care.

"With a membership group the size of ours, we have a great opportunity to look forward, work together, and get behind Hand Heart Pocket's vision of assisting 10,000 young people in Queensland and Papua New Guinea by 2030."



Did you know?

Our new Grand Master, David Gray, is a music enthusiast, keen Highland pipe band snare drummer, and a past member of the Grade 1 Queensland Irish Association Pipe Band. During his playing career, David has been a member of Australian and New Zealand Grade 1 championship winning bands and is a nationally-accredited drumming teacher and competition adjudicator in both drumming and ensemble disciplines.

From the Chairman

ALASDAIR BEGLEY

The beginning of the 2025-26 financial year has been an opportune time to reflect and review what we've achieved over the past five years, and begin to develop our plans for the next five. Incorporating Member feedback from our recent survey will be instrumental in our planning.

Member survey feedback

Member feedback and engagement is critical in helping us to shape the way we work together and the results that we can achieve. We are incredibly grateful for the 380 Members who participated in our recent survey, which was conducted by an independent research consultancy.

The five-minute online survey was an opportunity for Members to let us know how they feel about the work we do at Hand Heart Pocket, our areas of focus, and the relationship we share.

While it's only been a few weeks since the survey closed, early reporting has certainly highlighted areas where we are doing well and where we can be making improvements.

We look forward to sharing the results more fully in the coming months. In the meantime, the following snippets may be of interest:

- Compared to 2023, there were stronger levels of trust (69%) and perceptions of transparency in information sharing (68%).
- Members largely view Hand Heart Pocket positively across the 18 measures of social licence.
- A majority of Members (58%) reported volunteering for a community organisation in the past year, highlighting engagement in community service among Members.
- Members located in Central QLD, Wide Bay, Darling Downs were most likely to have volunteered, as well as those aged 65-74 years.

Save the dates

We have our major Year in Review annual event coming up which provides an opportunity for sharing and learning. There are two dates — our main event on 6 November, and another time, right before the Quarterly Communication at the Masonic Memorial Centre on 3 December. Members are invited to join us at one or both dates.

For more information about the events, please see the *Save the date* section later in this newsletter.



Chairman's Rewards promotion boosts Local Community Partnerships

When we launched the Chairman's Rewards promotion last year, I invited Members and Lodges to imagine the impact they could make in their communities by coming together with a shared purpose.

Since then, it's been fantastic to see five new Local Community Partnerships established, qualifying for an additional \$10,000 for their charity of choice. Not only are these partnerships already making an impact, they are showcasing the important contribution that Freemasons are making in their communities right across Queensland.

Later in this newsletter, you can read more about how Hand Heart Pocket has supported Lodges with partnerships and Matched Giving.

If you would like to know more about how to make an impact in your local community, I encourage you to reach out to the Hand Heart Pocket team about how you can boost your impact in your region.

Board changes

On behalf of the Hand Heart Pocket Board, I extend a warm welcome our new Grand Master, David Gray, and look forward to working with him. With more than 35 active years as a Freemason, David has a wealth of knowledge — and eagerness to make a difference — that we are keen to benefit from.

Earlier this year, we also welcomed Chris Wilson and Daniel Stevens to our Board, and we are grateful for their contributions to our collective impact. On 30 June, Paul Reeve stepped down from his position as an external Director on the Board, having contributed strongly to our financial results and investment strategy for almost six years. On behalf of Hand Heart Pocket, I thank Paul for his guidance, support and expertise.



MATCHED GIVING

Braille House donation supports “touch literacy”

In May, Members of Theodore Unmack Lodge presented the Braille House — based in Annerley, Brisbane — with a cheque for \$10,000.

The Lodge’s \$5,000 donation, coupled with Hand Heart Pocket’s Matched Giving of \$5,000, will assist Braille House to empower people who are blind or have low vision. Their goal is to ensure that everyone can access knowledge and information through touch literacy and alternative format resources. Braille House has a small army of volunteers that help translate books and magazines into Braille. In 2024, they produced more than 600 books and magazines in Braille and transcribed more than 126,000 pages.



Young Member leads Riding for the Disabled raffle success

Following the success of its third annual Christmas raffle, Cooroy Queen Alexandra Lodge presented the Sunshine Coast Riding for the Disabled Association with a cheque for \$8,400.

Matched Giving from Hand Heart Pocket helped the Lodge double their donation. These funds will help the centre deliver supported equine-based therapeutic riding, driving, and on-ground programs for people living with a disability on Queensland’s Sunshine Coast.

Lodge Secretary, Rick Templeton, acknowledged young Freemason Bro, Sam Law, for his work putting together the fantastic poster graphics and raffle tickets. “It was a pleasure to be able to work alongside such an innovative and talented young man,” said Mr Templeton.



For more information about Sunshine Coast Riding for the Disabled, visit www.scrda.org.au

Bowls, mateship, and a \$10,000 win for rural fire brigades

The greens at Laidley Bowls Club were buzzing with laughter, friendly competition, and community pride as the Argyle Lodge’s charity bowls day wrapped up with an impressive fundraising tally for the Mulgowie, Blenheim, Grandchester, and Laidley rural fire brigades.

Players enjoyed a morning of bowls in near-perfect weather, with a strong turnout filling the greens. Off the green, spectators tucked into a barbecue lunch, tried their luck in the raffles, and enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere. Presentations and prize draws took place early in the afternoon, with winners choosing from an impressive selection of donated items.

A total of \$5,000 was raised by Members at the event, with Hand Heart Pocket’s Matched Giving contributing another \$5,000. Lodge Treasurer, Peter Hooper, said the event was about more than just fundraising.

“It was a day for fun, mateship, and giving back,” he said. “The money raised goes directly to helping rural brigades, who do a huge amount of work, especially during a fire crisis.”

If you or your Lodge would like to donate to the Rural Fire Brigades Association of Queensland and help provide desperately needed services, tools, and resources, visit www.rfbaq.org/donate-to-rfbaq



Local Community Partnerships in action

Supporting people in need is at the core of what we do at Hand Heart Pocket, and we're proud to be able to back Members and their local community partners to make that happen.

In recent months, five new Local Community Partnerships have been established across Queensland, generating nearly \$100,000 in support.

- **CAMP HILL** Friends with Dignity (\$15,000)
- **DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF CARPENTARIA** Cairns Couch Ltd (\$38,726)
- **TAMBORINE** Young Diggers Limited (\$15,000)
- **TULLY TYSON** Mission Beach Meals on Wheels (\$15,000)
- **TYNWALD LODGE** Sandbag (\$15,000).

We also congratulate and recognise our Members whose Local Community Partnerships have recently reached their one-year milestone.

Aged care

- **ISIS** Forest View Childers

Education

- **WIDE BAY LCP LODGES** Maryborough Special School

Health and wellbeing

- **BRISBANE SHRINE CLUB** Youth Enterprise Trust
- **DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF NORTH QUEENSLAND** St Andrews Meals on Wheels
- **HINCHINBROOK CORDELIA** Ingham Meals on Wheels

Welfare

- **MYORA** Redland Community Centre
- **NORTHERN TRAVELLERS** Ronald McDonald House.

Thank you and well done to all Members, Lodges, and community organisations who are working together to create a positive difference to the lives of people in need.



Upcoming events SAVE THE DATES

Spring is in the air, and we are hurtling towards the busiest time of the year, so please put the following dates in your diary and look out for more information on how to register your attendance:



Thursday, 10:00am
Online and in person
UQ Brisbane City
308 Queen St, Brisbane

Our 2025 Stakeholders Year in Review event will include our valued Members, community and industry partners, academics, and government representatives. The event will be broadcast online so if you cannot attend in person, consider hosting a viewing at your Lodge.



Wednesday, 5:30pm
In person only
Masonic Memorial Centre
311 Ann St, Brisbane

Just prior to the Quarterly Communication, we will be hosting our 2025 Members Year in Review.

If you have any queries about these upcoming events, please email info@handheartpocket.org.au or phone (07) 3493 6000.

Lodge visits with HHP

Since March 2025, representatives from Hand Heart Pocket have met with Members from Cairns, Mount Tamborine, Southport and Camp Hill to share more about the work we do and the impact we can have on 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.

Need to update your details?

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via email, or have recently moved house and your postal address needs to be updated, please phone (07) 3493 6000 or email info@handheartpocket.org.au

