







## The sun shines on Dennis

**T**he sky was threatening while we were packing the van at the outreach room in Caloundra. Now at pre-brief, it is pouring buckets of water. The monsoon-like phenomenon does not deter the team's joyful spirit. As usual in such an instance, we head in the van to our wet weather outreach option. Our patrons know it too. They are minding the kerb on the main road for us. The van parked, our Rosies team gets the tables out and laid out donations of food are distributed. A couple of benches are put nearby for the comfort of our patrons. As always, the Team Leader ensures we are not obstructing the pathway. Dennis is sitting on one of the benches. He is enjoying a sausage roll while chatting with another patron. His meal finished, he goes to the Rosies van and orders a coffee. He engages with a Rosies Team Member.

**// Rosies gives the opportunity for people to get together. //**

Dennis moved from Brisbane to Caloundra in 2017 after losing his job the previous year. He was not in a good place. He made the decision to move on. "I needed to improve my life. I was stuck. I needed to start afresh." In February last year, while receiving counselling, he met someone in a similar situation to his, a Rosies regular who introduced Dennis to our community. He has been coming to our outreaches on the Sunshine Coast since then. "Rosies gives the opportunity for people to get together. The outreach is an outlet to come to, to enjoy the friendship, and know the Rosies volunteers. I appreciate they (the Rosies volunteers) genuinely want to know you."

Dennis considers Caloundra as being his city. He knows the place. He knows people. He has friends. He feels like he is 'home'. "I am in a better place. I am a different person." His faith helped him as well. "I was not spiritual when I left Brisbane. I started going to church in Caloundra. I enjoy being a Christian. My faith helped me. It gives me meaning." Tonight, Dennis invites everyone to spare a thought and a prayer to those who lost everything in either the floods in North Queensland or the bush fires in Tasmania.

## Rosies New faces

**W**elcome **Gabby Gastaldin** as an addition to the **Chaplaincy program** for Rosies. Gabby's role is complementary to our Oblate Chaplain with her focus on helping teams engage fruitfully in the pre-brief and de-brief process upon which our outreach model is based. Gabby spends three or four nights a week with teams and recently reported: *Team members shared their own stories willingly, and gave their reasons behind why they were attracted to Rosies, and how it's changing their lives in a positive way. It was great. Honest, heartfelt stories, without judgement.*

**Claudia Rivera** has been with Rosies for two years outreaching in Brisbane City and in Caboolture. In December, she volunteered to be our **Brisbane North Coordinator**. Claudia hopes to be a good leader and mentor to all her volunteers.

*Every night is different. Every night is special, and extremely rewarding. Our patrons respect and appreciate Rosies so much. I think it's important to remember the people who we see on the streets are no different to you or I. We are all human and we all deserve respect, friendship and a sense of belonging.*







## Ruby, a gem in Beenleigh

It is 7:00pm at the Beenleigh train station on this hot Thursday evening. The local Rosies van has just arrived. Volunteers in their red shirts are placing chairs around. A couple of tables are laid behind the vehicle where nibbles are displayed. Many regulars are already here. They come and say hello, grab something to eat, ask for a drink. Cordial is popular in summer to cool down. Some have a seat and start chatting to each other, while others stay near the van and engage with the Rosies crew. Minutes flow, and while a couple of red shirts mind the kitchenette at the back of the van, others wander among our friends. It is time to catch up since they last saw each other.

### // It's important to get out and meet people //

The outreach started a quarter of an hour ago. Ruby makes her entrance in her wheelchair. She is sight impaired. Wearing her usual VIP cap, the crowd cheers. Some were getting worried about her. She is usually there the whole time. She joins her circle of friends sitting alongside the kerb and informs her audience that her birthday is coming up this month (March). Ruby has been coming to Rosies outreach for several years. She is also a regular friend at our Brisbane City and Logan Central outreaches. The Beenleigh teams depend upon Ruby to be one of the first at outreach except for once a year when she goes on holidays up north. She has a very important role as being the teams' unofficial timekeeper! Ruby calls for last drinks ten minutes before the team packs up. She is very proud of her role. Ruby likes to join the young ones playing board games on the footpath. Tonight, a couple of girls are playing music. Ruby makes a bit of a dance move. She also loves to interact with students from Beenleigh State High School when they join the outreach.

"It's important to get out and meet people," states Ruby shaking her cane – her stick of power as she calls it. She comes to be with people. Ruby enjoys their company. She never takes anything but a cup of cordial; occasionally she will ask for shampoo of a particular brand. Ruby will often try to lend a hand picking up rubbish, despite the team's concerns she will hurt herself. She likes to help. For Ruby, a Rosies outreach is more about giving than taking. Last Christmas she contributed to the celebration by supplying ice blocks to share with others. She says another patron also handed out ice cream drumsticks. People want to share and be together in Beenleigh. Rosies is a meeting point. People genuinely enjoy each other's company.



Volunteers and patrons keep chatting for a while even though the van is packed and neither drink nor food is served at this point of time. Ruby makes a last comment this evening, "Some get food elsewhere and come here for a chat and a laugh. People stay without watching the time. That is why a Timekeeper is needed." Ruby reminds us all about the very reason we volunteer with Rosies. It is not the snacks that we serve or the drinks that we pour that matter the most; it is the time we offer to spend with our friends. They are all our VIPs regardless of what they are going through.



## Gold Coast North



Rosies Gold Coast North hosted its annual Christmas Party for about 350 people. Very generous Gold Coast businesses and local families all contributed with amazing amounts of gifts and food to make this a great day for those that are finding things tough at the moment. Also a special thanks to our many volunteers who gave up their time to help out. Kathleen and her team put in a tremendous effort to make sure everyone had a day to celebrate. THANK YOU ALL!

## Sunshine Coast



Our wonderful team from Rosies Sunshine Coast with Mooloolaba Yacht Club (MYC) Commodore at the Annual MYC Christmas Boat Parade in December. The local Rosies branch was nominated Charity of Choice for the very first time. The event was a huge success with lots of people very appreciative of the work Rosies achieves locally.

## Beenleigh



Thank you to LUCRF Super Community Program for our new BBQ trailer. At the recent BBQ the burgers were certainly well received. Everyone also enjoyed cupcakes, chocolate crackles, fudge, coconut ice and lolly bags. Donations for presents were received from the Ormeau Girl Guides, Beenleigh State High School, Relax and Shine Yoga Studio in Jimboomba, Coles, Chatswood Hills State School and a special mention to Patricia Harris who sewed bags full of gifts for all the children. Patricia also sews bags and packs our hygiene products all year round. What a great night. There were many smiles, much laughter and a perfect atmosphere for celebrating.

## Wynnum Manly



Rosies was the charity of choice at Woolworths, Mayfair Village. Shoppers were invited to purchase some much needed outreach supplies. THANK YOU to all of our lovely volunteers who came to mind the stall. The day was a huge success and we are hoping to repeat it annually to maintain our outreach supplies.

## Mareeba

Monday court outreach has proved to be an asset for those in a spot of bother in Mareeba. The team comes out every Monday with fresh, homemade sandwiches and a listening ear.



## Logan Central



Before Christmas Customers at Harmony on Carmody - a cafe in Logan City - were able to make a \$10 donation which converted to a Christmas Bauble. Rosie's Logan handed out the Christmas Baubles to our patrons. Each bauble represented a meal. The original goal was set for 30 meals. 40 of our friends came to the Christmas dinner. They were also given a \$10 voucher to have another meal later because overall there were around 117 meals paid for.

## Brisbane City



Each Friday, Mark from OzHarvest drops by to donate crates of fruit, which are handed out to our patrons on outreach in the City. The donation is very much appreciated. Many of our friends do not have much opportunity, to enjoy some fresh produce on the street. It really makes a difference to them.

## Caboolture

Many children join us on outreach. They come and draw while enjoying a cup of cool cordial. Some lovely cupcakes were made for the outreach which went down well.

## Toowoomba



Thank you Heritage Bank Toowoomba for supporting your local Rosie's branch. The team regularly helps us with outreach supplies and just recently made a financial donation as well. So kind!

## Cairns

We can never commend enough the dedication of our Cairns' teams as they outreach in tropical summer heat and rain. Hopefully we can find some permanent shelter to enhance the experience of belonging and comfort. Thanks to those volunteers and supporters who went the extra mile during the holiday season and to Council for recently committing to having the grass cut each week.

## Ipswich



As Michelle read the Creation story in Genesis the sun was setting on a beautiful Ipswich summer evening. The birds sang along the gathers volunteers to celebrate our mission and committ another year of building community among the disadvantaged. Praise the Lord.



# THANK YOU

To our many supporters large and small for your valuable support this year. Special mention to:

• Iona College • Don Barton OAM • BioPak • Catholic Religious Australia • Karen and Gavin Bird • Gold Coast Concrete Designs • Flannery Foundation • LJ Hooker • McMahon Family Foundation • Community Benefit Fund • Daryl and Carole Pryke • John Laing Charitable Trust • LUCRF Super Community Program • Rienecker family • Stephen Baker • Oz Harvest • Catholic Church Insurance Ltd

**Last, but not least, we can never thank our volunteers enough for their commitment and generosity.**

Some of our wonderful supporters who wish to remain anonymous provided over \$75,000 in the last quarter and our thanks also goes out to them.

Incredibly, over 500 donors have been supporting Rosies for over a decade – what a gift of sustained generosity.

## Quilting for friendship



The Schoolhouse Quilters Kenmore drew their raffle at their last meeting of the year and lucky Carolyn Biddle won "Our Little Village" quilt. The quilt won First Prize for a Collaborative Quilt at the QLD Quilters show last year. Lorraine Maclean also made a gorgeous bag to keep the quilt in (see photos below). The proceeds of the sale of tickets went to support Rosies.

## A gentlemen's game

13<sup>th</sup> December, 2019

Dear Rosies,

Each year, there is an annual Rugby Match between Downlands College & the Toowoomba Grammar School & afterwards, there is a massive after party that is attended by a large number of Year 12 students from a range of high schools in Toowoomba. This year, after all the expenses were paid, there was a profit of \$1000.00. The Year 12 students from the Toowoomba District have decided to donate this money to two charities that are close to their hearts. They are Rosies and Drought Relief & the reasons are simple. Many of us volunteer our time each month to Rosies to assist those individuals who are "doing it tough" & experiencing some form of crisis in their life & secondly, many of the students are off the land so know first hand how bad things are at present.

Yours sincerely & Merry Christmas.

The Year 12 students of Toowoomba - 2019.

We received the letter above signed by the Year 12 Students from Toowoomba. A cheque of \$550 was attached to the document. The letter explains the donation was collected by students at the annual O'CALLAGHAN CUP when Downlands College plays against the Toowoomba Grammar School rugby team.

A poster for the SkyPoint Sea to Sky Q1 Stair Challenge. It features a blue background with a white silhouette of the Q1 building. The text "SKYPOINT Sea to Sky Q1 STAIR CHALLENGE" is prominently displayed. To the right, a graphic shows a staircase with "230m HIGH", "77 LEVELS", and "1331 STEPS". The date "SUNDAY 10 MARCH 2019" is written in large, bold letters. The background of the poster shows a cityscape with a beach and ocean.

Rosies is Charity of Choice of the SkyPoint Sea to Sky Q1 Stair Challenge. It is a major fundraising event for Rosies. This year again a Rosies team is taking on Australia's tallest building.

<https://skypointq1stairchallenge2019.erozythema.com.au/rosies-q1-1>

# Fr Patrick Dwyer OMI 1940-2018

About twenty years ago Fr Patrick (Pat) Dwyer OMI became Rosies Chaplain and Director on the Rosies 'friends on the street' Board. He worked closely with the General Manager and many of our street outreach volunteers. Fr Pat was known for his friendly and compassionate nature as well as his empathy with those experiencing loneliness and exclusion from family and society. It was not unusual for our street patrons to enquire if Fr Pat was joining the Rosies team that night.

As an Oblate priest, Pat was dedicated to living out the mission of their founder, St Eugene de Mazonod who emphasised the philosophy of 'being present to the most abandoned' in our society. He did this through the Rosies street, prison and court outreaches throughout Queensland and in Melbourne. Former Rosies GM and life member, Bob Boardman said "I worked with Fr Pat when he first joined Rosies Queensland in 1998. He made an immediate impact with the volunteers through his support and encouragement at each team's preparation to engage with the homeless on the streets of Brisbane.



One of Fr Pat's great strengths was training and preparing the year 11 & 12 students at Iona College for their street outreach experience. His ability to enthuse and encourage the young, often apprehensive, students was amazing".

Much has been spoken about Fr Pat's Irish tenor vocals. Over the late 1990's and early 2000's he organised, recruited acts, stage directed and performed fundraising concerts in the new Iona College Performing Arts Centre. These concerts were great events and raised much needed funds for the developing Rosies organisation. Fr Pat Dwyer OMI will be remembered by us all for his dedication as an Oblate and his commitment to Rosies and its philosophy and mission. His friendliness, compassion and natural ability to reach out to everyone made him a marvellous ambassador for Rosies to our 'friends on the street' and a mentor to the Rosies volunteers. Pat's legacy will live on in all of us who were fortunate to call him friend. He died peacefully in Dublin in late December 2018. The Rosies prayer is how Pat lived his life.



## Our Patrons

- His Excellency the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
- The Honourable Mrs Leneen Forde AC, Rosies Honourable Life Member



**rosies.org.au**

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