

CHRISTMAS 23

# ROSIES

*Friends on the Street*



SHARING FRIENDSHIP CREATES BELONGING. DARE TO REACH OUT TOGETHER.

## INSIDE ROSIES

A message from  
**OUR CEO**  
and reflections with  
**FR MICHEAL**

**THANK YOU**  
from our Patrons

**REAL**  
Rosies stories



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## A MESSAGE from our CEO

**It is hard to believe that 2023 is nearing its end, bringing warm summer weather, the end of school and the beginning of the Christmas holiday season — a season of hope and giving.**

In 2023, Rosies celebrated 35 years of serving the community with compassion, care and the transformational power of connection. At the heart of this amazing service is you – the volunteers, donors, members, suppliers and supporters. Our Rosies community is filled with extraordinary people dedicated to making a difference in the lives of those who are experiencing homelessness, disadvantage, hardship or social isolation. It is through your care that Rosies can deliver hospitality with a difference, offering genuine friendship and an atmosphere free of judgement to those who are struggling and most in need.

Through Rosies, our volunteers and friends on the street come together to share stories, laughter and tears and forge a wonderful bond that offers acceptance and the fundamental human need to belong.

While the Christmas season is considered a joyous time, this year has been challenging. Rosies has seen an average 30% increase in the number of people using our services (and as many as 50% in some locations), especially women, families and young people. The ongoing housing and rental crisis, coupled with the rising cost of living, has impacted many people who never imagined that they would find themselves in this position.

So many of us can relate to the impact of rising rent and food costs and cutting back on 'non-essentials' to make ends meet. But what happens when you need to cut back on essential items like medical care, food for your family, a roof over your head or other vital day-to-day items?

While Rosies street outreach service includes hospitality, it is human kindness and understanding that has the greatest impact by far. Acknowledging and respecting every person as an individual and not a product of their circumstances reinforces that each person is valued and cared for, that they matter and that they BELONG.

This Christmas, remember that even the smallest acts of kindness can lead to profound and lasting impact and change. Wishing you joy, love and hope for the holiday season and the new year. Thank you for everything you do to support Rosies and the life-changing work we do on the street.

With gratitude,

Jayne Shallcross  
CEO  
Rosies – Friends on the Street





Irene on outreach in Caboolture

**ROSIES**  
Friends on the Street

# HOMELESS BUT NOT HOPELESS

## Irene's Story

The 67-year-old Caboolture resident has been homeless for the past 16 months, one of countless Queenslanders impacted by the ongoing housing crisis.

"Many years ago, when I would go into the City, I would see homeless people and wonder how they got to where they are, now I know, it can happen to anyone." - Irene

You can always get what you need at Rosies, whether it's a blanket, noodles, coffee or a chat - sometimes you don't know what you need until you get there.

"I was in a rental and the landlord began enforcing strange rules like no bookshelves and I wasn't allowed to grow anything in the garden anymore and I had to remove my vegetable patch. I had only recently lost my sister and my partner months apart and I wasn't in the best headspace," Irene said.

"I became very depressed and when the lease came up for renewal, I had to find a new place. I had no access to a computer and when I could get to one, I would spend hours looking for a rental but never find one. I had very little money, nowhere to go and I felt totally alone."

"Looking back, I can see that the landlord was being unreasonable and I should have taken it to the RTA but I wasn't in a good place mentally to have that conversation. I thought about suicide but I knew I couldn't do that, I needed to get through it and that eventually everything would be okay."

"I stayed with a friend for a while but then her rent went up and she had to move. One of my other friends offered her couch and I stayed there but could tell it was inconvenient for the family, so I left.

"I slept in my car for a while and then about 12 months ago someone told me about Rosies and I went to see what it was all about. At first, I felt a bit uncomfortable about asking for something that only a few months ago I could have got myself but the volunteers and other people who attended made me feel welcome and it gave me hope.

"I've met so many people at Rosies that have introduced me to other services. It's OK to ask for help and it's nice to be in a place where I can connect with other people who are in the same boat. Rosies brings people together and lets us know that we are not the only ones; that there is hope, that there are people who care and that we belong.

The challenges Irene went through shaped her and helped her develop compassion and understanding.

"While living in my car isn't the best of circumstances it's strangely freeing. I have the freedom to be myself and I can choose who I spend time with. I'm starting from the bottom and things can only get better from here. The rental crisis is bad but the day will come when I will find a place. In the meantime, there are services that help and there are people who care."

Irene's unique outlook on her current situation hasn't gone unnoticed by her fellow patrons.

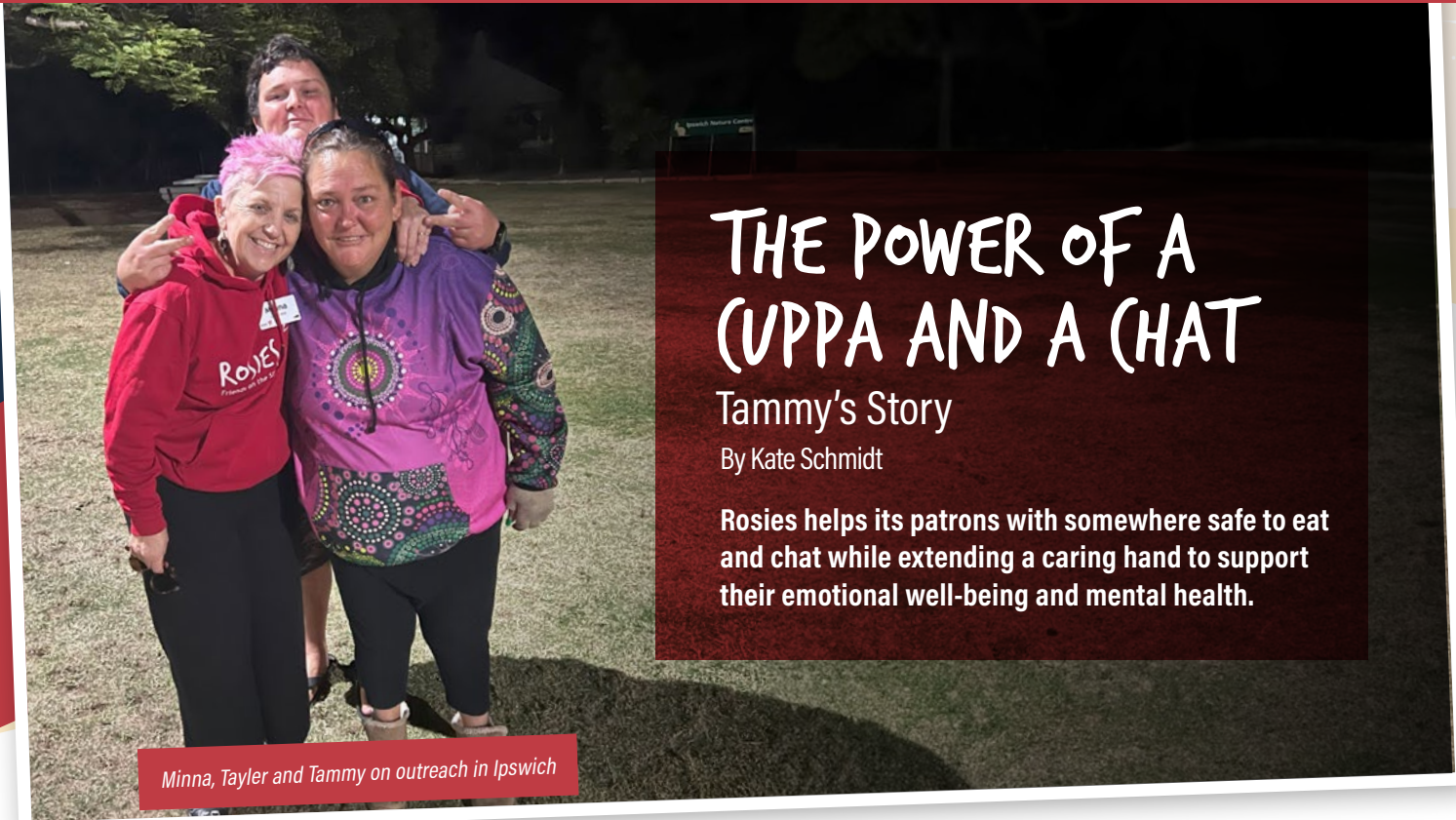
"A few weeks back, two people at Rosies came up to me and said: 'You're not like other homeless people - you have this energy, you are lively and enthusiastic, you are like a teacher for us.' What they said made me feel really good, like I was helping them just by being there - I'm making a difference every day just like Rosies," she said.

The community that Irene found at Rosies has been invaluable as she navigates her way forward.

"The Rosies volunteers have worked hard to create an environment that is safe for all of us. Rosies doesn't care about who you are or where you've come from, they treat you with respect and they all accept you. You meet different volunteers all the time but they are beautiful people, each and every one. It fills me with hope to sit and have a cuppa with my friends."

**If you'd like to show our friends like Irene that they matter and that they belong, please donate today.**

*\*If you find any of the content in this story distressing, please contact Lifeline on 13 11 14.*



# THE POWER OF A (UPPA AND A (HAT

## Tammy's Story

By Kate Schmidt

**Rosies helps its patrons with somewhere safe to eat and chat while extending a caring hand to support their emotional well-being and mental health.**

*Minna, Tayler and Tammy on outreach in Ipswich*

Tammy has attended street outreach for the past seven years and experienced this care and hospitality. While Rosies has supported Tammy for a long time, it was during a particularly tough phase in her life – when she lost her father – that she truly understood the value of its unconditional acceptance.

**"If it wasn't for Rosies, I don't know where I'd be."**

"Rosies is always there for you, they don't judge. If they can't help, they'll find someone who can. I always tell people where they are and that they should come and see them.

"I don't just come for the meals, I come for the social aspect. Barry and the team members are quite lovely."

When Tammy experienced the loss of her father three-and-a-half years ago, volunteers were constantly checking on her.

**Just a phone call to see how you are going and that was enough. They would come up to me at outreach and offer a hug and it meant so much.**

Tammy has lived in Ipswich since she was five, in a home built by her father in 1985.

"It was his pride and joy and I'm grateful to have those memories," she reflected.

"He was generous as well and when we spoke to him about Rosies, the smile on his face said it all. He was very grateful for what they did. One of his last wishes was to donate money to Rosies for a nice barbecue at Christmas and I did that."

Tammy's 21-year-old son Tayler has volunteered with Rosies since 2019 after first experiencing outreach as part of Rosies' Youth Engagement Program (YEP).

Tayler's intellectual disability has never been a barrier to his volunteer work and Tammy couldn't be prouder of his achievements.

"He has a big heart and I'm very proud of that," she said.

"I can't thank my dad enough for the way Tayler turned out and the love they had for each other was unreal.

"I'm very grateful to Rosies for helping and teaching him. He's very confident and when people come to the park, he wants to help to the best of his ability.



"When we go into Brisbane and drive past the Annerley base, he gets so excited when he sees the Rosies' van."

Tammy is full of praise and adoration for Rosies.

"I like to get to know the volunteers and find commonalities and I feel comfortable talking to Rosies. It helps to talk to a lot of different people. I've made a lot of friends and it's great."

"I try to help as much as I can with other people. I'm storing furniture at my place so that people who are struggling and moving into new places with nothing, will have something. I do the best that I can."

"The Rosies team is great and if there are extra donations they can't fit in the van, I offer to put them in my ute and take it back to base for them."

At Rosies, we welcome all of our friends as we do Tammy – with open arms and warm smiles. It is amazing what a cuppa and a chat can do to change someone's self-worth and confidence.



## THANK YOU

From the Honourable Ms Leneen Forde AC  
Former Governor of Queensland

**Best wishes for a Merry Christmas to all of Rosies' family and friends. This is a time of much joy for many of us but unfortunately, not for all. However, thanks to the Rosies community, our friends on the street will know the gift of kindness and love this season.**

Let us take a quiet moment to appreciate our blessings and with gratitude focus on those less fortunate than ourselves.

Thank you for being part of the Rosies community. Our volunteers, donors and supporters are all vital for our mission of love and acceptance, allowing Rosies to thrive and meet the growing need on the street.

May we all join in the spirit of this season to express our love for one another as generously and prayerfully as we can.

With peace and love

**Leneen Forde**

# PEACE BE WITH YOU

## A message from Fr Michael

**While presents, decorations, friends, trees, Santa, reindeer and family are all worthy of joy, I think it's valuable to remember why we celebrate this special time of the year.**

It signifies the birth of a vulnerable baby into a volatile and dangerous world where conflict, occupying Roman forces and danger were ever-present. His hometown of Bethlehem still knows this feeling of conflict.

It reminds us that not everyone has a place to belong; there was no room for Jesus to be welcomed. His family had to rely on the generosity of others from the moment of his birth.

I have a feeling that the innkeeper who offered his stable as refuge would have been a Rosies supporter as their hearts were open to being kind.

Peace is the essence of the message of Christmas as Christ came to bring His peace. He came as the Prince of Peace and the word 'peace' was closely identified with both the beginning and end of Christ's life on earth.

In Bethlehem at His birth, the angels sang: 'Peace on earth to people of goodwill.' Thirty-three years later, [Jesus] rose from the dead and spoke these words: "Peace be to you. As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

Here, then, is the invitation to all people of faith or otherwise, to take Christ's peace into our hearts and our homes, so that it will radiate from there to every part of the world. Christ's peace is special.

Christmas, then, is about peace and giving and love — God's love for us and our love for Him and for each other.

Whenever you read this article, there will potentially be some form of human conflict surrounding us. It could be our internal struggles. It could be a conflict with a family member or a friend. It could be a conflict between neighbours or countries and we will be invited to strive for peace in our hearts, our families, our communities and our world.

Peace is not just the absence of war or conflict. It is a conscious choice to bring goodness, harmony, dignity, life and love to those around us.

I truly believe that every single Rosies outreach is an Action of Peace that brings together good hearts in a place of mutual care. The journeys from wherever a person comes from meet at the Rosies outreach and this is what makes each location special and worthy of dignity.

In the Book of Exodus, it said that: "The place on which you are is holy ground..." (Exodus 3:5). I believe each Rosies outreach is Holy Ground. Those of faith believe that Jesus is active and involved in each Rosies outreach in a wide range of ways, even when we don't notice.



I think Christmas provides another opportunity to remember that we are not alone and that we are loved. I hope that the joy of those who care reaches the hearts of everyone who needs it. Below are just some suggestions on how you might bring the Peace of Jesus and the Peace of Christmas to others.

This Christmas...

- **Give time:** Remember an old friend. Share a meal with someone lonely.
- **Give hope:** Live joyfully. Raise the spirits of someone, especially a child or someone vulnerable.
- **Give peace:** Forgive an enemy. Set differences aside.
- **Give of yourself:** Perform acts of kindness.
- **Give dignity:** Try and reach out and use the names of people you sometimes overlook and forget.
- **Give light:** Light a candle for someone's intentions. It could be in or outside a place of worship.
- **Give love:** And Christmas will be forever!

On behalf of the Oblates, I sincerely wish you all a Blessed and Peace-filled Christmas.

**Fr Michael Twigg OMI**

Rosies Board Member and Rector of Iona College

## ROSIES PRAYER

O Jesus,  
make our hearts so human,  
that others may feel at home with us,

so like Yours,  
that others may feel at home with You,

so forgetful of self  
that we might simply become the place where  
you and they meet

in the power of Your love and the joy of  
Your friendship

Amen





# THANK YOU

From Sir Peter & Lady Lynne Cosgrove

To all members of the Rosies community, volunteers, donors and supporters, Lynne and I express our heartfelt thanks for the compassion and commitment you share with the most vulnerable across Queensland.

From the earliest days of our involvement with Rosies, Lynne and I were struck by the profound humanity in the work done by so many, and it has been a privilege to help carry it out in some small way each time we attend outreach. While some may see coffee and a chat as an inconsequential act, it is incredibly impactful and demonstrates love and care for our fellow community members. A personal and authentic interaction at a time when someone needs it most can make a difference in someone's life – more than we may ever know.

Many who are struggling may find the Christmas holiday period a distressing and difficult time of year. Thank you for having the courage to stand up and let our patrons know that you care and to carry the spark of hope during what may be someone's darkest time. Your continuing generosity and support are vital to the mission of Rosies.

Happy Holidays,

**Peter & Lynne Cosgrove**



Lady Lynne & Sir Peter Cosgrove



## Friendship - A good investment

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Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Donation options

☐ Please debit my credit card: (circle one)

**Visa American Express Mastercard Diners**

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Option 1:** I'd like to make a monthly gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Option 2:** I'd like to make a single gift

☐ \$50 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1000 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)**

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☐ **Please send me information on leaving a gift in my Will.**



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