

Keeping hearts warm this Winter



Sharing friendship creates belonging. Daring to reach out together.

Homelessness in Australia: A growing issue



In March, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) released the latest figures on homelessness. It appears that the issue has worsened since 2011 with the national rate rising from 48 to 50 people per 10,000 inhabitants. In our state of Queensland, the homeless population has risen by 14% in the last five years. The ABS highlights another worrying trend stating that nearly 60% of homeless people were under 35 years of age. Homelessness in Australia mainly affects young adults, while older people aged 55 years and over made up 16% of this population.

Meanwhile, Queensland researchers point out that young adults without social and economic support are prone to become homeless. Another study has recently concluded that young people aged 16-24 actually feel more frequently lonely than any other age group of adults. We, at Rosies, are increasing our involvement with disengaged students to support them and give them a sense of belonging.

Ref. Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing: Estimating Homelessness, 2016 [Shock findings: More than 4500 youths left homeless; Matty Holdsworth, Sunshine Coast Daily] Loneliness linked to major life setbacks for millennials, study says; Nicola Davis; The Guardian

Lonely is not just about being alone

Alone: by oneself, on one's own, all alone, solo, lone, solitary, single, singly

Lonely: isolated, friendless, companionless, with no one to turn to, outcast, forsaken, abandoned, rejected, unloved, unwanted;

While being alone can be quite revitalizing, being lonely can be demoralising. Anyone can experience loneliness, for some this may be fleeting for others it may become engrained. Loss of job, the breakdown of a relationship, domestic violence, these are some of the factors which

contribute to loneliness. These are things often not mentioned. People try to hide them, withdraw from those around them creating the space for loneliness to creep in and the emotional warmth of belonging with others becomes a distant memory.

Rosies is there for those who may not have anyone else, no-one who knows their name, their story, their pain. Sharing a cuppa, a bite to eat, a smile, a friendly face can make a difference and bring back a smile, a laugh and hope for the future.



Carried by 1200 Rosies volunteers



Photo: The Catholic Leader /Mark Bowling

As mentioned in our last newsletter Robyn Hunt, Rosies long-time volunteer and Board member, was selected to take part in the Queen's Baton Relay. As she was waiting for the baton Channel 7 and 'The Catholic Leader' interviewed her. Robyn dedicated her relay to the 1200 Rosies volunteers.

"Initially what motivates me are the Gospels. Jesus is asking us to reach out to those in need. In Matthew 25 where he says 'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me...' That's what Rosies is all about. We, as Rosies volunteers are there to help those in need and most especially the lonely, the abandoned and the marginalized. Everyone is welcome to the Rosies van. Anyone can come, join us and feel part of the community. It brings a sense of belonging," Robyn says.

"Our friends on the street often point out that they go elsewhere to get a feed, but to have someone sit with them, look them in the eye and have a chat with them – that is a different thing".

Rosies is expanding

Rosies currently has 18 street vans servicing 222 outreaches each month across 11 branches state-wide. Despite this we reach only the tip of the iceberg. Recent data released indicates that the need for human connection is ever growing. Rosies is responding to this. We are currently negotiating with local communities to develop a branch in Brisbane North and extend our reach to the southern Gold Coast.

Investigations and discussions with key local people have commenced and the enthusiasm is encouraging and humbling. The strength of Rosies is the work of our local coordinators and volunteers in each branch. Over the next few months we will begin sourcing local volunteers and local coordinating teams. We will also be making local connections with these communities to source the necessary supplies and resources for the new branches.

Over the past 31 years the local support from our communities has been tremendous and we look forward to working closely with the communities in Brisbane North and Gold Coast South as we begin to share friendship to create a sense of belonging for the marginalised, homeless and lonely within these communities.

Engaging Youth

Young adults are increasingly being drawn to activities that serve the marginalised. We see this with many of our ex-students coming back wanting to serve as adult volunteers. Their strong social justice bent is formed through the values and spiritual connections developed at school and church. Our experience on the street also tells us we are seeing an increase in the number of young patrons on the street who are seeking friendship and belonging. We will soon commence a trial of parish-based outreaches to bring these two groups together – young volunteers sharing friendship with young marginalised persons.



Young volunteers sharing friendship

Brisbane City

Brisbane has started outreach on Thursday nights at Musgrave Park in South Brisbane. Teams have met a number of new friends, including Robert who loves entertaining volunteers and patrons alike with his extensive repertoire of Johnny Cash.



Caboolture

Queensland Police Minister Mark Ryan has been a Rosies volunteer since 2005. Despite his huge job, Mark is still able to find time to give back to others sharing friendship on the street with Rosies.

Ipswich

Volunteer numbers in Ipswich have recently been bolstered by a large intake of new volunteers. All are keen to be on the street giving back to others and making a difference. While on the street they will be able to share hygiene and toiletry products which have been donated by a local organisation Bags and Backpacks of Kindness

Quotes from the street

Tonight was a bit of a feast. Quite a few people. We had 'pizzas on the street' thanks to Saranga from Iona College who made the donation.

- Wynnum Manly -

There were a lot more children tonight between the ages of 5 and 12 years of age - 8 in total

- Cairns -

Mareeba

Congratulations Jake Priestly! Jake, a student from St Stephen's Catholic College in Mareeba took part in the Great Wheelbarrow Race and nominated Rosies as his charity of choice. He covered the 140kms between Chillagoe and Dimbulah raising over \$1,000 in support of Rosies. Well done champ!



Beenleigh

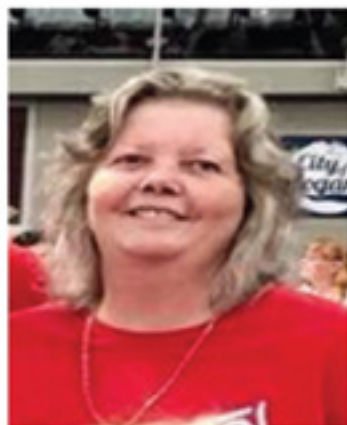
Rosies is currently undertaking an upgrade of our 18 vehicle fleet. Beenleigh has very patiently been waiting for their turn and the wait is nearly over. The new (second hand) refurbished van will arrive by the beginning of June. This will provide better serving facilities, ample seating for volunteers and sufficient room for transporting supplies and equipment.

Wynnum Manly

Rosies has been partnering with Brisbane Bayside State College to support students who are working towards their Certificate I in Active Volunteering. Students are attending street outreaches with Rosies and also hold a pop-up outreach at the Chaplain's weekly breakfast.

Rosies Wynnum Manly took part in the Chaplain's Breakfast at Brisbane Bayside College





Logan Central

Rosies has welcomed their new branch coordinator Robyn Vicars. Robyn will be assisted by her committee of Frankie, Rachel, Jordan, Brian and Brian. Big shoes to fill for Robyn but we know you will ably build on the foundation laid down by Margaret.

Toowoomba

Toowoomba City Council has a growing reputation for reaching out to the marginalised within their community. They are a long-time supporter of Rosies and have recently sought advice from the Rosies team in Toowoomba about what more they can do to assist. They open their shower and laundry facilities during Rosies Sunday lunch outreach for patrons use and will shortly be installing lockers for patrons to store their belongings. Thank you for your continued support of Rosies and those in need.

Sunshine Coast

Lions Clubs throughout Queensland support Rosies across the state in many different ways. In Caloundra, the club has supported the branch for over 10 years donating in excess of \$10,000. Rosies Caloundra is also nominated by Salt 106.5 for their 'SHINING STAR' charity support program.

We sang happy birthday to patrons, Peter & Jane.

- Caloundra -



Gold Coast

Richard 21 again!!! Richard joined Rosies in 2011 and can be found every Monday through Thursday at the Drop in Centre. He will arrive at 6:00am and work through until at least 1:00pm ensuring everyone in need has a cuppa, a bite to eat and a chat. Richard cooks, cleans, picks up deliveries, manages stock, all

with a smile and a cheery hello. Happy Birthday Richard, enjoy the next 21.

Cairns

During the recent deluge in the far north roads were cut and freight costs escalated. Transporting cups to our Cairns branch became a problem until our long time supporter BioPak stepped in. They arranged for cups to be transported to the far north ensuring no one went without a cuppa.

Lovely crowd, manners were great tonight and because there were low numbers we got to spend lots of quality time with patrons chatting.

- Logan -

A young man called Kevin went to the bakery and bought pies and cakes for everyone about \$70 worth. Just wanted to do his good deed for the day.

- Caloolture -

Our Cairns branch kept outreaching despite the weather conditions



The 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



Rosies Intentions

The cornerstone of preparing ourselves to outreach on the street is the Rosies prayer. It also provides a medium to pray for others, particularly our patrons. We acknowledge that we are one community praying and caring for each other. In Oblate style, Rosies has a prayer card with one side listing groups for whom we pray on a particular day each month.

| | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|----|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Patrons | 17 | Patrons |
| 2 | Beenleigh volunteers/supporters | 18 | Sunshine Coast volunteers/supporters |
| 3 | Patrons | 19 | Patrons |
| 4 | Brisbane volunteers/supporters | 20 | Toowoomba volunteers/supporters |
| 5 | Patrons | 21 | Oblates |
| 6 | Caboolture volunteers/supporters | 22 | Wynnum Manly volunteers/supporters |
| 7 | Melbourne Rosies | 23 | Patrons |
| 8 | Cairns volunteers/supporters | 24 | Office & Board |
| 9 | Patrons | 25 | Patrons |
| 10 | Gold Coast volunteers/supporters | 26 | Donors |
| 11 | Patrons | 27 | Patrons |
| 12 | Ipswich volunteers/supporters | 28 | Past & dec'd Volunteers & Members |
| 13 | Patrons | 29 | Patrons |
| 14 | Logan volunteers/supporters | 30 | Partner schools |
| 15 | Patrons | 31 | Patrons |
| 16 | Mareeba volunteers/supporters | | |

day Intention

A prayer for Rosies

Our Beenleigh, Caboolture, Brisbane, Ipswich and Wynnum Manly branches held their Rosies liturgies over the last three months. These liturgies offer an opportunity for Rosies volunteers to spend time together as a branch and meet with their community members and supporters. It is also an occasion to ponder on the organisation's spiritual roots and reflect on our actions within our local community.



Rosies Coming Liturgies

Each month one Rosies Branch holds a commissioning rite for volunteers as part of a local liturgical celebration. This quarter they are:

Cairns/Mareeba June 16/17

Logan July 22

Sunshine Coast September 16

Toowoomba October 21



Details to be posted on the website soon - rosies.org.au/events

Clockwise: liturgies in Wynnum Manly at Iona's Chapel, Beenleigh, at the United Church, Brisbane at St Luke's, and at St Eugene de Mazenod Parish in Burpengary



A youth mission forging futures

Our Little Prince

Unless volunteering with their schools, Rosies volunteers need to be 18 or over to outreach on the street. That said there are many ways young willing students can support Rosies and our many friends on the street.

Take Joe, for instance, a 14-year-old living in Brisbane bayside who applied for the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh Award through his school. As part of this he had to do community service. Too young to join a street outreach, he generously offers his time once a month to clean the local Rosies vans. A much needed service that truly makes a difference to our teams.

Yalari: empowering Indigenous children

Yalari is a not-for profit organisation offering secondary education scholarships at leading Australian boarding schools for Indigenous children from regional, rural and remote communities. Students are now given the opportunity to volunteer at Rosies. It gives them a first-hand understanding of how people live- particularly those who have not been given the same opportunities the students receive. Yalari students and staff joined Rosies in Beenleigh to the delight of our local patrons.

Operation ComMANdo

Operation ComMANdo from Beenleigh State High School is an intensive support provision for students with a high volume of recorded behaviour incidents, e.g. truancy. The main objective of Operation ComMANdo is to re-engage students through participation in a rigorous course. The students have the opportunity to explore the importance of human virtues through real world experiences such as joining the Rosies outreach. Students are welcomed by Rosies and patrons alike.



Joe volunteers with Rosies giving us a hand looking after the fleet



A group of boys from Operation ComMANdo joined us on outreach

THANK YOU

To our many supporters large and small for your valuable support this year.

Special mention to:

Aquinas College • Ashmore State School • Backpack Beds for Homeless • Beenleigh Regional Uniting Church • BioPak • Caltex Refinery Lytton • Catholic Dioceses of Cairns and Toowoomba • Catholic Parishes of Woodridge, Surfers Paradise, Ipswich and Caloundra • Don Barton OAM • Lanternshop Pty • LUCRF Super Community Program • Iona College • LJ Hooker • Macpherson Kelly Foundation • Missionary Franciscan Sisters • PFD Food Services • Priestly's Gourmet Delights • St Paul's Anglican Parish (Manly) • Sisters of Mercy (Brisbane) • QCF • Q.I.T.E • Q1 Stair Challenge • Small World Journey • Sold Out National Event Management • Quota International

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

Belonging

A contemporary African missionary to Australia wrote of his encounter with the Australian culture of individualism: 'On my first Sunday, morning tea was organised so that the parishioners and I could meet ... it was not long before I discovered that I was not the only stranger who needed an introduction ... Surprisingly, most of the parishioners did not know each other, at least [not] by name.'⁽¹⁾

Central to the mission of Rosies is creating community where there is none. No matter how rugged the individual we all yearn for belonging, for friends who are willing to share our journey, for people who "call me by name". When we are talking and walking together we also discover ways in which we can help each other materially.

A Rosies patron after four years on the street had finally moved into a unit. He had bought himself a TV and guitar as it was so quiet after being on the street, but that was all he had. A Rosies volunteer who knew him well offered him a piece of furniture. Another friend gave a dining table and another with a ute went to Endeavour Foundation and purchased dining chairs and a couch. Our patron is now comfortably set up in his new unit.

It all begins with friendship.



Fr Emmanuel between Thomas and Oliver during the Winter Redlands appeal

(1) Aguiyi, Emmanuel Ikehukwu, *A Contemporary Missionary*, Morning Star Publishing, 2018 p.95



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



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