

WINTER 2020

# ROSIES

*Friends on the Street*



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**Sharing friendship creates belonging. Dare to reach out together.**

*Photo: Thank you to our friend and Schanice (Brisbane City volunteer)*



# Messages from our Patrons

## General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK AC (Mil) CVO MC (RETD), former Governor-General



It has been an incredible privilege to have been associated with Rosies—Friends on the Street for more than 15 years, and I am a proud Rosies supporter. The mission of Rosies to reach out to those most abandoned to be present with them, offering them the experience

of community and belonging is ever more relevant in the challenging times of COVID-19 and beyond.

The COVID-19 outbreak has touched everyone in some way and has brought challenge and uncertainty to everyday life. We have all become significantly more aware of the impact of isolation on physical and mental health. For those individuals living rough, either on the street or temporarily being housed, as well as for those who are already experiencing loneliness or social isolation, the circumstances presented by COVID-19 heightens their struggle. And, as we begin to relax restrictions and move back to a new normal, it is expected that we will see even more people impacted by social isolation and feelings of loneliness.

It is during this unprecedented time that we will need to reach out more than ever to maintain connection and continue to support those who are vulnerable and living in challenging and difficult circumstances, experiencing loneliness and isolation. Having attended Rosies Outreach, one cannot help but to be moved by the strong sense of community and belonging created by volunteers and friends coming together. While COVID-19 may impact the way outreach is delivered in the immediate future, the mission of Rosies is as important and relevant today as ever.

## The Honourable Ms Leneen Forde AC, former Governor of Queensland



With winter upon us and COVID-19 restrictions beginning to ease, some people will relish the opportunity to enjoy being out and active in the colder weather. Winter, however, is a challenging time for people who are living on the street trying to stay well

and keep warm, while coping with shorter days and longer nights. Often the season brings greater feelings of loneliness and social isolation not only for those on the street, but for others as well. The impact of feeling alone and isolated during the winter of 2020 will be further exacerbated by the current COVID-19 outbreak and ongoing social distancing.

Social isolation has a profoundly negative impact on health and well-being. As social beings, people thrive on meaningful connection, with those social interactions being essential to help us to cope in difficult and stressful times. Caring deeply for individuals and creating inclusive and accessible communities helps to tackle social isolation through connection. This embodies the mission of Rosies, where all people are welcomed and accepted, creating a wonderful sense of belonging and community.

As a Patron of Rosies since 1997, and an active participant in community life throughout my career, I am very proud to be a part of this amazing organisation. The impact of Rosies mission and its dedicated, committed, and passionate volunteers continues to make a positive difference in the community and in the lives of our friends.

## Welcome to the State Manager, Pip Ahern



A big thank you to everyone for the warm welcome that I have received from everyone since joining Rosies.

It has certainly been an interesting time to start a new role, but I am very pleased to be part of the team.

With a background in community services I was most recently the Executive Officer for Disability Advocacy NSW.

A family move from the Hunter Valley back to Brisbane in late February has now given me the gift of working with Rosies.

Although outreach was temporarily suspended when I joined Rosies, I have been busy working with our teams across the organisation to explore opportunities for continued support of and connection with our friends during these challenging days. Thanks to everyone's willingness and resourcefulness, we have been able to commence some limited outreach across most branches, and will continue to expand our services as restrictions continue to ease.



## Wynnum Manly Branch A Friend's Story

Floristry wasn't something that Ros always dreamed of or even wanted to do! Her ex-husband had said many years ago that "people get flowers coming into this world as well as when they leave; they should be able to get them in between!" Ros had thought it sounded like a good business to get into. In 2013 Ros' personal and family circumstances changed dramatically and she was forced to move in with a friend of a friend. Since that time she has slept in a backyard for several nights, has couch surfed and has spent many nights sleeping rough in many different places.

She also owns a florist business in Wynnum. Without a car and to still be able to have flowers to sell in her shop, Ros catches two trains and walks half a kilometre twice a week to go to a wholesaler at Rocklea. She arrives there the night before, sleeps rough in her "Motel of a Million Stars" or if it is raining lovingly referred to as "Motel of a Million and One Raindrops" so that she can be purchasing her flowers by 4:15am. She walks back to the station with arms filled with flowers and catches the 5am train back so that she arrives in Wynnum by 6am, ready to drop the flowers at the shop, buy a few coffees at the 7Eleven Store and meet some of the locals at the foreshore for some connection and conversation. Ros always tries to buy locally grown flowers, not imported as she says "we need to help each other".

Ros is a firm believer that everyone needs to do some type of work for their own independence, self-worth and sense of achievement. She is eligible for government assistance but has always chosen not to, preferring that people take responsibility

for themselves whilst at the same time looking out for each other. Ros has a deep faith that she will be safe and that her "needs" will be met, in whatever form that takes. She has definitely had her fair share of life's challenges but prefers to take each day as it comes and to always look for the positive in every situation.

## Burleigh Branch A Friend's Story

Susie came to visit Rosies Burleigh six months ago. That night she told a small group of volunteers that she didn't think it was worth living. We sat with her for two hours and she told us her story. We listened and she cried a lot. We hugged and asked what she wanted to do to improve her life. The next day she admitted herself to hospital for help where she has been for six months.

She came back recently to thank us for our friendship and kindness. We chatted about her making changes in her life and her next step; about finding accommodation and she wanted to return to work again. Sometimes we think we are not doing very much but we are all making a difference in our patrons lives. Susie told us that she will be forever grateful to Rosies.



# Rosies with a difference

## Toowoomba

Our Toowoomba Branch Coordinators visited the Wilsonton Community Centre taking some supplies to share with their guests. Many of our Rosies friends from our Wilsonton Sunday outreach would attend the Centre and be able to collect some of

the items. Klaus who is involved with the local PCYC (featured in photo) had been making boomerangs at the centre. Jim and Fay were delighted to see him as they often pass him on their daily walks and have a quick chat over the fence.



## A Heart so Human

Rosies have been working together with Iona College to support frontline healthcare workers with vital Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) mask frames and personal messages of gratitude and support. Production has commenced and through Iona's 3D printers, an estimated 15,000 mask frames will be created and distributed to Metro Health. Within each bundle of 10 frames, a personal handwritten message of a grateful heart.

The Rosies prayer makes special mention of the heart, making hearts so human that others will feel at home with us. While Rosies core mission of presence has had to be necessarily altered during the COVID-19 era to keep everyone safe, members of the Rosies community were invited to prepare a message of gratitude, support



and love to our healthcare workers as part of our mission of human connection. Through the Oblates, Rosies and Iona bring together the mission and charism of St Eugene de Mazenod who indicated that when charity and love were requiring new needs, we invent new means.

Thank you Fr Michael and Judy (Wynnum Manly volunteer)



## Wynnum Manly

Silky Oaks is a local organisation in Manly who provides a broad range of individual and family focused services. Silky Oaks encourages a collaborative approach between different organisations and support networks in the community to provide a more meaningful and holistic service for their clients. We were very proud to be able to pay forward our contribution of fresh produce from Oz Harvest for them to share with individuals and families doing it tough during these unprecedented times. Thank you Reanne (Silky Oaks) and Helen (Wynnum Manly volunteer).



## Brisbane City

In conjunction with Jeays Street Red Cross Community Centre, a few of our Brisbane City volunteers have been able to offer patrons hygiene packs with a takeaway coffee and friendship, albeit from a distance and very briefly.

Our friends were so excited to learn we would have a

presence with the hot breakfast offered by Valley Hearts. Friends were also offered fruit and vegetables inside the centre while Orange Sky Laundry was also in attendance down the end of the park.

Brisbane volunteers will continue to attend from 4pm - 6pm on Mondays and 9:30am - 11:30am on Thursdays.



Thank you to our friends and Brisbane City volunteers, Jaime and Maithri.



## Reflection of Fr Christian Fini OM

My name is Fr Christian Fini OMI, and I am the Provincial of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, the religious order that founded Rosies Queensland and Victoria. I have a great passion for the Rosies Ministry, something that I have been involved in for over 28 years.

My first experience of Rosies was as a Year 12 student at Mazenod College Victoria, and I continued volunteering as a university student, and as a seminarian I was asked to be the Coordinator of Rosies Victoria. As a priest, I have been chaplain and also part of the Rosies Queensland Board for three years. Over several years I helped out with Schoolies on the Gold Coast and was privileged to enjoy it again last year for the first time in a few years.

Rosies has had a massive impact on my life, and it is probably why I joined the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Rosies shares the Oblate charism, which was handed down from our founder St Eugene De Mazenod. He had a passion for reaching out to the "most abandoned", to those who were neglected by society, not just to feed or educate them but to treat them with dignity and make them feel fully human and alive. While we are good at

providing practical support, "friendship" is not something that we can quantify or qualify; however, a kind word and a warm smile are essential to the wellbeing of every individual.

When I think about the mission of Rosies I think of the final lines in the Rosies prayer, "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."

While the current global pandemic may have slowed us down just a little, I am confident that we will continue to find new and creative ways to deliver this powerful ministry of presence to those in need in our communities.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the volunteers who give of themselves so generously and make Rosies such a unique experience for all those who encounter the mission.

I would also like to thank our generous donors who make it possible to keep our vans on the road and the coffee and tea flowing.

May God bless each of you and keep you safe during these difficult times.



# Thank you to our supporters

The Lions Club of Caloundra very kindly donated the partial fitout of our new Sunshine Coast Branch van to make the inside more user friendly during transportation of volunteers and essential items and for serving purposes. We are ever so grateful for the ongoing support of The Lions Club.



A shout out to all our schools, for both their regular donation drives and their presence on the street through our School Engagement Program. Without **your ongoing support**, we would not be able to continue **delivering our** mission to our friends on the street and the wider community.



Top left St. Augustine's College, top right Moreton Bay College, bottom left Unity College, bottom right Caloundra Private School



# Rosies Winter Appeal

We need your help to keep our patrons warm this winter!

While our friends have seen a little less of our friendly Rosies faces due to the strict restrictions imposed during the Covid-19 Pandemic, we expect to be back on the streets with our post-pandemic Outreach very soon.

This is likely to be just as our friends are finding it harder to keep warm during the cold winter months.

Please help us to help our friends on the Street by making a donation that will see us able to provide more than just the warmth of conversation and connection.

We urgently need the following items

- Sleeping Bags
- Blankets
- Socks
- Cuppa Noodles

*Please new items only for hygiene purposes*



As the demand continues to grow and we also expect our patron numbers to increase across the state, we would appreciate help with ongoing collection drives to aid with our usual outreach supplies.

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| ✓ long life milk | ✓ milo          |
| ✓ muesli bars    | ✓ cordial       |
| ✓ coffee         | ✓ tea           |
| ✓ sugar          | ✓ bottled water |
| ✓ biscuits       |                 |

Donations can be dropped off at Head Office on Tuesday or Thursday between 9am and 3pm. Should you need to make alternative arrangements, or sending donations direct from a store, please contact us via phone 07 3396 4267 or [media@rosies.org.au](mailto:media@rosies.org.au)

## New Covid Special Street Pack Items

- mini tuna • baked beans
- spaghetti • sardines
- small fruit jelly cups • mini cereals
- mini UHT milk (plain or flavoured)
- individual chips • nut snacks
- fruit packs • fruit poppers

## 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





## Reflection Fr Michael Twigg OMI

After serving Rosies in various capacities over 30 years in both Victoria and Queensland, I humbly offer to act as Acting Chair of the Rosies Board for the next period of time. Essentially the role is one of support and guidance for the Mission of Rosies and my most important task is to express gratitude and prayers for every person who belongs to the Rosies family. This era of community social isolation has helped us all see its challenging impacts on health, wellbeing

and care for others. I am very pleased to see that there are ways that Rosies is creatively and safely finding to be involved in the care for others. The Rosies prayer asks us all to connect the hearts of Jesus with our own and the community. I feel very reassured that all of our hearts are beating as one as we face the challenges of this era with a sense of hope. Take Care, Stay Safe and God Bless

Fr Michael Twigg OMI

### 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

### Friendship – A good investment

Please return your completed form and donation to PO Box 908, WYNNUM QLD 4178

First name \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Gift details - I would like to donate (over \$2 tax deductible)

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$ 500

☐ \$ 1,000 ☐ Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment options

#### ☐ Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

Commonwealth Bank BSB 064 451 Account No. 1003 7818

Reference No. <your name>.

Please also email us a copy of your bank

EFT receipt to finance@rosies.org.au

#### ☐ Cheque / Money order

Enclose and make payable to Rosies Youth Mission Inc.

#### ☐ Debit / ☐ Credit Card

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX ☐ Diners

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name on the card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



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