



## Friends on the Street



Rosies Youth Mission is an incorporated charity reaching out to the most abandoned on the streets, in youth detention centres, prisons, and children's and drug courts.

### ROSIES FACTS

For 27 years, Rosies has been helping improve the lives of Queenslanders that are living on the streets, marginalised or disadvantaged with services spanning from the Gold Coast to Cairns and west to Toowoomba.

- Rosies reaches out to an estimated 1,370 homeless people each week through regular outreach services
- Some 850 volunteers currently support Rosies outreach services and day-to-day operations of the charity
- This equates to an estimated 40,525 volunteering hours each year.

### Our Co-Patrons



"That young people who are homeless know they will always be welcomed and accepted at Rosies which provides a very important sense of belonging"

**Co-Patron of Rosies  
Leneen Forde AC**



"At a time when our attention is understandably occupied with very grave international events let us never forget there are many young people on the streets experiencing isolation and discrimination. Through Rosies let us do everything we can to help them"

**Co-Patron of Rosies  
General Peter Cosgrove AC MC**

## Backpack Bed brings dignity

*Southport Queensland in an underground carpark with severe rain is the setting for an interview with one of our homeless patrons who receives a Backpack Bed by "Swags For The Homeless." Once employed manufacturing bullet proof vests, redundancy of 27 staff brings a man to a place he never imagined he would be... Homeless.*



**Our patron describes what it was like to realise you're homeless?**

"At first the fear was the unknown, getting robbed, bashed that sort of thing and the biggest surprise was the number of people out there doing it tough yet they all chip in and give you a hand. Everyone helps each other out."

**So what does it mean to receive a Backpack Bed?**

"Receiving the Backpack Bed, it's like having my own private house; it means I'm not going to get wet. The bugs won't eat me alive; it means someone has taken the time to care. Receiving this back pack I think someone else out there probably deserves it more than me, but it makes me feel special."

Fighting back tears on a raining night, our reporter replies with comforting words: "It's ok mate, you're a survivor."

**What would you like to tell the public about being homeless?**

"We are not all bad, just normal people doing it a bit hard. We may look bad, or don't smell the best but we are good people. I worry about getting wet tonight or moved on, it's a worry. Sometimes you

have to walk a fair bit so you get wet in the rain. I have to find a shop doorway or verandah... if you're lucky you can get into an underground carpark but you do it too often you get moved on.

"I'm lucky if I average 4 hours sleep a day, you hear voices at 3am and you're awake, you don't know what's coming, some idiots out there think "he's homeless" so they bash you. People coming home drunk from the pubs being silly are often the worst."

**What if you get sick?**

"You can see a doctor that bulk bills but you can't fill a script, the doctor says rest in bed, but that is a bit hard when you don't have a bed.

"You can't get help from many services if you don't have a fixed address, so you can't get forms sent to you. I've got no mobile so I have to keep contacting services.

"Try and get back on my feet, save some money and share a place with someone. I'm trying."

**Your final words to the public?**

"Please don't judge a book by its cover. We are good people - we won't harm you."

*This interview inspired Rosies to undertake the role of supplying the Backpack Beds in Queensland. Please consider helping us with your generous support to provide these Backpack Beds to the many individuals and families living in housing crisis.*

## From the Manager

*When I wrote about joining Rosies as General Manager in the last newsletter, I spoke of humbly endeavoring to continue the good work of my predecessor Bob Boardman. Four months later, I still have work ahead of me to emulate Bob's achievements, and I can honestly say that every day has been a humbling experience.*

Each day brings a new experience as the General Manager of Rosies and each day I'm blown away by the generosity of spirit shown by our amazing volunteers and the businesses who work with us to provide comfort and friendship to those who need it most. Whenever things get a little tough, and they have been from time-to-time, a reminder of why we do what we do is never far away to get me back on the right path.

I've been fortunate enough to have spent time in each of our nine branches and I cannot thank our fantastic Branch Coordinators, team leaders and volunteers enough for the warm response everywhere I've been. Connecting with the grass roots of the organisation has been an important part of my own education process and I'm encouraged by the strength we have from the ground up.

Getting a hands on idea of the subtle, and sometimes stark, differences between our outreach locations has given me a strong insight into how we can all work together to make Rosies an even better organisation. While I've been busy visibly working in each of the branches across the past four months, I've also been working hard with the board behind the scenes to streamline processes and build a strong foundation for the future of Rosies. We have been

spending time looking at the structure of the organisation to pinpoint areas in which we can improve ourselves with the aim of providing improved services to our patrons.

Those who know me will know I am very much a man of action, if something needs to be fixed I will get my hands dirty fixing it. While the context of the work with the board is a little different than fixing a broken cupboard, the principle is exactly the same. Without a strong operational structure in place we will not be able to fulfil our vision of providing support to those who need it and where they need it.

In the four months since my appointment my passion and belief in Rosies Mission has only grown stronger thanks to the dedication, commitment and enthusiasm of everyone involved with the organisation.

I'm excited for the future and look forward to taking that journey with you all.

**Troy Bailey**



## Congratulations!

*Congratulations to Rosies patron General Peter Cosgrove on being appointed to the role of Governor-General of Australia.*

A worthy appointment in recognition of General Cosgrove's distinguished career supporting the Australian community and Rosies is very thankful for General Cosgrove's support since 2006 as our patron.

*"I have been a supporter of Rosies - Friends on the Street from its earlier days and I continue to admire its work for young Australians at risk. In my forthcoming appointment I certainly wish volunteer organisations such as Rosies - Friends on the Street all the very best in carrying out their vital work with in our communities. God bless all at Rosies."*

**Peter Cosgrove**

## What are Backpack Beds?

*The Backpack Beds are an Australian product and are internationally recognised for their design and build quality. The swags are extremely high quality, waterproof to 4 metres, made from fire retardant materials and are easily folded away.*

Backpack Beds have been recognised for providing homeless individuals with a sense of dignity. The Backpack Beds can provide individuals with a sense of belonging and hope even where they may not have a fixed place to call their own.

Rosies will be working alongside the Queensland Police Service to supply District Duty Officers' patrol vehicles in each of our outreach locations with Backpack Beds to provide to homeless individuals as the need arises.

Often QPS officers are the first to respond to someone in need and providing them with a tool such as the Swag for Homeless Backpack Beds can make a significant difference to the outcome for a homeless person.







# Around the Outreaches

## MAREEBA

The Mareeba Outreach has commenced 2014 with a focus on our relationships with other community stakeholders. Our General Manager Troy Bailey visited the region, and met with St Stephens College, PCYC and local youth workers, Chamber of Commerce, Crime Prevention Officer and Rotary to thank these services for their support of Rosies.

Mareeba outreach has developed a focus on young people with up to 40 young people visiting the van and talking to our volunteers each Friday night. The PCYC works in partnership assisting us in providing activities and many nights we make a difference as a combined service. We provide a service where young people enjoy our presence along with other services in Mareeba preventing youth homelessness and replacing it with community support.

Mareeba Outreach is proud to be a partner with qualified professionals who all seek to serve those who are feeling isolated and disconnected from our community.

## BLESSING OF THE SUNSHINE COAST ROSIES HUB

Our first outreach from the 'Hub' was on Friday 30th August 2013 which has given our branch a place to call our very own. Prior to this, our meeting room was very generously shared with the office of the church groundsman when sometimes our setting up and briefings were manoeuvred around cleaning products, ladders and even a wheelbarrow.

Our Lady of the Rosary Church kind-heartedly handed over an unused flat under the church which was stripped out and refurbished.

With our Manager Troy Bailey and Chairman John Scoble outreaching with us on Street on Friday 14 February, what an opportune time to finally have our Hub blessed.



Fr Kevin Smith of Our Lady of the Rosary Church gave a beautiful blessing with prayer and the sprinkling of holy water prior to outreaching on what turned out to be such a fun and entertaining evening.



Majella, Naomi, Candy, Leah, John, Carolyn, Troy and Fr Kevin

## IPSWICH

Ipswich is about to start the New Year with a Mass at St Mary's on the 23rd February. We will be following this up with a cuppa for the people at the church and then moving over to St Edmund's to cook a barbecue breakfast.

People of Ipswich continue with their generosity, calling and asking me to pick up donations that have been raised. Prior to Christmas we received quite a lot of donations from different organisations and interest groups. This allowed us to have an amazing Christmas. Thank you to the people of Ipswich.

We have the street doctor joining us at the park on Thursday evening and this seems to be working well. The patrons are very happy and appreciative.

Many schools are showing a great deal of interest in joining our school program. There are both Ipswich schools and Toowoomba schools forming quite an army of extra volunteers. Other schools have been approached and we are waiting to hear from them as well.

We are presently going out on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, working along with other community groups in Ipswich. This has streamlined services so that patrons are cared for as much as possible. We will continue to work closely with others in our community and pray that God will move mightily in Ipswich to help the disadvantaged of our community.

God Bless,  
Michael.



## Top Honour for Cairns Coordinator

*When Australia Day Awards nominee Melissa Milton received her invitation to the ceremony, she promptly threw it out. The community services worker has always shied away from the public eye but after much cajoling by her colleagues, she accepted the Volunteer of the Year award for her work with Rosies-Friends on the Street.*

Melissa was one of 31 nominees in five categories honoured by Cairns Regional Council for their contribution to the community.

Over six years, Melissa has built a team of about 120 volunteers and coordinated efforts to provide companionship and support to thousands of people sleeping rough on Cairns' streets.

The Cairns outreach is on the streets Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights and we can average anywhere between 25 to 80 people on one night. Driven by the friendships she has forged over the years, Melissa hopes

the award would raise awareness and inspire others to support the service.

The following quote by Melissa is a testament to her dedication to the people of Cairns.

*"I think the people on the street give so much to us as people and they've actually helped me overcome my challenges in life so I see it as a reciprocal benefit."*

AUTUMN 2014



ROSIES

Friends on the Street

# Volunteer Training Update

*A new year brings new volunteers and new training challenges.*

In 2013, Rosies focused on integrating Work Health and Safety induction training into our new volunteer induction package, as well as familiarising our current volunteers with the changes in safety policies and procedures.

Our focus in the first part of 2014 so far has been to streamline the program.

An important step in this process has been identifying key volunteers in each branch who can take on a training role within their own branch. As an organisation we believe it's important to ensure new volunteer trainers have local knowledge and, equally importantly, giving branches more autonomy around training arrangements means that we can deliver training to volunteers more efficiently – ensuring volunteers are available where they're needed most!

Rosies' next objective will be to offer further training opportunities to team leaders. We have begun this process by hosting guest speakers Danielle Drew and Sally Foster from the Homeless Health Outreach Team (Inner North Brisbane Mental Health Service, Fortitude Valley) at our most recent team leaders meeting in Brisbane. Danielle and Sally were able to offer useful information to our team leaders about how to manage patrons who present with signs of mental illness and who to contact for referrals.

If you, or someone you know, can provide professional development opportunities to our team leaders, please contact Training and Development Manager Cat Milton at [miltonc@rosies.org.au](mailto:miltonc@rosies.org.au).



Back left, Michele Wichura, Cat Milton, Chris Moorman, Vicki Keenan  
Front left, Bob Boardman, Troy Bailey

**Be happy because you are loved.  
Celebrate because you are saved.**

**Jesus Christ lived to be our  
light and guide.  
Happy Easter!**

**On behalf of the staff of Rosies we  
wish you a safe and Happy Easter.**



## Bequests: 'Making a Difference in the Future!'

*Many of us want to feel like we've made a difference in our lifetimes.  
But sometimes our circumstances are such that we don't have time to  
volunteer or money to give directly right now.*

A bequest is a way that you can make a difference that will last into the future. It's also a lasting gesture that embodies your beliefs and values in a very tangible way.

Choosing to leave a gift to Rosies in your Will is a wonderful way to make a difference to the people who most need the unconditional love that Rosies gives. It's an ongoing gift of compassion to the homeless, imprisoned, and disenfranchised adults and children that Rosies serves. You can continue to care for people beyond your lifetime – it can be your legacy of love.

If you would like to leave a gift to Rosies in your Will, but are unsure how, please talk to your solicitor, or give the Rosies office a call on 1300 ROSIES (1300 767 437). Your enquiry will be confidential, and there's no obligation involved.

## ROSIES Contact Details

### CONTACT US

If you would like to make a donation, find out about our volunteering program or further information on Rosies:

P: 1300 Rosies (767 437)

Rosies State Support Office  
PO Box 908, Wynnum QLD 4178

P: 07 3396 4267

F: 07 3396 3205

### VOLUNTEERING

[volunteer@rosies.org.au](mailto:volunteer@rosies.org.au)

### OTHER INFORMATION

[admin@rosies.org.au](mailto:admin@rosies.org.au)

[www.rosies.org.au](http://www.rosies.org.au)

ABN: 68 041 152 768

**FRIENDS ON THE STREET**

## Corporate Sponsors



## EVERY DONATION HELPS

As a non profit organisation, Rosies relies mainly on private donations and volunteers to run our outreach services and your generous support will ensure we can continue our support of the homeless and abandoned in our community.

Every single dollar helps. You can provide a one-off donation, set up a regular donation to help the disadvantaged throughout the year or form a bequest. To make a donation, please complete the tear-off donation slip attached to the newsletter (if receiving a printed version) or contact us today.

Phone: 1300 ROSIES (767 437) • ROSIES State Support Office Phone: 07 3396 4267  
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