

FROM THE POCKET

SEPTEMBER 2026

Growing together: introducing our 2030 Strategy

Hand Heart Pocket is entering a new chapter with a refreshed purpose-led strategy, co-designed with Members, young people and partners across the sector.



Above: Youth Ambassador Tamika sharing her perspective on issues affecting young people during a facilitated workshop discussion with Members and partners.

Over the past 12 months, we've listened to Members, young people and partners. Through independent research, workshop sessions and direct engagement, we set out to build a strategy shaped by evidence, not assumption.

The question at the heart of the work was simple: how can we ensure our approach to giving remains fit for purpose as community needs change? The answer was clear. To create lasting impact, we need to look beyond individual wellbeing to creating long-term, intergenerational wellbeing.

Our purpose hasn't changed

We continue to partner for change for people in need. What's changed is how we deliver on that commitment, and how we get there.

At the centre of our 2030 Strategy is a deliberate shift from working *for* young people and Members to working *with* them – embedding shared decision-making, lived-expertise leadership and intergenerational accountability in everything we do.

Our shared future

We're focused on strengthening connections across generations, supporting community-led change by backing the work of our Members in their communities.

What this means for Members

- We've listened to Member feedback and improved the Matched Giving program (Dollars 4 Dollars and Dollars 4 Doers) – making it simpler and more flexible for Members to support the causes they most care about (see over the page).
- We're refreshing our Champions network, so every region has someone helping Members engage with our purpose and get the most from what's on offer (see the back page).
- We're continuing our focus on governance and reporting, so Members have a clearer line of sight into how HHP operates and the impact we're achieving together.
- We'll be working with Members and young people to develop a new giving program to build community resilience and shared wellbeing, especially around natural disasters and the opportunities and challenges of technology.

Together, these initiatives are about giving every Member more meaningful engagement, greater choice in how they get involved, and a genuine voice in shaping what comes next. We look forward to sharing more at our annual Year-in-Review event.

Our 2030 Strategy creates opportunity, connection and resilience across generations.

Engage Members for resilience
– working with Members and local communities to build connections across generations and resilience for the future.

Support young people to grow
– partnering with youth service organisations to help young people build skills, relationships and hope.

Shift systems towards equity
– working with partners to shift the systems, relationships and mindsets affecting young people and families.

Invest for growth and impact
– growing our resources responsibly to fund giving today and for generations to come.

Scan the QR code to download our 2030 Strategy



From the Chairman



Welcome to our Spring edition of From the Pocket. It's been a season I'll remember for a while – the Chairman's Challenge came to a close, our Youth Ambassadors have been out doing extraordinary things, and we've launched our 2030 Strategy so many of you helped shape. I'll try to do it all justice below.

Chairman's Challenge

Through the Chairman's Challenge, Members generated an incredible \$122,402 in Matched Giving for 47 charities right across the state, from Far North Queensland down to South East Queensland.

That helped push our financial year Matched Giving total to \$243,978, 22% above our target, with 64 Lodges (roughly one in three) taking part across the year.

Thank you to every one of you who got involved. It's this kind of collective effort, multiplied across our communities, that changes lives.

Strong governance, stronger trust

We've continued our policy refresh project this year and adapted our partnership due diligence processes to align with Queensland's new Reportable Conduct Scheme to strengthen child safety.

Behind the scenes, the Board and I have continued to strengthen business continuity planning and risk oversight, working alongside management to continually strengthen our processes and organisational resilience.

Youth Ambassador Program

In June, several of our Directors joined the Youth Ambassador Program site visit – sitting down with the young people who've spent the past two years helping shape the way we work.

The session was a reminder of the strength and wisdom of young people and a real-life experience of connecting intergenerationally to help change systems for the better. Off the back of that, the Board has approved a two-year extension of the program, backed by \$800,000 to our delivery partner, the Youth Advocacy Centre.

The next phase strengthens pathways for youth leadership and introduces new Youth Advisor roles, where we'll work together to shape genuine shared decision-making between generations.

Built with you, not just for you

I'd like to give a big thank you to our Champions who have really leaned in with us over the past few months, joining workshops and giving feedback to help design the new Matched Giving program.

The feedback about the changes we were proposing was overwhelmingly positive. You told us it's a genuine step forward, and that the bigger boosts are exactly what will get more Members on board. That's exactly the kind of two-way conversation we want more of as we roll out the wider strategy initiatives.

Backing bigger outcomes

On the investment side, some welcome news: the Paul Ramsay Foundation has joined our Backing the Bold partnership with Sefa, contributing \$1 million in lending capital and \$200,000 towards capacity-building to help purpose-led organisations become loan ready and create change where it's needed most.

It's encouraging to see one of Australia's largest foundations join us to create impact through social enterprise.

All your generous giving, fundraising and volunteering is a reminder of the generosity in this community, and what it makes possible. Thank you for everything you do.

Craig Reimers

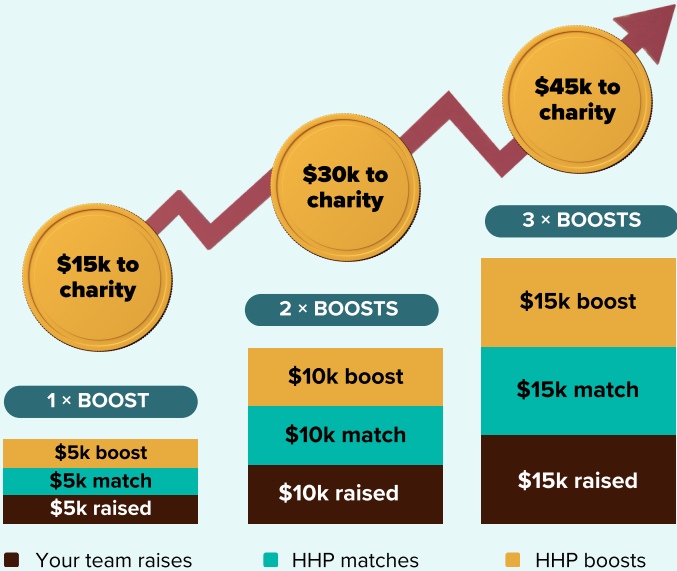
All new: Matched Giving is back, bigger and better!

Member-led giving is now simpler than ever, with bigger caps, better incentives, and more flexibility.

WHAT'S IMPROVED

- A new Team structure – you can now team up with Members from other Lodges and orders to donate, fundraise and volunteer. Any group of two or more Members can apply and unlock up to \$15,000 in Matched Giving per application.
- A boost on top of the match – the more your team raises, donates or volunteers, the more we give. Every \$5,000 raised unlocks a further \$5,000 boost from Hand Heart Pocket, so a team that raises \$15,000 can deliver \$45,000 to an eligible charity.

Full guidelines and application forms are available at handheartpocket.org.au/matched-giving



Latest Member-led giving

When Members dedicate time and energy to causes they care about, the whole community benefits. Here's a look at some of the fundraising, donating and volunteering that's been matched by Hand Heart Pocket over the last few months.



Above: Michael Fraser, Arran Hassell, Darren Vance, and Bruce Pattinson raise funds for Young Diggers at Tamborine Lodge's Beaudesert golf day

Tamborine Lodge spent the past year supporting **Young Diggers**, an organisation helping veterans and their assistance dogs. Their charity golf day in Beaudesert brought the community together, with Hand Heart Pocket supporting the Lodge's fundraising and volunteer efforts.



Above: Members of Celtic of Ithaca Lodge, Syd Matchett, Graeme Hall, Brian Delgarno and Gary Goodwin, visit Orange Sky Australia

Members of **Celtic of Ithaca Lodge** visited **Orange Sky Australia** after donating \$1,000 through the Chairman's Challenge, supporting the charity's work providing free mobile laundry and shower services for people experiencing homelessness.



Above: David Pitstock of Boonara Masonic Lodge was invited to a "thank you" morning tea hosted by LifeFlight Foundation

Each year, **Boonara Masonic Lodge** teams up with **Tansey Bowls Club** for a charity bowls day. In recent years, they've successfully raised more than \$12,000 for LifeFlight Foundation, helping deliver emergency, life-saving care to regional and remote Queenslanders.



Above: Brisbane Shrine Club hosted a "Sip, Sparkle & Support" ladies high tea at the Masonic Memorial Centre

In July, the **Brisbane Shrine Club** hosted its "Sip, Sparkle & Support" ladies high tea at the Masonic Memorial Centre, raising \$10,000 for children's charities, **KIDS Foundation** and **Supertee**. Hand Heart Pocket matched \$5,000 to each charity through the Chairman's Challenge.



Above: Michael Milanovich, Rita Philips (President of IMOW), Cliff Blain, Ron Rowe, James Jackson, and Lorraine McGrath (Secretary of IMOW), alongside dedicated IMOW volunteers.

Hinchinbrook Cordelia Lodge supported **Ingham Meals on Wheels (IMOW)** from 2024 to 2026, contributing over \$50,000 through fundraising and donations, while also volunteering 220 hours to help deliver meals.

NEW & IMPROVED: MATCHED GIVING PROGRAM

Team up to boost your impact

Team up with two or more UGLQ Members and Hand Heart Pocket will match* every dollar raised through Dollars 4 Dollars and Dollars 4 Doers.

Every \$5,000 your team raises unlocks a further \$5,000 boost from Hand Heart Pocket. That means, you can turn \$15,000 into \$45,000 for your charity. That's the power of giving together.

**subject to caps*

Scan the QR code to download the Matched Giving brochure.



Grand Master takes on the Bridge to Brisbane

This September, Grand Master David Gray is gearing up to take on the iconic Gateway Bridge in the 2026 Transurban Bridge to Brisbane in support of Dementia Australia.

When we asked David why he's walking, he said:

"I've signed up to raise much-needed funds for Dementia Australia because it's a cause that touches so many families in our community, including my own. The funds raised will bring us a step closer to a future with better care for people living with dementia and the carers who support them every day."

It's a great chance for Members to show their support, whether that's cheering him on, sponsoring him, or signing up to join him on the day.

Help the Grand Master go the distance. Scan the QR code to show your support.



Save the date: Year-in-Review



Wednesday 21 October
Online and in person
UQ Brisbane City
308 Queen St, Brisbane

Mark your calendars. Our annual Year-in-Review event is set for Wednesday 21 October 2026.

The event will bring together our valued Members, community partners, young people, academics and government representatives to celebrate what we've achieved together, and mark a new era for Hand Heart Pocket as we roll out our 2030 Strategy.

The event will be broadcast online, so if you can't attend in person, consider hosting a viewing at your Lodge.

Could you be a Champion?



We're refreshing our Champions program, and we want you to be part of it. Champions are the friendly local face of Hand Heart Pocket, the Members who bring our purpose to life in their Lodges and communities, help fellow Members get the most out of Matched Giving, and are among the first to hear about new initiatives.

We want to grow our footprint so every region has someone championing HHP on the ground, and there's never been a better time to get involved. With a bigger Matched Giving program and plenty more on the way, there's real momentum to be part of right now.



Interested in becoming a Champion?

Join us for an upcoming information session to learn more about the role, ask questions and meet us. To register, email us at info@handheartpocket.org.au.

Member spotlight

Sometimes the most meaningful stories come from those whose lives have been touched directly by Freemasonry's charitable work. In a recent Member reflection, Nigel Booker of Beaudesert Lodge reminds us that the charitable work undertaken in Lodges and communities creates real and lasting impact.



**NIGEL
BOOKER**

"To the readers of Hand Heart Pocket, I offer this encouragement: the charitable work we undertake in Lodge rooms and in the community has real, immediate impact. The work is neither showy nor easy. It asks for time, for money, for a readiness to step into discomfort. It asks us to be the ones who answer when a Brother calls in need. For me, that answer was life-saving."

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