

2016

# REVIEW

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE

## OUR HISTORY & OUR FUTURE

Redefining our  
charitable identity with a  
new sense of purpose



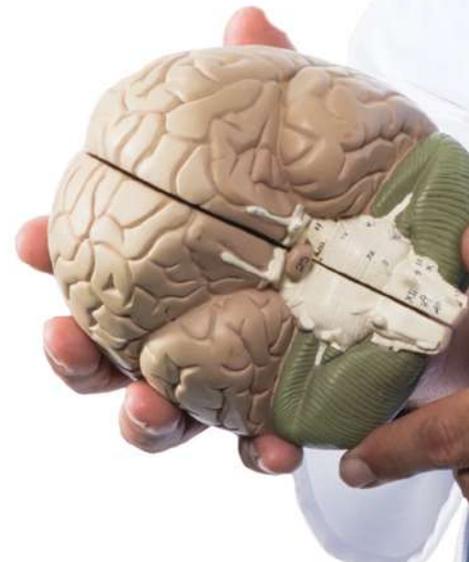
HAND  
HEART  
POCKET

THE CHARITY OF  
FREEMASONS QUEENSLAND



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A personal story of hope



FEATURES

## HIGH CARE NEEDN'T MEAN LOW EXPECTATIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

We are partnering with Youngcare to deliver greater choice, dignity and independence to young people with high care needs. **PAGE 4**

## OUR DRIVE TO REDUCE ROAD DEATHS AND INJURIES

Young drivers and remote regions result in high risks and unacceptable road tolls. A Hand Heart Pocket initiative is helping prevent loss of young lives. **PAGE 6**

## MAKING OUR OLDER YEARS BOLDER YEARS

People are living longer and old age is a big part of our lives. Thanks to the vision of Aegium Foundation and the support of Hand Heart Pocket, those later years can be greater years. **PAGE 8**

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Board of Benevolence

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Making our older years bolder years



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Getting to the heart of what matters to drought-affected Queenslanders

# GETTING TO THE HEART OF WHAT MATTERS TO DROUGHT-AFFECTED QUEENSLANDERS

Over the past eighteen months Masonic Lodges and members of the wider community helped Hand Heart Pocket raise over \$1 million for drought-affected Queenslanders. With the help of Hand Heart Pocket's partners on the ground, 100% of the funds were distributed to where they were most needed. **PAGE 10**

## A LIFELINE WHEN THERE'S NO WHERE ELSE TO TURN

Hand Heart Pocket's main focus is community support but sometimes a personal tragedy cannot be ignored. Our separate Benevolent Fund gives temporary financial assistance to those who are facing particularly devastating circumstances, giving them a chance to get back on their feet. **PAGE 16**

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FOR CENTURIES  
FREEMASONS HAVE USED THE SYMBOLS OF  
HAND, HEART AND POCKET  
TO PLEDGE PRACTICAL HELP, GENUINE  
EMPATHY AND FINANCIAL GENEROSITY  
TO THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST.



We work with local communities, and other not-for-profit organisations to identify where our support will make a real difference. We focus on four main areas:



**Health and disability support**  
Extending medical understanding and improving life for those with disabilities



**Positive ageing**  
Making ageing more positive, fulfilling and dignified



**Education**  
Advancing knowledge and helping people reach their full potential



**Disaster relief**  
Responding to disaster, helping mend lives and getting people back on their feet



# High care needn't mean low expectations for young people

IN AUSTRALIA, MORE THAN 7000 YOUNG PEOPLE WITH HIGH CARE NEEDS ARE LIVING IN RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE FACILITIES. ANOTHER 700,000 YOUNG PEOPLE ARE BEING LOOKED AFTER BY A LOVED ONE AT HOME WITH LIMITED SUPPORT. HAND HEART POCKET IS HELPING YOUNGCARE CHANGE THIS.



Samantha Kennerley, former Youngcare CEO with Carol Bacon

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We are starting to see the results of our donations to Youngcare, which were inspired by the past Grand Master's wife, Carol Bacon, who nominated it as the charity she would support during her husband's term as Grand Master. The funds that her appeal raised for the newly-constructed Wooloowin Share House are transforming life for new residents, and Hand Heart Pocket's contribution to take the donation to \$150,000 is making it more possible for young people to stay at home through the Youngcare At Home Care Grants program (AHCG).

## A PLACE TO CALL HOME...

The Youngcare Wooloowin Share House opened in mid-2015 and the first four housemates are now enjoying the benefits of a home purpose-designed to meet the high care needs of young people.

Former Youngcare CEO, Samantha Kennerley said

the new outdoor space funded by our appeal would give the young housemates a place to relax, unwind and socialise with family and friends.

"The garden has been transformed into a place where the housemates can spend time with loved ones and put their green thumbs to work and enjoy the beauty of the garden beds, fruit trees and jasmine, from underneath the shade of the revolving umbrella," Samantha said.

The share house has had a profound impact on all four housemates, with one in particular showing remarkable signs of improvement.

"In less than two months after moving into the share house, one of the housemates – who for the past 13 years was non-verbal, on a soft diet and showered exclusively on a shower table – began verbalising over ten words, is now on a full diet, and sitting upright to shower in a shower chair," Samantha said.

Wooloowin Share House features voice- and iPad-controlled home automation, home-like internal finishes, wider walkways and step-free showers. Staff from Wesley Mission Queensland provide individualised care 24/7.

## ... OR THE CHANCE TO STAY AT HOME WITH CARE

Many young people with high care needs would prefer to stay with their families, however they need support and costly high-care equipment to make this possible.

Hand Heart Pocket's donation to Youngcare's At Home Care Grants program (AHCG) is expected to help around 30 young people remain at home with their loved ones and out of aged care.

The grants provide one-off funding between \$2000 and \$10,000 for equipment, home modifications and emergency respite so that young people at risk of going into aged care can

remain at home for as long as possible.

"These young people and their carers are living each day with the constant fear of running out of options and being forced to enter aged care," Samantha said.

A total of 34 Queensland families benefited from these grants last year. An additional 27 applicants missed out, due to a lack of funds.

Thanks to Hand Heart Pocket's contribution, Youngcare will be able to support more young Queenslanders.

"Something that seems so simple, like a basic Hi-Lo bed, electric lift chair, a wheelchair-accessible wash basin or home modifications, can mean the difference between a young person living in aged care or staying at home surrounded by their loved ones," Samantha said.

"Many thanks to Hand Heart Pocket for partnering with Youngcare to deliver greater choice, dignity and independence to these young people," she said.

# A personal story of hope



## **FREEMASON JOHN JAGUS KNOWS JUST HOW LIFE-CHANGING AGE APPROPRIATE CARE CAN BE.**

He says he would hate to imagine where his wife Tanya would be living and what her state of mind would be without Youngcare.

In 1999, Tanya was just 24-years-old when she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS), a degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system. The first sign was when she tried to get up one morning and collapsed.

At the time, John and Tanya had been together for four years and, like any young couple, had been planning to buy a house and start a family.

“She was determined to end our relationship so that I could have a family and a proper relationship. I wasn’t brought up that way and told her that I’d stick by her,” he said.

Despite John’s devotion, as Tanya’s MS progressed, he found it incredibly difficult to balance care and work. Eventually Tanya was admitted to the rehabilitation ward of a Brisbane hospital.

“It breaks your heart to see someone you care about so unhappy when there is nothing you can do about it,” John said.

Just when they’d lost hope, a place became available at the Youngcare Wesley Mission Queensland Apartments at Sinnamon Park, which is home to 17 young people with high care needs.

“Tanya was always a very independent person. Living at Sinnamon Park has given her a sense of having her own place and the confidence that comes with that,” John said.

He hopes that many more families will be given the same opportunity.

**“If others are to benefit as Tanya has, we must support Youngcare.”** John Jagus



# OUR DRIVE TO REDUCE ROAD DEATHS AND INJURIES

**YOUNG DRIVERS AND REMOTE REGIONS RESULT IN HIGH RISKS AND UNACCEPTABLE ROAD TOLLS. A HAND HEART POCKET INITIATIVE IS HELPING PREVENT LOSS OF YOUNG LIVES.**



Getting a driver's licence is a rite of passage for most young Australians. However, for some, this newfound freedom is short-lived as the first six

months of driving is the most dangerous time for accidents and fatalities. Combine this with higher accident rates in remote areas, plus a lack of spare money for safe driving courses in drought-affected regions, and it's obvious that young people in outback Queensland face particularly high risks.

Freemasons in South Western Queensland decided they must act to protect young lives and, as a result, Hand Heart Pocket, the charity of Freemasons Queensland, donated \$13,500 so the Charleville State High School students in Years 11 and 12 could improve their skills with a youth-focused safe driving course.

## MEMORABLE DEMONSTRATIONS CREATE POWERFUL LESSONS

In any other situation, texting and driving would be an absolute 'no-no' but that's exactly what some of the Year 11 and 12 students from Charleville State High School were doing at the local Showgrounds during their safe driving course this year.

For their safety, instructor Mick Stewart sat beside them ready to put his foot on the emergency brake.

The exercise asked students on their L-plates to attempt to text their name and address while driving around a series of orange witches hats – to demonstrate just how easy it is to get distracted.

Other exercises included manoeuvring the car around a series of witches' hats at different speeds, to show the difference an extra 5 kph can make, as well as coming to a complete stop while driving at speeds of up to 60 kph to show the importance of maintaining sufficient following distances.

Charleville State High School Deputy Principal, Donna Gilvarry, said the school was grateful to be able to incorporate the course into their pastoral studies.

"With a new driving school opening in town, the opportunity came to us and, with the support of Hand Heart Pocket, all students, regardless of their economic situation, were able to participate in this potentially life-saving experience," Donna said.

"The students were genuinely interested in what Mick had to say, taking all the advice on board," she said.

The course began with a three hour theoretical workshop where the police reinforced the responsibility that goes with having a licence.

"During the workshop the students heard from the local police about drug-driving and drink-driving, listened to people with firsthand experience of road trauma and discussed how they might handle different scenarios," Donna said.

The workshop also covered elements of driving that are unique to the bush, like driving on gravel roads, being aware of animals like kangaroos and sharing the road with 50m road trains.

### A SKILL FOR LIFE

For Charleville State High School P&C President, Julie Frousheger, the saying that it takes a village to raise a child sums up what the Augathella Lodge did when they stepped in and organised funding for the safe driving course for students.

"As a parent of a student who completed the safe driving course and from the response we've had from both parents and students, the course was invaluable," Julie said.

"We wanted to raise awareness about road safety amongst our students and give them the skills to make smart decisions when they're behind the wheel," she said.

"We are grateful to Dave Walters from the

## THE FACTS

**ONLY ONE-THIRD OF AUSTRALIA'S POPULATION LIVE IN RURAL OR REMOTE AREAS YET OVER HALF OF ROAD DEATHS ARE IN THOSE REGIONS.**

**ROUGHLY 700 PEOPLE DIE ON RURAL ROADS EVERY YEAR, WHILE THOUSANDS MORE ARE SERIOUSLY INJURED.**

CARRS-Q, State of the Road: Rural and remote road safety fact sheet, 2012

**25% OF THE 2014 QUEENSLAND ROAD TOLL INVOLVED YOUNG DRIVERS AGED BETWEEN 16 AND 24.**

2014 Summary Road Crash Report  
Queensland Road Fatalities November 2015



Augathella Lodge and all those who donated to the Hand Heart Pocket 2015 Christmas Appeal. Our thanks also go to Mick Stewart from Austral Training Services," she said.

### WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY

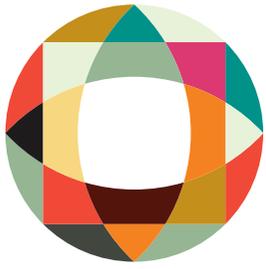
Master of Augathella Lodge, Dave Walters, said partnering with Rotary District 9630 and Hand Heart Pocket, to allocate the appeal funds meant that the support went to those who most needed it.

"Like many drought-affected parts of Western Queensland, Charleville's resources have been stretched paper thin. Our

local knowledge meant that we were able to identify what the community would benefit from," Dave said.

Working with a local driving school also meant that the funds stayed in the town.

“We know that risky and impulsive behaviour is the cause of many of the accidents and fatalities involving young people, but wrapping our children in cotton wool isn't the answer. We need to give them the skills to make smart decisions.”



aegium®  
Foundation

# Making our older years bolder years

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**PEOPLE ARE LIVING LONGER AND OLD AGE IS A BIG PART OF OUR LIVES. THANKS TO THE VISION OF AEGIUM FOUNDATION AND THE SUPPORT OF HAND HEART POCKET, THOSE LATER YEARS CAN BE GREATER YEARS.**

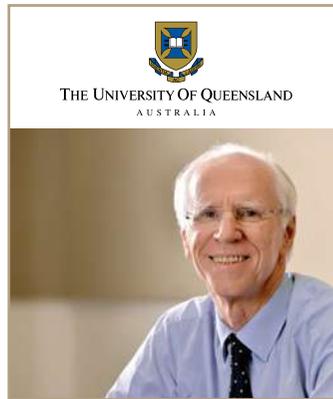
It's been a significant year for Aegium Foundation, celebrating three decades since it was founded (as The Geriatric Medical Foundation of Queensland) and taking on a new name and brand to position itself for the future. Hand Heart Pocket the charity of Freemasons Queensland donated \$300,000 to mark the new era and support Aegium Foundation to fund its life-changing initiatives in ground-breaking medical research, in rethinking services and in encouraging a deeper understanding of age-related issues amongst medical students.

Established in 1986 through a \$1 million donation as part of a Freemasons Queensland 1988 bicentennial initiative, Aegium Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to making older age a time of greater health, greater dignity and greater potential. Aegium believes everyone should be able to enjoy a fulfilling and contented life in their older years, not just for their own well-being but for the valuable experience they can share with loved ones and with the next generations.

For older people living in rural Queensland communities or in regional aged care facilities, access to specialist geriatric medical services can make all the

difference to quality of life. For others, progress in countering diseases such as Parkinson's would hugely change life expectancy and capabilities.

Two of the important initiatives that Hand Heart Pocket is helping Aegium Foundation fast-track are the work of Professor Len Gray and his team at the Centre for Research in Geriatric Medicine at The University of Queensland, and the ground-breaking Parkinson's disease research of Professor George Mellick and his team at the Eskitis Institute for Drug Discovery at Griffith University.



Professor Len Gray,  
The University of Queensland

**NEW THINKING FOR OLDER QUEENSLANDERS**

Traditional models of delivering specialist medical care to older people in rural communities have limitations, and many older people cannot travel the vast distances to see specialists in the city. Professor Len Gray and his team have rethought the problem and are redefining the delivery of care in these communities through their innovative telehealth program which uses the latest video and communications

technology to put specialists at a person's bedside hundreds or thousands of kilometres away.

"The technology gives geriatric specialists the ability to provide effective consultative services to many more people in one day than could be possible with face-to-face visits requiring travel to multiple remote locations," said Professor Gray.

"This means that waiting times for accessing services are drastically reduced," he said.

For residents in aged care facilities it means that they do not have to travel to hospital and wait for hours for their appointment.

"They can be assessed in the comfort of their room or within their aged care facility," said Professor Gray.

The service currently provides geriatric specialist services to patients in 10 rural hospitals and residents in nine residential aged care facilities. Additional support from donations means the centre's telehealth services and other initiatives can expand to reach more areas and achieve better healthcare results for more older regional Queenslanders over the next few years.

**UNDERSTANDING OUR DNA TO UNLOCK THE MYSTERY**

The phrase 'it's in our genes' may hold the answer to the mystery of Parkinson's Disease and how it can be treated to unlock life

potential for thousands in Queensland and further afield. Professor George Mellick and his team at the Eskitis Institute for Drug Discovery at Griffith University, with the support of Aegium Foundation, have been researching Parkinson's disease through their Queensland Parkinson's Project for some years now.

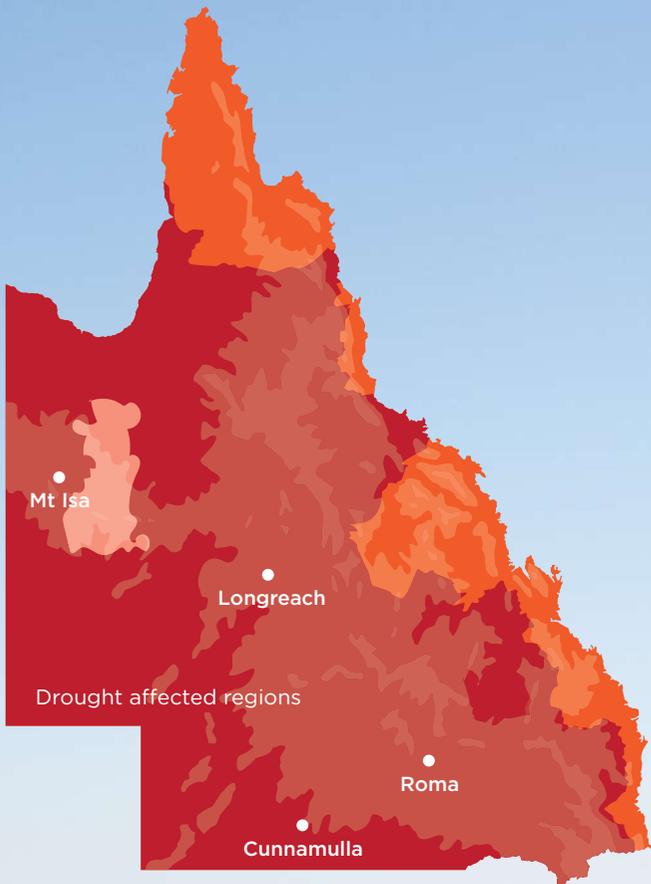
Through their large group of project participants throughout Queensland, they are studying the genes of families where the disease is prominent to investigate whether Parkinson's disease is in fact inherited.

"We think that there may be a genetic link in people who develop Parkinson's disease. By understanding this link we hope that we can develop appropriate treatment that can be administered to at-risk individuals before the effects of the disease are prominent," said Professor Mellick.

"This could really improve the quality of life for those families where the disease has been prominent for a number of generations," he said.

Board of Benevolence Chairman, Tom Wiltshire, says that the Board are proud they have been able to provide significant support to a Foundation that funds such important work and that will benefit many older Queenslanders and others worldwide for many years to come.

See [www.aegiumfoundation.org.au](http://www.aegiumfoundation.org.au) to find out more.



# GETTING TO THE HEART OF WHAT MATTERS TO DROUGHT-AFFECTED QUEENSLANDERS

QUEENSLAND HAS SEEN ONE OF THE STATE'S WORST DROUGHTS IN LIVING MEMORY WHICH WILL TAKE YEARS FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL ECONOMIES TO RECOVER. HAND HEART POCKET HAS DONATED OVER \$1 MILLION IN THE PAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS TO HELP COMMUNITIES GET BACK ON THEIR FEET.



**SOMETIMES A THROW-AWAY COMMENT CAN REALLY PUT THINGS INTO PERSPECTIVE. "HOW GOOD IS IT TO HAVE REAL BREAD AND MILK RATHER THAN POWDERED MILK AND DAMPER!?" A YOUNG CHILD COMMENTED TO HIS MUM AND DAD WHEN THEY BOUGHT GROCERIES FROM THE SUPERMARKET WITH VOUCHERS THAT CAME FROM THE HAND HEART POCKET 2015 CHRISTMAS APPEAL.**

Over the past eighteen months Masonic Lodges and members of the wider community helped Hand Heart Pocket raise over \$1 million for drought-affected Queenslanders. With the help of Hand Heart Pocket's partners on the ground, 100% of the funds were distributed to where they were most needed. Twelve months on, two of these partners, Rotary District 9630 and the Uniting Church in Longreach, share their perspective on how the Appeal has made a difference to the outback.

#### **PARTNERS ON THE GROUND MAKE DONATIONS GO FURTHER**

A major point of difference between the Hand Heart Pocket 2015 Christmas Appeal and other drought appeals is the way it delivered help. Instead of trucking in supplies, Hand Heart Pocket worked with its partners on the ground, including Rotary District 9630, Uniting Church in Longreach, Murilla Community Centre and Western Queensland Drought Appeal, to help identify needs and distribute

funds where they were most needed.

Ric Newson, who is a Freemason and President of Charleville Rotary Club in Rotary District 9630, helped distribute significant funds from the Hand Heart Pocket 2015 Christmas Appeal.

"We initially relied on the people who came into the Rural Financial Counselling Service or School of Distance Education Parent Support Group but we weren't getting big enough coverage," Ric said.





**Left:** Community BBQ supported by Hand Heart Pocket at Morella, outback Queensland

**Below:** Reverend Jenny Coombes giving an address at Board of Benevolence's 2015 Annual General Meeting



“Some graziers out here think that asking for help means admitting defeat and that’s just not the case. So together the Rotary district group, Rural Financial Counselling Service and School of Distance Education Parent Support Group came up with a way that we could get vouchers being used as quickly as possible without making people feel like they were any less for accepting help.”

“A request form was devised so people could request specific help. We obtained mailing lists of properties from the Murweh, Quilpie, Bulloo, Blackall-Tambo and Paroo Shires and sent out the forms to each household,” he said.

Completed forms had to be returned to the Rural Financial Counselling Service or Charleville Neighbourhood Centre.

“Rotary was present in the background only and vouchers were quietly distributed by the local representatives,” Ric said.

Help included vouchers for people to use at local businesses, assistance with bill payments, supporting local community events and mental health initiatives.

The majority of vouchers were spent at the supermarket and service station followed by the newsagency, mechanic, pharmacy, butcher shop and hairdresser.

“What people may not realise is that there is no financial assistance given to local businesses from anywhere else and, by spending locally, it’s been shown that the benefit goes around that community five times, staying in the community long after the initial voucher was redeemed,” Ric said.

### GETTING TOGETHER TO LIFT SPIRITS AND KEEP LOCAL BUSINESSES ALIVE

Rotary District 9630 was also behind the community Christmas parties and Australia Day events that were held in Charleville, Augathella, Morven, Quilpie, Cunnamulla, Tambo, Eulo, Mitchell, Roma, St George and Bulloo.

Using a portion of the funds donated by the Hand Heart Pocket 2015 Christmas Appeal, they brought communities together over a beer and meal to catch up, laugh and take their mind off their troubles.

Again, Rotary took a behind-the-scenes role at these events, while the Rural Financial Counselling Service and Charleville Neighbourhood Centre’s local representatives advertised the event and invited families to attend.

“We made sure a meal was provided and a bar tab organised for beer, wine and soft drink. Sometimes we took a jumping castle for the

kids or had an entertainer or just played lawn bowls at a bowls club,” Ric said.

While these events were about lifting the spirits of locals, they were equally about supporting local businesses.

“All the catering was sourced locally and the vouchers that were distributed were to be spent in their town. These businesses are carrying a huge debt with many not able to get paid for goods and services so it’s vital that we do what we can to support them. These small businesses need to still be around when we come out of drought,” Ric said.

“Without the support of Freemasons Queensland (Hand Heart Pocket) our Australia Day BBQ would not have happened. These occasions are important to help retain some local community cohesion and allow people to relax and share time, information and troubles amongst people who fully understand the issues. So thank you for enabling us to get a community function up and running in our local area.”

Extract from a letter from the Cooladdi community

### HOPE IS WHAT KEEPS PEOPLE GOING

In areas of drought-affected Central West Queensland like Longreach, funds from the Hand Heart Pocket 2015 Christmas Appeal ensured families were able to enjoy the festive season and prepare for the school year ahead.

Uniting Church Longreach's Reverend Jenny Coombes led the distribution campaign, partnering with the Western Queensland Drought Appeal, Lions Longreach and Uniting Church Barcaldine to reach as many communities as possible.

In January, funds were distributed to 14 schools in the Winton, Barcaldine and Longreach Council areas to help with back-to-school costs – support that reached a total of 1082 students.

“To give an idea of the area involved, it is over 400 kilometres east to west and the same north to south,” Jenny said.

“Funds went towards student resources and textbooks as

well as being used for camp deposits and swimming lessons,” she said.

Before Christmas, five hairdressers were supported and 200 families received vouchers to get their hair cut as a Christmas treat or before heading back to school in the new year.

The most recent round of funds ensured the Easter Parades and Markets went ahead.

“Without these funds the event would not have occurred for two reasons – lack of funds to put it on and lack of impetus for people to volunteer to organise it. Once the funds were there, people were prepared to step up and put it together,” Jenny said.

Her message to all those who contributed to the Christmas Appeal is simply ‘thank you’.

“Hope is what keeps people going. Thank you for allowing us the flexibility to help people in a way that supports the whole community. We are all in this together and we need to come through it together,” she said.

### QUICK FACTS

The youth unemployment rate in many pastoral areas is more than 20%.

*Addressing Debt and Drought Problems in Rural Queensland Report 2016.*

#### In Longreach

- Town businesses have experienced an average of 60-80% downturn in turnover over the past four years.
- Properties are around 90% destocked.
- It could take up to 3-5 years for businesses to recover from the drought.

*Rev. Jenny Coombes,  
Uniting Church Longreach*

#### In Western Queensland

- Eulo and Toompine areas are almost completely destocked of cattle.
- South of Cunnamulla is extensively destocked of sheep.
- Between Cunnamulla and Charleville is heavily destocked of cattle.

*Ric Newson, Charleville Rotary Club President and Freemason*



Thank you from Our Lady's Catholic School Longreach

“We were blessed as a school community to receive support from Hand Heart Pocket. The gift of \$50 per student allowed us to cover swimming lesson fees for Term 1 of this year and therefore take this burden away from families. Apart from the obvious financial benefits, I believe our families and our community benefited from the knowledge that others were thinking of us during our time of drought and this lightened the load. Thanks again to Hand Heart Pocket, your efforts and generosity was immensely appreciated.”

*Nicole de Vries, Principal of Our Lady's Catholic School Longreach*

## HANDS UP FOR HEALTH AND DISABILITY SUPPORT



**Above:** A new swing designed for children with intellectual and physical disabilities was installed at the Captain Burke Park, Brisbane. The Grand Officers Association, with the help of Hand Heart Pocket made a \$70,000 contribution to Variety, the Children's Charity and their Liberty Swing Program.

**Below:** Dunellan Lodge in conjunction with Hand Heart Pocket generously donated nine cooling vests to MS Queensland. For a proportion of people living with MS, a rise in temperature can cause a temporary worsening of symptoms.



**Above:** Freemasons from Logan Beenleigh Lodge, Thespian Lodge and Beenleigh Lodge joined forces with Hand Heart Pocket to donate an upper body ergometer to Beenleigh PCYC. Used in rehabilitation, the machine works every part of the upper body while a person is standing or sitting. It is also wheelchair accessible.

**Below:** Celtic of Ithaca Lodge with the help of Hand Heart Pocket donated \$7,000 to Hummingbird House to assist with the housing of children suffering from serious childhood cancer or other diseases.



## MAKING MORE POSSIBLE IN

Hand Heart Pocket's Dollar for Dollar subsidy program supports the fundraising activities of local Masonic Lodges throughout Queensland who are best placed to identify which community initiatives or individuals require a hand up in their area.

**Below:** The 2015 Hand Heart Pocket Gala Evening raised vital funds for the Queensland Brain Institute and Alzheimer's Australia (Qld). Our 5-year Freemasons Qld Fellowship in Learning and Memory at the Queensland Brain Institute also supports Professor Stephen Williams in his research into dementia.



**Below:** Argyle Lodge organised a barefoot bowls competition to raise funds for Blue Care's community care program with a subsidy provided by Hand Heart Pocket.



**Above:** With the support of Hand Heart Pocket, Argyle Lodge sponsored a Blue Care Car for a period of 12 months. The hybrid Toyota Prius will be used by the nurses at Blue Care Lowood Community Care to provide in-home care to hundreds of sick and elderly people in the region.



**Above:** United Tradesmen's Lodge raised funds for Guide Dogs Queensland by hosting a 'Dining in the Dark' event. Diners enjoyed a three-course meal while blindfolded, relying on their other senses such as smell, taste and touch, to experience what it is like to be vision impaired.

## HANDS UP FOR POSITIVE AGEING

**HANDS UP FOR EDUCATION**

**Below:** Tibrogargan and Maroochy Lodges, with the support of Hand Heart Pocket, helped a young Sunshine Coast boy with Asperger's Syndrome obtain a Smart Pup Assistance Dog. These animals are said to reduce stress levels, boost confidence and improve the day-to-day lives of children on the autism spectrum.



**Below:** Redlands Lodge, with the help of Hand Heart Pocket donated an eye-operated communications system to help students at Redland District Special School communicate and interact with the world. Children with speech difficulties or limited hand movement will benefit from this new equipment.



**Above:** Tully Tyson Lodge, with the support of Hand Heart Pocket donated a bench seat to Tully State High School's arboretum. The outdoor learning and recreation space was destroyed by Cyclone Yasi in 2011 but has since been beautifully restored with native and Aboriginal food plants.



**Above:** With the backing of Hand Heart Pocket, The Dalrymple Landcare Committee arranged for experts at The Right Mind to run a 2-day course in Charters Towers to help graziers develop life-long skills needed during drought and other challenging circumstances.

**MORE QUEENSLAND COMMUNITIES**

This allows Hand Heart Pocket to ensure funds go to where they are most needed and towards projects that will have the most impact - ultimately changing lives and bringing communities closer together.



**Below:** Kennedy Lodge with the support of Hand Heart Pocket donated funds to the RACQ CQ Rescue Service to continue their vital work in the region.



**Below:** 45 kit-bags were donated to paramedics at the Hervey Bay Queensland Ambulance Service by Mundubbera-Burnett Lodge and the Sandy Straits' Sizzlers with the support of Hand Heart Pocket. The kit-bags allow paramedics to carry all personal equipment in the one convenient bag while on duty.

**Above:** Freemasons throughout Queensland helped raise \$1 million over the past eighteen months for drought-affected Queenslanders. Our partners on the ground helped distribute the funds, providing food and petrol vouchers, assistance with bills and support for local mental health initiatives.



**Above:** Mt Morgan Lodge with the support of Hand Heart Pocket donated \$6,000 to the local SES to refurbish a storage shed which houses their vehicles and tools.



**HANDS UP FOR DISASTER RELIEF**



# A LIFELINE WHEN THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE TO TURN

THE NOWLAND FAMILY'S WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN LAST YEAR WHEN THEIR SON, BEVAN, HAD A HORRIFIC ACCIDENT IN TOOWOOMBA. FOLLOWING A LENGTHY AND COSTLY REHABILITATION PROCESS, THE FAMILY NEEDED HELP TO BUY DISABILITY EQUIPMENT SO BEVAN COULD RETURN TO LIVE AT HOME.

One evening in May 2015, Kim Nowland received a phone call to say her son, Bevan, had come off his motorbike and had been taken to the Toowoomba Base Hospital.

It wasn't the first time Kim had received a phone call like this as Bevan has Asperger's syndrome and tends to act impulsively and get into scrapes.

"I was not expecting this one to be much different and I recall being cross because my Mum was visiting and making lamb roast for dinner. I had been looking forward to Mum's roast all day!" she said.

However, this time, from the moment she walked into Emergency, things were different. She was told

a counsellor would see her shortly. Then she overheard staff whisper, "That's the mother... the poor thing."

## **KIM THOUGHT HE MUST BE DEAD.**

He wasn't, but he wasn't in a good way either. Doctors were trying to stabilise him so that he could be flown to Brisbane to see a neurosurgeon. Kim was allowed to see him for a couple of minutes, before he was put into a Care Flight helicopter and airlifted to the Princess Alexandra Hospital in a critical condition.

Kim described the 125 kilometres drive to Brisbane as, the longest drive of her life, fearing that Bevan wouldn't survive the journey.

HAND HEART POCKET'S MAIN FOCUS IS COMMUNITY SUPPORT BUT SOMETIMES A PERSONAL TRAGEDY CANNOT BE IGNORED. OUR SEPARATE BENEVOLENT FUND GIVES TEMPORARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THOSE WHO ARE FACING PARTICULARLY DEVASTATING CIRCUMSTANCES, GIVING THEM A CHANCE TO GET BACK ON THEIR FEET.

"I thank God my daughter, Carrie, was with me every step of the way and a constant for the next couple of days," she said.

Kim met the head of the ICU and was shown x-rays and scans, and given a rundown of Bevan's injuries. He had suffered 80% loss to his right brain hemisphere, a fractured femur, twisted spine and a fractured C7 vertebra.

"The doctor told me it would be a long road ahead, if he survives, and his life would be changed considerably, because his brain injury is significant," Kim said.

"So there I sat, a control freak with no control, no financial means, terrified of losing my child and scared to death that he may live, only to be an empty shell."

### THE LONG ROAD TO RECOVERY

While she felt defeated at first, Kim knew that she had to support her son 100%. She also had to learn to accept help from others.

Bevan's rehabilitation was costly and his disability pension only partly covered his care in the Jacana Acquired Brain Injury Rehabilitation Centre. Supportive family and friends pitched in to cover the extra costs and Kim was overwhelmingly grateful to all the wonderful people who helped at such a hard time.

Meanwhile, Kim left her job to be by Bevan's side.

"Bevan's Asperger's Syndrome makes it difficult for him to interact and

bond with people... I found it vital to be present to ensure he achieved as much as possible from his recovery and rehabilitation. The staff and therapists were just wonderful," she said.

Slowly but surely Bevan made progress and, after six months, he was well enough to consider going home. The family couldn't have been more relieved.

"I waited months just to see a response that wasn't involuntary. Bit by bit he made small improvements... He learnt to breath on his own, regained some speech, is off the feed tube, drinking fluids and is fully continent" she said.

The family was keen to do whatever it took to care for Bevan at home, but their home needed several modifications to get approval from Queensland Health. They also needed to buy a hospital bed, which wasn't covered by the Queensland Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS), and other disability equipment.

“Bevan's recovery has been exceptional and I believe that it will continue when we are at home in familiar surroundings with our family and friends around us.” Kim Nowland

### FINANCIAL BARRIERS

Drained both financially and mentally and unable to meet the new round of costs, Kim didn't know where to turn.

Fortunately her uncle, who is a Freemason, suggested that Hand Heart Pocket might be able to help.

Hand Heart Pocket provided a special grant to help purchase a hospital bed and cover some other out-of-pocket expenses associated with the disability equipment Bevan needed.

"We are so very grateful for the help we received from Hand Heart Pocket as it meant my son could come home and our family could be together," Kim said.

Bevan was discharged in September and is excited to be home. His recovery is not complete and he will need ongoing therapies to maintain and improve his condition. For the Nowland family though, the future looks brighter than they dared hope after the accident.

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



**AS CHAIRMAN OF FREEMASONS QUEENSLAND BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE, I AM PLEASED TO REPORT ON THE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE IN THE 2016 FINANCIAL YEAR AND TO SHARE SOME INSIGHTS INTO OUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.**

A year of significant change for Board of Benevolence now sees us at a similar turning point to the one our forefathers faced 100 years ago when they established their organisation of charity and benevolence.

After recent years of improved business performance in our aged care and retirement living business, Masonic Care Queensland, we made the important strategic decision to divest our aged care and retirement living business and its assets.

Although aged care and retirement living were once charitable causes, changing market conditions, and changing legislation have

put the whole sector on a different footing and we believe it is no longer the best focus of our resources. It was therefore with some sadness but a clear sense of purpose that we reached the decision to move out of this increasingly competitive arena.

We are delighted that some of our key management team from Masonic Care Queensland have now brought their expertise to Board of Benevolence.

As a result of this divestment which began with the majority of sites in May 2016, and concluded in September 2016 with the sale of the Gold Coast site, we are now able to refocus our resources on our original charitable intent with a charitable fund of more than \$180 million.

You can read more about the reasons for the sale in the CEO's Report on page 20.

## **HAND HEART POCKET CONTINUES TO REACH OUT**

Under our brand Hand Heart Pocket the charity of Freemasons Queensland, we continue to reach out to communities and individuals.

One of the main focuses of our recent fundraising has been supporting drought-affected Queenslanders with \$1 million being donated to outback communities over the past eighteen months, of which \$650,000 was donated in the 2016 financial year.

We thank our network of Masonic Lodges and individuals who supported this appeal and helped us to make such a significant impact in these communities. You can read more about how this support has helped on page 10.

This year, Hand Heart Pocket also provided support to Youngcare to bring the funds raised by the Past Grand Master's wife, Mrs Carol Bacon, to \$150,000.

Carol's appeal funded a new outdoor entertainment area and garden at the Youngcare Share House in Woolloowin. The remainder of the \$150,000 donation will support around 30 young people with high care needs to stay independent in their own homes.

Support of \$150,000 was pledged to ManUp! in the 2016 financial year to help fund a dedicated prostate cancer nurse for one year of a three-year term, through the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. This nurse will support men affected by prostate cancer in the Toowoomba region.

We have now entered the fourth year of a five-year, \$1.4 million fellowship for Queensland Brain Institute to fund their important research into dementia. Hand Heart Pocket, has also continued to support the diverse benevolent work of Masonic Lodges through Dollar-for-Dollar subsidies that get to the grass roots needs of local

communities around the state. You can find out more about some of this work in local communities on page 14.

### **SUPPORT OF AEGIUM FOUNDATION**

Hand Heart Pocket is continuing its support of Aegium Foundation and has donated \$300,000 this year to help the important work of this Foundation. Aegium Foundation (previously known as The Geriatric Medical Foundation of Queensland) was established in 1986 through a \$1 million donation as part of a Freemasons Queensland bicentennial initiative. This latest donation will be invested by Aegium Foundation and the returns will help to support initiatives in ground-breaking medical research, in rethinking services and in encouraging a deeper understanding of age-related issues amongst medical students. You can find out more about the work of Aegium Foundation on page 8.

### **LOOKING TO THE FUTURE**

Board of Benevolence has been taking the time to lay the important foundations for the future of the organisation since divesting Masonic Care Queensland. The Board and our management team have been undertaking a series of strategy review workshops to revise the existing strategic initiatives and to develop a short-term 12-18 month interim strategic plan, which was launched along with this 71st Annual Review at the 2016 Annual General Meeting of Board of Benevolence. This interim plan sets our short-term direction, outlines our intentions as an organisation and highlights the initiatives that must be achieved in order to establish a longer-term strategic direction.

During the period of this interim plan, a longer-term plan will be developed. The launch of this interim plan will give Board of Benevolence the necessary time to make well-

considered and informed decisions for the detailed future planning.

As part of this planning process, the Board has redefined its values to incorporate three new values that reflect both its traditions and heritage and also those of Freemasonry. These are: compassion, integrity and empowerment.

### **HONOURING OUR HISTORY AND TRADITIONS**

At this turning point in the Board's history, it is important that we honour the heritage of this organisation and the work of those who have gone before. On page 22 there is a timeline of the organisation's impressive history from 1907. Also launched with this Annual Review is "A legacy built on caring, 1925-2016" which outlines the history of Masonic Care Queensland and gives a snapshot of each site at May 2016. This book is a keepsake to honour

the work of those who established, owned, operated and managed the Masonic Care Queensland sites as well as those who worked so hard to continually enhance the lifestyle of our residents, so that their work will always be remembered.

In the year ahead as we develop our new direction, Board of Benevolence will ensure that the work of previous Boards and volunteers is honoured and respected and that our heritage and charitable intent are reflected in this new direction.

I look forward to working with you all to ensure that we empower and support those in need with compassion and integrity for the next 100 years or more.



**TOM WILTSHIRE**  
CHAIRMAN

# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



**AS YOU WILL HAVE READ IN THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, WE NOW HAVE A CHARITABLE FUND IN EXCESS OF \$180 MILLION, HAVING IMPROVED AND SOLD THE BUSINESS AND ASSETS OF MASONIC CARE QUEENSLAND.**

The Board of Benevolence journey to enhance both the business performance and care outcomes of Masonic Care Queensland over the past three years, along with the outstanding quality of its facilities, created a strong business in the aged care sector at a time when this competitive industry is increasingly challenging for charity endeavours.

Selling this respected organisation and its facilities was not an easy decision. However it has enabled us to reinvest and refocus on charitable and benevolent work so that Freemasons in Queensland can be even more effective in supporting the community for the next 100 years or more.

## **OUR BENEVOLENCE IN AN EARLIER ERA**

To understand the decision to refocus our direction, it may help to understand the history of the organisation. In 1907 when The Widows & Orphans & Aged Masons Institution was formed, society was very different. The intention was always to support the most needy who, at that time, were usually widows, orphans and the elderly. In 1909, a number of Lodges and Freemasons in Queensland pooled their financial resources to establish the first recorded charitable fund of Freemasonry in Queensland.

Under the District Grand Lodge of Queensland, a committee was formed to oversee the fund called 'Freemasons Homes' and to create homes for aged Masons. Four years later in 1913, land was bought at Sandgate and, in 1925, the first accommodation for aged Masons and widows was established. Known as 'The Lewis Cottage', this was the beginning of what

later became Masonic Care Queensland.

In 1927, The Widows & Orphans & Aged Masons Institution and the Freemasons Homes amalgamated. Board of Benevolence operated as an independent entity, providing grants for specific purposes and for those in distress, from its formation in 1913 until all Masonic benevolent activities in Queensland were amalgamated in 1946 to form Board of Benevolence and of Aged Masons', Widows and Orphans Fund.

## **THE EVOLUTION OF CARING FOR THE AGED**

For many years, providing aged care services was largely a charitable pursuit, particularly for organisations like Masonic Care Queensland, which had the backing of Board of Benevolence and of Aged Masons Widows and Orphans' Fund, allowing it to fund operating losses from its invested funds. There were very few facilities in Queensland

that provided care and accommodation for the elderly in the early years and Masonic Care Queensland filled an important need. Over time this changed and, as more and more aged care operators, both not-for-profit and for profit emerged, older people had a greater choice. In order to meet government legislative requirements and to adjust to market demands, Masonic Care Queensland evolved from providing care and support to aged Masons and widows, to being a service for the wider Queensland community.

As the choices for those requiring care and accommodation continued to grow in more recent years, so too did their expectations and the expectations of their families. That, coupled with the legislating of new building standards for aged care facilities, led to Board of Benevolence initiating a development program at its major Masonic Care Queensland sites early in the 2000s. As this program unfolded, the investments

of Board of Benevolence changed from being cash investments to being building investments.

This meant there were fewer investment returns to fund the ongoing operating losses that Masonic Care Queensland continued to generate. Eventually we needed to borrow funds to complete the major part of the development program and it became more and more difficult to provide accommodation as a charitable service – operating losses needed to be turned around and borrowed funds needed to be repaid. Many other not-for-profit operators were experiencing similar challenges.

The business of providing care and accommodation to the elderly had, over the years, transformed from being a charitable service to being a highly-regulated one that has to manage sustainable finances to meet much more demanding expectations.

### **A CHANGE OF BUSINESS MODEL TURNS THE BUSINESS AROUND**

In September 2013, I was appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of Masonic Care Queensland and tasked with implementing a sustainable business model for the business to prevent it being sold as a ‘fire sale’. New government legislation had recently been introduced, which had more impacts on aged care

operators, and there was a strong possibility of more to come.

We began an organisational redesign which changed the structure to ensure that the right people were in the right roles to drive the necessary improved performance. A new strategic plan (2014 – 2019) was developed with strategic outcomes, action items and measures to track annual performance.

Over the course of two years, my team and I, with the full support of the Board, delivered almost all of the strategic outcomes the Board had targeted in the plan and the business saw a significant turnaround in both business performance and care outcomes much earlier than had been expected. Sadly but inevitably, the business, like the rest of the industry, had become even less charitable than before in order to achieve this turnaround.

At that point, the Board needed to review its strategic plan for Masonic Care Queensland to assess the best course for the future and for achieving its benevolent objectives.

### **CAUGHT AT A CROSSROAD**

The Board engaged Plus Financial Analytics, a company experienced in the aged care and retirement living sector, to financially model the business. This financial modelling confirmed that,

in order to sustain the business outcomes that had been achieved, Masonic Care Queensland would need to grow significantly. This meant we would either need to build or buy more facilities or merge with another operator. These options were then investigated by a range of consultants who also concluded that any viable scenarios would mean borrowing significant funds. This would have left very little resources for Board of Benevolence to continue to provide and expand charitable services to those in need.

The Board assessed the options in light of their history and their mission of benevolence and charity, and took into account that those who need financial support to access aged care now have their care largely funded by the government.

Ernst and Young and Mullins Lawyers were engaged to investigate what outcome could be achieved if the business were to be sold. It was important that any sale of Masonic Care Queensland would generate enough capital to ensure the charitable and benevolent work of Freemasonry and the intentions of our forebears would be honoured, reignited and continued in a sustainable way.

### **ACHIEVING THE BEST OUTCOME FOR CONTINUED CHARITY**

Many operators were looking to expand their

businesses for economies of scale and Masonic Care Queensland was attractive to both not-for-profit and for profit operators, due to its solid business performance and the quality of its facilities. The timing could not have been better and Board of Benevolence made the decision to divest the Masonic Care Queensland business.

This resulted in the Board being able to establish a fund of more than \$180 million with investment returns that will reignite the long term charitable and benevolent work of Freemasonry across Queensland, helping support causes where we can make a real difference for human well-being.

This is an exciting time for the organisation and, as the Chief Executive Officer of this rejuvenated Board of Benevolence, I look forward to leading my team into the next 12 months to achieve the redefined strategic initiatives set by the Board and to help develop longer-term strategies to ensure the charitable and benevolent work of Freemasons in Queensland remains relevant and effective for many more decades to come.



**Gary Mark**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Board of Benevolence and  
Masonic Care Queensland

## BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE

# OUR PROUD HISTORY

**1907** Widows & Orphans & Aged Masons Institution (WOAM) founded by Grand Lodge of Queensland.

**1909** First Annual Meeting of WOAM Institution held.

**1909** Committee formed under District Grand Lodge of Queensland to establish a fund called Freemasons Homes to establish Homes for aged Masons.

**1913** Board of Benevolence formed with RW Bro J.R.H. Lewis as its first President. 17 acres of land purchased at Sandgate, Brisbane at a cost equivalent to \$2,800 (£1,400).

**1925** Lewis Cottage built in memory of RW Bro J.R.H. Lewis consisting of two bedrooms and a lounge at Sandgate, Brisbane. This was the birth of what was later known as Masonic Care Queensland in Sandgate.

**1927** Amalgamation of Widows & Orphans & Aged Masons Institution and Freemasons Homes.

**1932** Hutton and Hertzberg Cottage opened at Sandgate, Brisbane.

**1938** Robinson Block opened at Sandgate, Brisbane.

**1946** Mylo House in Toowoomba purchased to establish as a Hostel for boys attending Toowoomba schools.

**1946** Amalgamation of all Freemason Benevolence activities in Queensland to form Board of Benevolence and of Aged Masons', Widows and Orphans Fund.

**1948** A.E. Hall Extension added another eight bedrooms and a convalescent ward for four residents at Sandgate, Brisbane.



**1953** Building appeal launched.

**1956** McLuckie building opened consisting of 32 single and three double rooms at Sandgate, Brisbane.



The A.E. Bottomley Dining Hall built at Sandgate, Brisbane.

**1957** Mylo House in Toowoomba sold and replaced by Barrymount on 13 acres of land, complete with a swimming pool and tennis court.

**1960** Langtry extension opened at Sandgate, Brisbane.

**1963** Extension to the McLuckie building opened at Sandgate, Brisbane.

**1963** Barrymount in Toowoomba closed as a Boys Hostel.

**1970** Administration block built at Sandgate, Brisbane.



**1970** Marquis-Kyle building built to accommodate 194 Freemasons, their wives and widows at Sandgate, Brisbane.

**1977** Nursing home opened for 230 residents at Sandgate, Brisbane.

Late 1970s A.E. Hall extension turned into self-contained flats for aged, married couples at Sandgate, Brisbane.



**1988** Freemasons' Homes of Central Queensland (later named Farris Villas) opened, consisting of 4 two-bedroom units and 8 one-bedroom units.

**1992** The Freemasons' Homes of the Barambah District opened, consisting of 12 affordable living villas at Kingaroy, later named Masonic Care Queensland Barambah Villas.

**1992** 22 one-bedroom units opened at Arundel, Gold Coast for aged, disabled and disadvantaged people (later named Masonic Care Queensland Jabiru Villas).



**1993** Work began on 17 retirement living villas at Sandgate. There were three stages to the development which was completed in 2000.

**1995** Arundel Hostel (later named Masonic Care Queensland Jabiru Aged Care), a 49-bed residential aged care facility adjacent to the rental units opened on the Gold Coast.



**1996** Masonic Care Queensland Griffith Cottages Aged Care opened with 50 beds at Sandgate, Brisbane.



**1997** 20-bed residential aged care facility, Cooloola Hostel opened (later named Masonic Care Queensland Cooloola Coast Aged Care).



**1998** Six retirement living villas opened in Crows Nest, later named Masonic Care Queensland Tallowood Lodge Retirement Village.



**2001** Carpentaria Freemasons' Homes came under the fold of Masonic Care Queensland. Formerly run by the District Grand Lodge of Carpentaria, more recently known as Masonic Care Queensland Morinda Aged Care and Woodward Retirement Village.

**2001** Texas Greenup Lodge No. 139 took over the management of 10 affordable living villas, Pariagra Villas, at Texas with the assistance of Board of Benevolence.

**2003** Masonic Village at Kirwan came under the fold of Masonic Care Queensland. Formerly run by the District Grand Lodge of North Queensland, more recently known as Masonic Care Queensland Karinga Aged Care and Corinthian Court Retirement Village.



**2008** Texas Greenup Lodge No. 139 took over the management of four affordable living villas at Inglewood with the assistance of Board of Benevolence.

**2011** Masonic Care Queensland Lucinda Aged Care opened accommodating 157 residents at Sandgate, Brisbane.



**2012** Site redevelopment at Masonic Care Queensland in Kirwan, Townsville saw everything demolished except the Acacia wing of the hostel, built in 1999, the kitchen, laundry and retirement villas. The new \$42.6 million site redevelopment included a 90-bed residential aged care facility called Masonic Care Queensland Karinga Aged Care, community facilities and 36 retirement living apartments at Masonic Care Queensland Corinthian Court Retirement Village.



**2013** 36 modern retirement living apartments opened at Masonic Care Queensland Sandgate, Brisbane, later named Bramble Bay Retirement Village.



**2013** Lewis Cottage, the Robinson block and the A.E. Hall extension at Masonic Care Queensland in Sandgate, Brisbane were remodelled and formed part of the Heritage Precinct which included a retirement village clubhouse, café, library and hairdresser.



**2015** Refurbishment to level three of the Marquis-Kyle building at Masonic Care Queensland Musgrave Aged Care at Sandgate opened. The rooms were transformed into modern, spacious, studio rooms with a sitting room and private ensuite by merging two rooms into one.



**2016** Endeavour Wing and community facilities opened at Masonic Care Queensland Morinda Aged Care in Cairns.



**2016** Refurbishment of the first two of eight stages of the McLuckie building in Masonic Care Queensland Musgrave Aged Care was completed.

**2016** Board of Benevolence announced its decision to transition away from the active provision of aged care and retirement living in March 2016 to return to its core mission of charity and benevolence.



**2016** All Masonic Care Queensland sites, except Gold Coast, Texas and Inglewood became part of Regis Aged Care Pty Ltd on 1 June 2016.

**2016** Gold Coast site became part of St Vincent's Care Services on 1 September 2016. Texas and Inglewood sites, which are owned by the local Council, continue to be managed by Texas Greenup Lodge No. 139.

*Timeline courtesy of 'A Short History of Queensland Masonic Homes' (Time capsule 1969) and 'They planted an Acorn: The Story of how our Homes have grown (Golden Jubilee Year 1995)' and 'Golden Jubilee Year' historical text.*

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2016 FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial position of Masonic Care Queensland continued to improve over its final two years as a result of introducing a range of strategic business initiatives.

**6.82**

\$ million

Total accounting result (excluding the gain on sale of Masonic Care Queensland)

**8.46**

\$ million

Capital expenditure to improve facilities and infrastructure

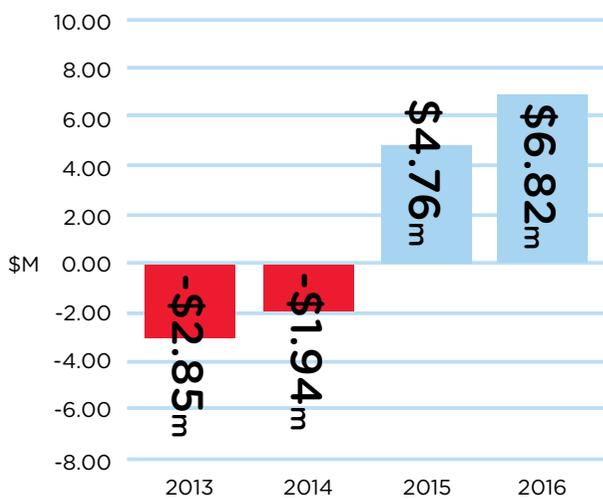
**68.60**

\$ million

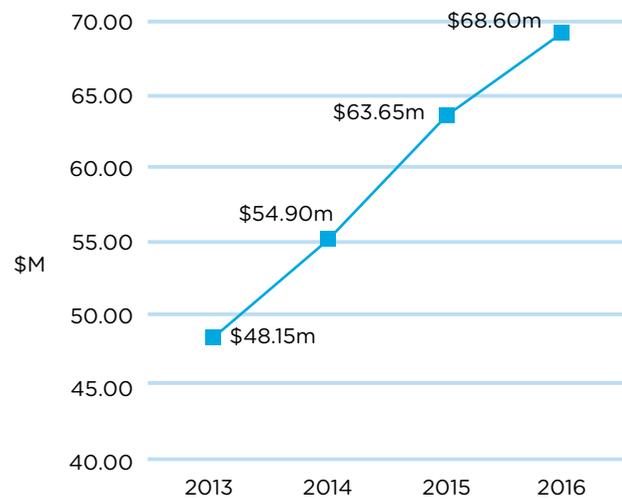
Revenue from operating activities, an increase of 7.8% on the previous financial year.

(Figures before extraordinary items)

**MASONIC CARE QUEENSLAND ACCOUNTING RESULT**  
(including depreciation)



**REVENUE FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**



These financial results incorporate the full trading of Masonic Care Queensland until 31 May 2016 and only the Gold Coast site for the month of June 2016, due to the fact that the sale of all sites except the Gold Coast site was completed on 31 May 2016.

Aged care operations accounted for \$5.70 million of the surplus and retirement living and rentals for \$1.12 million.

A more detailed statement of our financial position can be obtained by contacting our Board Executive Office.

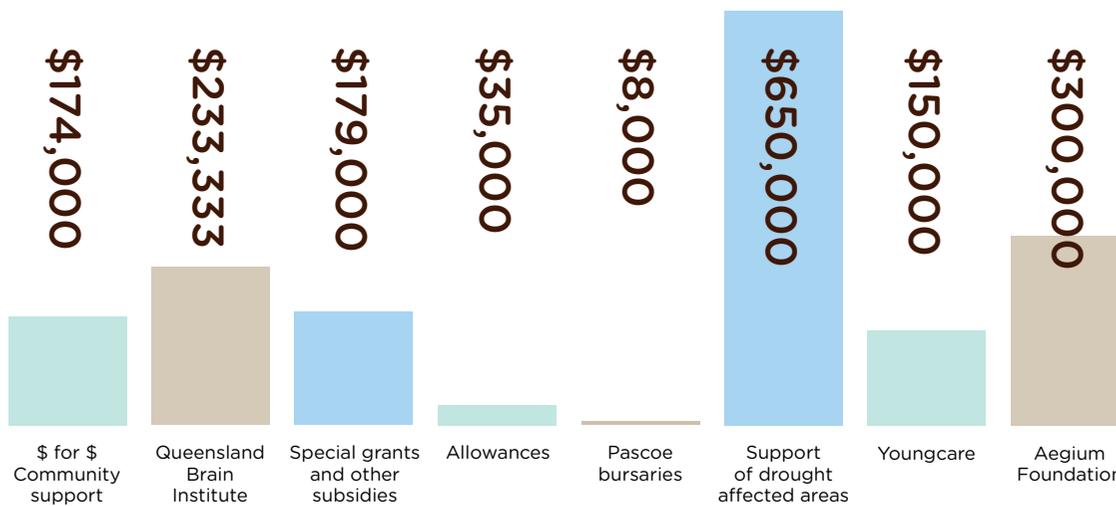
# BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE OVERALL RESULT

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2016 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Board of Benevolence has a secure financial position with an overall surplus of \$4.30 million in 2016. The surplus excludes the gain on sale of Masonic Care Queensland.



### HOW DISTRIBUTED FUNDS IN QUEENSLAND MADE A DIFFERENCE IN 2016 FINANCIAL YEAR



The Board of Benevolence also holds cash and investments valued at \$1.12 million on behalf of the Elson Estate. This supports the Horizons Respite and Recreation Association Inc. at Margate, which provides services to young adults living with disabilities. A more detailed statement of our financial position can be obtained by contacting our Board Executive Office.

**GARY MARK**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
Board of Benevolence (*appointed September 2016*)  
Masonic Care Queensland (*September 2013-September 2016*)

**TOM WILTSHIRE**  
**CHAIRMAN** (*appointed June 2016*)  
**DEPUTY CHAIRMAN** (*until June 2016*)  
Chairman of the Safety, Clinical and Care Committee  
(*disbanded April 2016 with the sale of MCQ*)  
Member of the Nomination and Remuneration  
Committee



Absent:  
**GARY BACON GRAND MASTER**  
(*concluded term in June 2016*)

**BRUCE MILNER**  
**CHAIRMAN** (*concluded term in June 2016*)  
Member of the Nomination and  
Remuneration Committee

# OUR BOARD AND GOVERNANCE

**CAMPBELL CARMICHAEL**

Member of the Audit and Risk Committee  
(concluded term in June 2016)

**JOHN ARONIS**

Chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee, member of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee and a member of the Benevolence and Community Engagement Committee

**SPENCER CHRISTENSEN**

Member of the Audit and Risk Committee and Chairman of the Benevolence and Community Engagement Committee

**COLIN BRECKON**

Member of the Building and Projects Committee  
(concluded term in June 2016)

**Freemasons Queensland Board of Benevolence** is the charitable arm of the United Grand Lodge of Queensland. The Board's brand for charitable and benevolent activity on a state and local level is Hand Heart Pocket the charity of Freemasons Queensland. Masonic Care Queensland was the not-for-profit aged care and retirement living entity governed by the Board of Benevolence, which was sold during the course of 2016 so that the Board could return to its core benevolent and charitable mission.

# FREEMASONS WORKING TOGETHER FOR QUEENSLAND

Helping others is an age-old tenet of Freemasonry. This is our family of organisations in Queensland that work together closely to make life better – for individuals and the community.



**HAND HEART POCKET** is the charity of Freemasons Queensland. It is administered by Board of Benevolence and works with local communities, and other not-for-profit organisations to identify where support will make a real difference. It focuses on four main areas: health and disability support, education, positive ageing and disaster relief.

## BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE

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**BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE** supports the charitable and benevolent activities of Freemasons in Queensland through the charity known as Hand Heart Pocket, the charity of Freemasons Queensland.



**FREEMASONS QUEENSLAND** is the umbrella name for the independent Lodges (local Freemasonry groups) in Queensland and the United Grand Lodge of Queensland in Brisbane. They have almost 7000 members and 269 Lodges in Queensland and Papua New Guinea.

**UNITED GRAND LODGE OF QUEENSLAND** is the governing body of Freemasons Queensland. It provides member support services.



**AEGIUM FOUNDATION** was founded by Freemasons Queensland to redefine health care for ageing Queenslanders. It initiated and significantly funds the Masonic Chair in Geriatric Medicine at The University of Queensland.

Queensland Freemasons are attentive to the needs of the community and work with Hand Heart Pocket to create positive change.



