

SPRING 2020

ROSIES

Friends on the Street



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Sharing friendship creates belonging. Dare to reach out together.

Thank you to Bruce and our friends. (Note: the photo is pre-COVID-19 social distancing).

Rosies - Reach Out and Connect

2020 has proved to be an incredibly challenging year. Recent times have brought a number of changes and, for many of us, life as we know it is very different from where we started the year.

For our Rosies family, it has also brought a number of changes as we adapted our outreach model to meet COVID-19 restrictions and protocols to keep our patrons and volunteers safe. We are now welcoming new team members, and our volunteers are very happy to be back to our usual outreaches, albeit in a slightly different format.

So many friends have shared with us what a difference our regular presence on the streets makes to their lives. A hot drink is always welcomed, but by far it is the conversation and friendship our volunteers offer within each of our communities that is most valued.

Despite many cold and wet nights, our teams are seeing both familiar and new faces. Most of our friends will share a cuppa,

but others are in need of blankets, beanies, swags and street packs. With an average of 154 outreaches each week already underway, and a strong and growing need in the general community, we are so grateful to those who donate on a regular basis and particularly during this pandemic, to ensure that Rosies continues to be out on the street connecting with our friends.



School Engagement Program

We have over 70 schools registered who would usually join our teams for outreach. Students, mostly from Year 12, are given the opportunity to experience how outreach and the offer of friendship makes a difference to each and every attending friend.

After each outreach, the students and other team members are given the opportunity to share and discuss their experience. It is not uncommon for some of these young people to share the Rosies story with their

networks and strive to contribute through donation drives or return as regular volunteers once they graduate.

We are missing the street presence of our students during COVID, as are our friends. Our teams look forward to having our students return as soon as it is safe to do so. **In the meantime, we thank our school communities who continue to support Rosies through fund raising, collecting supplies and assisting with chores that keep Rosies up and running.**



In The Words of Marymount College

Marymount College at Burleigh Waters participates in the student engagement program. Throughout the year, a number of students and teachers had the chance to get involved. Students speak highly of their experiences, labelling outreach as 'enriching, humbling, rewarding and even life-changing'. Presented here are perspectives from five Marymount students and their teacher.

Rosies outreach was an experience like no other. Both enriching and rewarding, this opportunity helped me gain perspective on the world that we live in. My school—Marymount College—raises money for Rosies annually but I never truly understood how close to home this issue was until I went on the Rosies outreach. One of my fondest memories of the experience was hearing stories of the various faces, young and old. The personal growth that I experienced in just one night was massive, gaining insight into what homelessness really means. I began the night tentative and afraid and left the night with a new lease on life. The decision to be a part of the Rosies outreach was a truly pivotal moment in my teenage life, helping me mature into a young man.

Séamus

More from Marymount on Page 7

Happy Birthday!

Two of our branches recently had the pleasure of celebrating friends' birthdays on the street. With birthday cakes and a number of hot cuppas, teams spread their best wishes to well known patrons, together with others attending outreach at Caboolture and Surfers Paradise.



Pictured Right: Volunteers Robyn and Karen, with Ian in Surfers Paradise

Ian has been attending Rosies on the Gold Coast for over 10 years. He attends for the friendship, companionship and community. Every Rosies team celebrated his 70th Birthday. Thursday night at Southport, Friday night at Surfers with cake, followed by Monday night's team wearing t-shirts displaying "Happy Birthday Ian". Over a two-week period Ian received Birthday wishes from his extended Rosies family.



Pictured Left: Phil Celebrating his Birthday in Caboolture

Phil first found Rosies when attending a regular meal service provided by Caboolture Community Action. He has been a part of the Caboolture outreach family for more than five years now. Phil enjoys the social aspect and looks forward to outreach, knowing what team to expect week to week. He enjoys reciting films, songs and historical events. On the evening of his 64th birthday, Phil shared the following with volunteers: 'God is always with us leading the way and sometimes pushing us forward'. He reads the Bible daily and often shares words of wisdom.

Our Friends in Beenleigh

Richard, Andrew, and Daniel are part of our regular friendly faces down at Beenleigh. From a family of 13 children, brothers Richard, Andrew and Daniel, along with sister Alice and her family all visit our outreaches. They are dubbed "our unofficial helpers," as they are always keen to help.

Their family grew up in Woodridge, but unfortunately all the siblings were split up and lived in foster care for most of their childhood. Richard has now lived on the streets for over five years. Eventually back in Brisbane, the brothers and Alice have reunited while some of the other family members have sadly now passed away. It was about 15 years ago that Richard first encountered Rosies in the City. He was so happy to discover such a wonderful friendly community with Rosies and says that Rosies saved him and helped him survive on the streets.

Almost every week the family are out joining our teams, rarely missing a night. They enjoy the friendships that they have formed with Rosies volunteers and love to catch up for a chat and a cuppa. The brothers also say they love the food that is provided, as they often do not cook.

From all our volunteers, thank you for your friendship in return.



Pictured are brothers Andrew, Richard and Daniel

Rosies Helpers

Students of Padua helping at Brisbane North

Behind the scenes there are a number of helpers without whom, our branches would be lost. Our vehicles all require love and care on a regular basis, from checking the tyre pressure to giving it a good scrub. Every branch has their own team of volunteer helpers. Featured below are the great crew from Padua College who look after the Brisbane North van and trailer. We take this opportunity to THANK each and every helper across all of our branches - your contribution keeps us out in the community and looking great!



Pictured: Padua students keep the Rosies van sparkling

Charlotte one of our many Rosies Little Champions

The Girl Guides Badge Program empowers girls to be part of positive change and look to be a proactive influencer by completing challenges in a number of categories across different aspects of the world – home, Guiding Unit and community. Charlotte is a junior member of Girl Guides Bulimba and over the school holidays she embarked on a challenge to raise money to put together Care Packages for the patrons of Rosies in order to achieve her "Serving Others" badge. All up Charlotte was able to raise \$50 and make ten care packages containing items she considered to be either essential or important to people who visit the Rosies Van. Charlotte delivered the packages to her Grandfather, Des Williams, a dedicated volunteer in Brisbane.



Pictured: Charlotte and her Grandfather, Des

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

Thanks Paddy!

Paddy was born in Beenleigh and is now 82 years young. He grew up in a farming family in Hope Island, suffering from polio at age 3. His father became a Tram Driver in 1945, moving the family to Salisbury in 1947 where Paddy attended Salisbury State School and went on to finish his senior schooling at St Laurence's College, South Brisbane.

Paddy is a Wood Machinist by trade and has also spent time using his skills making and repairing musical instruments. Additionally Paddy has been a Justice of the Peace for over 40 years. His mode of transport was a bicycle, which he would use to travel from Salisbury to "Town" (Brisbane City) every day for work. Paddy was married in 1978 and has two sons and two daughters. For a time he drove cabs, but it was during this time that he had a heart attack, causing an accident resulting in a broken leg and 9 weeks recovery in hospital.

Paddy was also a member of the CMF (Civilian Military Forces) from 1961-1968 and served as a Bombardier. He held the position of Rations Clerk in the Medical Corp and was heavily involved in organising social dances which involved the nurses. Much fun was had at these social events! This was a memorable time in Paddy's life which he looks back on fondly.

Paddy resided in the suburb of Mt Gravatt for about 10 years before moving to the Bayside suburb of Wynnum West some two years ago. Shortly after arriving in Wynnum West, Paddy discovered Rosies through the Bayside Housing Community Centre and has been a regular patron ever since. Paddy enjoys catching up with all the Rosies teams and loves a cuppa and a chat. He now proudly advertises the news that Rosies is back - spreading the news via signage on the rear of his trusty scooter! Paddy is a passionate supporter of the Brisbane Broncos and his current words for Anthony Seibold would be **"to stay on the sideline!!!!"**



Pictured: Paddy having his haircut

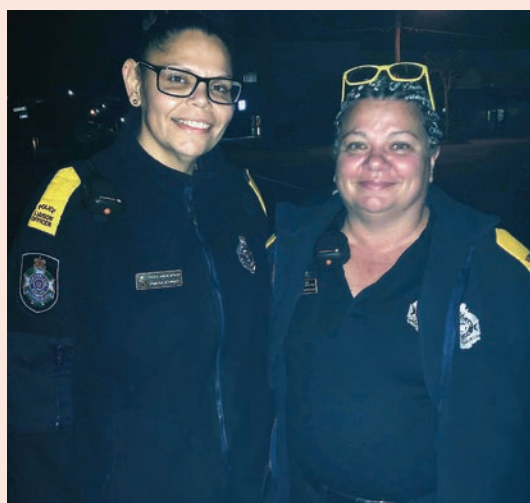
Community Support

Our Caloundra branch was surprised when they received a phone call from Seasons IGA Caloundra during the Covid-19 shutdown. This store chose to make a donation of just under \$800 to support Rosies as one of their charities through their Community Chest Program.



Pictured Above: Carolyn Wilson, Craig Baker & Sue Daly

More than ever we are grateful for the support of our Police Liaison Officers across the State. Their presence on the streets is always welcomed as they visit our teams and engage in conversation with our guests.



Pictured Above: Police Liaison Officers Tameka and Jacqui (Wynnum Manly)

Acknowledgements



Thank you to Pay A Sack Forward in Burleigh for their contribution of long life shelf items to help families during these difficult times.



Thanks to Grand Motors Gold Coast for their winter collection drive to help our friends keep warm and dry.

Pictured: Rosies volunteers Richard Zinn and Murray Goodman with representatives from Grand Motors Gold Coast

Thank you to the team at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Logan for their generosity.



Pictured: Rosies volunteers John Dalton and Karen Millwood (Logan Central Branch Coordinator) with representatives from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Rosies and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have been working together to support the homeless and vulnerable of Logan for a number of years. Every Friday night the team from the Logan Stake of the Church provides a BBQ for Rosies patrons attending Outreach. Witnessing ongoing need across the local community on a regular basis, the Church was keen to understand what more they could do to support the disadvantaged and alleviate suffering. The leadership team met with Rosies and decided to undertake a drive to provide Rosies with essential and urgent needs such as noodles, socks, sleeping bags, and

in this Covid-19 era, HAND SANITISER. Justin, Fine Fafai and the team from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will continue to feed the homeless alongside Rosies in Logan, and will continue to work alongside Rosies and the Church leaders in serving our community.

"As Elder Maurer lovingly reminded us that we serve because of our 'Love for God and our fellowmen'. May God continue to bless us all in our efforts."

A Stroke of Poetry

The pavement on this chilly night,
is cold upon my back.
My blanket wasn't where I left it,
so I'm only sleeping with my backpack.

The winter nights are pretty grim, when you
live upon the street.
I envy those who live in cars,
and can sleep on a comfy seat.

People look at me with pity,
as they pass me, on their way,
when all I want is a smile, a chat,
and hope that they can stay.

The COVID hasn't helped at all,
as the Rosies outreaches had to cease.
No Tuesday/Friday night meetups,
to help me get that inner peace.

Rosies isn't just about the food,
it's the laughter and chatter that I love.
They make you feel more 'normal' instead of a
'cast off' from above.

I used to be a professional man,
but I lost my job and family.
So, please don't judge me, I'm still a good man,
this can happen to anyone; you'll see.

Please be grateful for your warm clothes,
and a roof above your head.
Loved ones to give you hugs at night,
as you snuggle in your bed.
If you can help Rosies in any way,
through donations or your time,
please know it's much appreciated,
to help a life like mine.

by Shelagh Brennand

Marymount College

Being able to spend time with the homeless was a very eye-opening experience for me. I found it extremely rewarding being able to spend time talking to these people and hearing their stories.

Will

Arriving for the first time, I was shocked at how efficient the whole process was and how many local businesses were willing to contribute, even if it's only a little. The volunteers were friendly and welcoming and a strong sense of community was evident. I also found out about Rosies' strong focus on creating lasting relationships and meaningful conversations with those they assist. Initially, I naively assumed it was primarily to provide food. My few times attending Rosies through my school has been so rewarding. I am grateful for the organisation and individual volunteers who welcomed us and for the opportunity to hear the experiences of those people who I don't believe I would usually encounter in my day to day life.

Cameron

I volunteered for Rosies with an optimistic mindset as I truly believed that it would be a life experience that I would cherish and that would push me out of my comfort zone. Not only did it do this but it gave me great perspective on life. These individuals are everyday citizens who have found themselves in a situation which has forced them to live on the streets. These people just wish to have a conversation to share their stories to help them cope with their current issues.

Bailey

Rosies was truly a life-changing experience that changed my perspective and understanding of those less fortunate than myself. It has made me realise how lucky I am and to be grateful every day for all I have because so quickly one's life can change.

Jennaye

A teacher's perspective:

I keep going back to Rosies because I gain from the experience as much as the students do. It gives me different perspectives of life and is such a humbling experience. I also love watching our students interact with the people who are less fortunate than themselves; I can see the change in the students straight away.

Kanae

Welcome to Rosies New CEO and a Timely Reflection

Dear Rosies Family,

As the Acting Chair of the Rosies Board, it has been a significant period of activity in finding the right person to lead Rosies in this modern era.

After an extensive process of pre-screening, interviews, consultation, discernment, prayer and reflection, I was pleased to announce to the community that Jayne Shallcross became the new CEO of Rosies, Friends on the Street.

At all times of the process, I can assure you that the patrons, volunteers, team leaders, branch coordinators, supporters, donors, members and the Oblates were at the forefront of our thoughts and minds. The selection panel understood the tremendous responsibility that we had.



*Pictured: Jayne Shallcross
Rosies CEO*

We welcome Jayne in her new role and I am very confident that she will lead Rosies well and continue to help Rosies to evolve, grow and develop in a way that is consistent with our Catholic, Oblate and local heritages.

More than ever, our society is beginning to personally understand the impacts of isolation and loneliness and we hope that one of the opportunities that emerges is a greater commitment from everyone in our society to care for those in need.

We are of the belief that the Rosies Prayer continues to demonstrate the very best of our culture and values and it is included in the announcement. You are invited to bring this prayer to your heart and mind.

We believe that the combination of faith belief, Oblate daring and local determination and generosity to make a positive difference is a powerful combination that benefits many people.

I am particularly pleased to see the continuing re-emergence and re-engagement of Rosies outreaches back to a pre-COVID level. We have tried to be respectful of everyone's safety and respected volunteers own story when it comes to volunteering in this challenging period of time.

The Oblate story that founded Rosies continues to play out in unexpected and wonderful ways. The Rosies Prayer reminds us of "presence", "hearts" and "places" where the love of Jesus is able to be seen, felt and heard. By being genuinely respectful of a great diversity of beliefs, Rosies also understands that continuing to show the love of God to a neighbour benefits every person.

The Oblates feel incredibly blessed to work alongside so many valued members of the Rosies family and we know just how much beauty and goodness are created when dignity is shared between volunteers and patrons.

Thank You most sincerely for being among the great hearts of our community.

Fr Michael Twigg OMI

Acting Chair of the Rosies Board

Where can you find us on the street?

Beenleigh - South Brisbane - Nundah - Brisbane CBD - Caboolture - Cairns - Southport - Surfers Paradise
Nerang - Burleigh - Ipswich - Logan Central - Mareeba - Caloundra - Toowoomba - Wynnum Manly

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