

**1 in 4 of us  
will be lonely this  
Christmas season**



## 'G'day mate'



In the 1986 cult movie Crocodile Dundee, Paul Hogan played an Australian bushman. He met an American journalist who took him to New York City. While there, Dundee greets everyone on the street with 'G'day mate'. Thirty-two years later are we still saying 'G'day mate'? On our morning walk, in our work place, shops, or in our communities? G'day mate is a start that we can all make in our own world to make a difference in the lives of those who are lonely, abandoned, or marginalised within our communities. Rosies may start an outreach with 'G'day mate' but we then stay on the street to listen, to laugh, to chat, to create a community for others in our small way.

## Through words & actions



The Yeronga Catholic Parish has started a Rosies outreach at the nearby Brigadoon Boarding House to put the Good News of Jesus Christ into action. Many are those who will never read the Bible but we can share the Holy Scriptures through the way we live our lives. The outreach itself is an illustration of the parable of the Good Samaritan. Many of us in the area have walked or driven past this boarding house without thought as to who might be living there. We discovered that some are struggling, away from home and familiar faces. Through this outreach the parish community is being enriched and expanded.

## Pouring one's heart out

One of the privileges, albeit scary sometimes, as a Rosies volunteer is experiencing patrons pour out their hearts. The street environment allows for boisterous interaction as well as spots for quiet conversation. Some are happy to share their story with the group, others with a single person.

Recently a volunteer relayed: "I wandered over to two guys who were a little tentative about engaging and we haltingly exchanged pleasantries for 10 minutes. They had both experienced significant trauma in recent times so I didn't push the conversation and wandered off to sit on a vacant bench. A few minutes later, another patron who I hadn't noticed sat down near me. He was desperate to extricate himself from an environment of illicit drugs and a lack of meaningful activity. Over time we discovered we have some common experiences to engage for the rest of the outreach and we shared stories of family, faith, and the various jobs we had enjoyed during our lives. While he had suffered trauma in his life, he was able to open his heart because he could feel the freedom and trust in the Rosies environment. The other two guys will hopefully experience that freedom and trust as Rosies teams turn up in the weeks and months ahead."







## Conversing in Ipswich

**T**revor regularly comes to visit the Rosies van in Ipswich. He is well-known among volunteers and patrons alike as a 'stirrer' for the steady stream of jokes he shares. He has known Rosies for over 20 years. He first came to our van in Brisbane before moving to Ipswich to find more affordable rent. Years of farm work, then landscaping from the Sunshine Coast to the Gold Coast, left Trevor with a bad back, no longer able to perform manual work. In the 2011 floods, he and his wife lost everything when their house went under water. *"I got back the following day (of the peak) to let the cats out. I had to swim against current to get to the house. The current was so strong I drifted metres away, but I eventually made it."*

**// It's nice to meet with familiar faces and have a chat. //**

Seven years later, the house is yet to be fixed, but it takes more than that to affect Trevor's sense of humour and jovial mood.

He visited Rosies in Ipswich in the wake of the floods and has been coming to the local outreach ever since. Initially it was to get some material support, but now it is really about meeting with friends. *"It's nice to have something to do on a Friday night and to meet with familiar faces and have a chat."*



Trevor having a laugh between Ipswich volunteers Anne Maria and Dee at the Ipswich Mall

## Celebrating Sharon's life

**I**t is with a sad heart that we remember one of our dear volunteers, **Sharon Miller** who recently passed away after a prolonged illness. Sharon joined Rosies in 2010 and until earlier this year led the Saturday Night team on the Sunshine Coast. She received her Bronze Certificate from Rosies Genral Manager Andrew O'Brien (picture on the right) at our Volunteer Recognition Ceremony in 2017. Sharon's passion and commitment not only in her role as team leader but also towards the patrons was unsurpassed and will be sincerely missed. Rosies volunteers and patrons joined together to celebrate her life at her memorial service. Sharon was warmly represented by her 'Friends on the Street'.



Sharon receiving her Bronze certificate with Rosies GM, Andrew O'Brien (right). Sharon and her team at her last outreach (left).







## Cairns

Our Cairns Coordinator, Lyall (photographed between St Therese's school captains) has retired after many years with Rosies in Far North Queensland. Lyall has truly been the face of Rosies in Cairns and warmly appreciated for his enthusiasm and commitment. Thank you Lyall for your tireless efforts for the patrons and volunteers. Wishing you a relaxing time ahead.



## Wynnum Manly

Wellington Manor dipped deep at their annual soup kitchen and fundraising event to support their local Rosies branch. Lunch was a simple, homely soup with bread roll, but delicious. Thank you for your ongoing support not only financially but also through in-kind supplies including knitted items throughout the year.

## Ipswich

The need seems to be growing in Ipswich with an increasing number of patrons joining us on outreach. Volunteer numbers are also increasing to make sure everyone gets to have a chat and make friends.

Ipswich is the first branch to participate in the new containers for change recycling scheme. See how you can support Rosies and the environment on our website.



## Sunshine Coast

A huge THANK YOU to Joan Hesse for her beautiful piece of art sold with the profits going to Rosies. Her *Egret* is pictured above with Joan and Sunshine Coast volunteer Jane. The branch also celebrated its annual Rosies Liturgy at Our Lady of the Rosary in Caloundra on September 16.



## Beenleigh

The branch works in great partnership with the Beenleigh Region Uniting Church to host a lunch for those less fortunate once a month at Mt Warren Park. This is another parish initiative to reach out to those in need in the local community.

## Brisbane City

We often receive requests from the general public, companies and public figures to come and experience the reality of the street. Recently Cr Peter Matic came to his local Rosies outreach. He was deeply touched to meet people going through terrible hardship. One of our patrons told him on that night: "Just because I am homeless doesn't mean I am useless".





## Caboolture

St Eugene's College (photo above) continues to regularly attend outreach with Rosies. Meanwhile, the Molloy House at St Columban's College nominated Rosies as their charity of choice this year. Business students raised a school record of \$2,154. They also provided a trolley load of food and toiletry items.



## Logan Central

Recently, the local Mormon church has been coming along on outreach offering a meal, while Rosies shares friendship and engages with our patrons. There is a great turn out regardless of weather conditions. Patrons are always happy to chat and share their stories. It all starts with a simple gesture.

## Mareeba

During the holidays, students from Iona College in Wynnum went on an immersion mission to Mareeba. They spent time on outreach with some of our far North Queensland team. The experience was described as "awesome". One student stated: "I've been to outreach in Logan with the school and it's incredible to see Rosies in action so far away in Mareeba as well."



## Gold Coast North

Our Rosies Gold Coast branch welcomed the Bikers Making a Difference (BMaD). They braved the dreary weather to join an outreach at Baden Powell Park. Bikers combine their passion for a ride with their generous soul bringing with them donations to be handed out on the street.



## Toowoomba

St Bart's Anglican church hosted the branch's annual liturgy on October 14. Rosies volunteers who attended were very happy to experience the hospitality of the parishioners and share their experience of Rosies. Thank you St Bart's for a wonderful morning tea and the ongoing support you provide to Rosies.

**// For some people having  
someone that listens  
is all they have. //**

- Sam, St Eugene's College

## New Branch development

### Brisbane North

This new branch operating from Geebung, will commence its first outreach on Monday December 3rd. The branch will be outreaching every Monday in Zillmere on Zillmere Road near the train station and Thursday in Chermside on Murphy Road beside Marchant Park. The teams will be on the street between 7:00 -9:00pm sharing friendship with our new friends in Brisbane North. The van and BBQ trailer has been provided by a generous donation from John Laing Charitable Trust.

### Gold Coast South

Final training has been completed and the branch is ready to start. The outreaches will be held in Palm Beach on Tuesday near Lions Park and in Burleigh on Thursday in the car park opposite the bowls club. Both outreaches will be on the street from 7:00 – 9:00pm. Funds accumulated from a number of supporters, especially LJ Hooker, have been critical in expanding our presence, firstly to Nerang and now further south.

### Rosies Life Members

Congratulations to our new life members, Robyn Hunt and Evleen Waters for their extraordinary dedication and contribution.

Robyn Hunt has been a volunteer and a Team Leader for many years, and also offered her expertise on the Board of Rosies as Treasurer. Evleen was involved with Rosies for many years on the street and at the Drop in Centre. Unfortunately, she passed away shortly after her nomination for Rosies life member. Her family was present at the AGM in November to accept the Life Membership on her behalf.



Evleen Waters - RIP



### 2019 Board

At the recently held AGM Clare Burns and Peter Bolton were both elected directors to the board of Rosies. Both Peter and Clare bring extensive experience and knowledge to the Rosies Board.



From top to bottom:  
Fr Michael and Robyn Hunt;  
Evleen's family with Fr Michael,  
Peter Bolton and Clare Burns  
new board members





# THANK YOU

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

• Iona College • Flannery Foundation • LJ Hooker (Gold Coast Stakes) Race Day • McMahon Family Foundation • BioPak • Don Barton OAM • Catholic Religious Australia - Queensland (CRAqlld) • Club Kawana • Crust Bakery and Patisserie • Estate of Dolour Reid • Estate of Kevin and Wunda Whelan • Gold Coast Concrete Designs P/L • Daryl and Carole Pryke • Heran Building Group • John Laing Charitable Trust • St Ursula's College, Toowoomba • Knappick Foundation • LUCRF Super • Oz Harvest • Patricia Griffin • Paul Gorrie • Karen and Gavin Bird • Noel and Kate Doyle • Stephen Baker • St Andrew's College, Redlynch

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

Shane (LJ Hooker, Nerang) and his colleagues organised another awesome day at the races and have raised over \$100k in the last 4 years for Rosies. They have been a crucial basis for our expansion and upgrading of facilities on the Gold Coast.

## 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

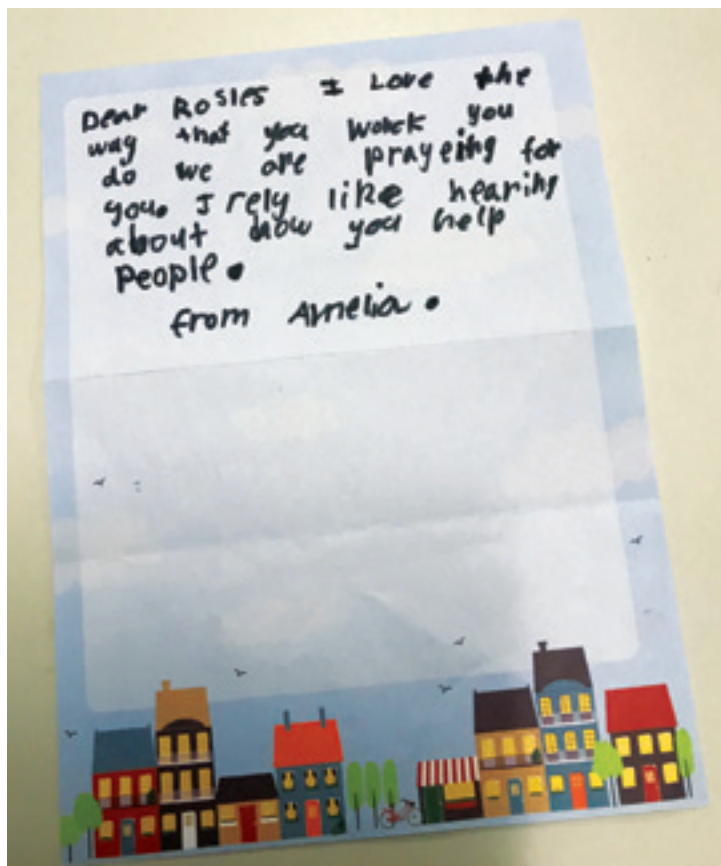
in the power of  
Your love and the joy of  
Your friendship.

Amen



## Touching hearts

Some say we touch people's hearts, but people equally touch ours both on and off the street. After our recent liturgy in Toowoomba we received many letters from St Bart's Anglican Church Sunday School students including this one from Amelia, 5 years of age.



## Farewell to our Chaplain

After 3 1/2 years, Chaplain Father John David OMI received a new appointment from the Oblate Provincial and has taken up his new ministry in Adelaide. Father John David has spent countless hours on the street sharing friendship with both our patrons and our volunteers. He continuously brought the Oblate spirit alive through his presence on the street. We wish Father well in his new role.



**Rosies leadership team,  
on behalf of all our volunteers wishes you a  
happy and blessed Christmas season.**



#### **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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