



## JULY 2022

### Welcome to the July edition of Roughies Reflections

Dear Gabriel,

Past the half-way point of the year! End of financial year can be both stressful and exhilarating. I have to confess that I do love the excitement of raising money for a cause I love. Our Winter Appeal was a terrific experience. I feel grateful for the goodwill and generosity of our donors who helped us get to the wonderful result of a little over \$70,000 by 30 June. Thank you so much!

With all the uncertainty in our community about rising Covid cases, it is yet to have a negative impact on patrons coming to Rough Edges. By the end of June, the number of meals we are serving continues to rise. We are also likely to have more referrals to our Banksia Women program than last year. We share some stories from Jenny our Case Manager further on. I hope that, as you read these, you can see the very practical help we are providing women in very difficult circumstances.

Reflecting on a recent conversation I had at Rough Edges with one of our patrons, I couldn't help thinking about the crazy turns our lives can take. He was someone I hadn't seen previously, but we connected pretty easily. He told me about the difficulty of living in temporary accommodation while he waits for a permanent place through social housing. His present situation is not great. He talked about the frustration of not knowing when he will be able to move out of his limbo state. Yet, there wasn't a note of bitterness or entitlement in his tone.

I learned that he had lost work a couple of years earlier due to the knock-on effects of Covid. He also spoke about struggles with mental health. In a relatively short space of time, this articulate, friendly and gentle man was effectively without a permanent home. His life had turned on 20 cent piece. Being a place of welcome, where a stranger could listen to his story was the setting he stepped into that night at Rough Edges. I told him that I wished I could do more. I still do. That wish is taking hold of me and I hope it doesn't let me go.

Thank you for allowing us to provide a place of welcome and for offering practical help where we can.

Very soon I'll be writing to you about our plans for Roughtober. Save the date for **21 or 28 October**. More to come.

Every blessing!



Gabriel, CEO

## **A Service of Prayer and Hope for the work of St John's Community Services**

We are holding a special service at St John's in August. Details are below

Thursday 11 August: 7:00 pm

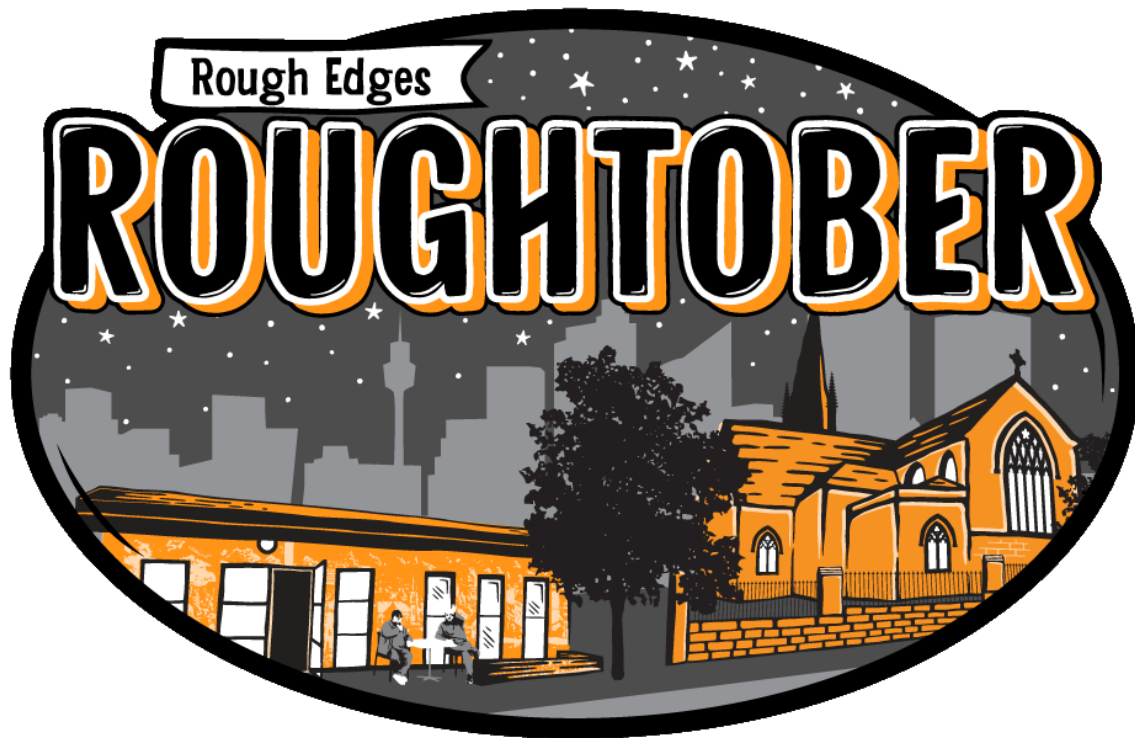
St John's Darlington, 120 Darlington Road, Darlington

Guest Speaker: Sydney Anglican Archbishop, Kanishka Raffel

All welcome!

A light supper served afterwards.





**Planning for Roughtober 2022 has begun** and we are excited to once again be hosting the event onsite in the grounds of St John's Anglican Church. Recruiting supporters starts next month, but if you are thinking of forming a team with your workplace, church or school group, please reply to this [email](#) to let us know so we can set up your team's fundraising page!

This year the dates will be:

- **Friday 21 - Saturday 22 October - SCHOOLS AND YOUTH**
- **Friday 28 - Saturday 29 October**
- Or if you'd prefer to sleep in a private location, you can choose your own date and we will supply you with some resources to use.

## **What does a Banksia Women case worker do??**

Banksia Women provides an important service to survivors of domestic violence, but sometimes it can be hard explaining to people what we actually do. Because of their experience of trauma, things that might seem simple, like applying for affordable housing or Legal Aid, become insurmountable tasks for people who've left domestic violence situations.

[Click here](#) to read three stories shared by Banksia Women case worker, Jenny Law, of ways she's supported women who were struggling to cope in their different circumstances.



## An Urban Walk

A lesser known impact of the lockdowns on our services has been the number of Urban Exposure tours we have had to cancel. This year we have provided over 50 walks, with another 43 booked in. Most of these are for school groups, but we also provide walks for corporate groups and other community groups.



The tours are led by people with a lived experience of homelessness, who share their story while offering a unique perspective of life in Darlinghurst/Kings Cross. Each brings their personal experience to their tour, and will touch on areas of drug addiction, HIV, mental health, trauma and recovery. It is an eye opening experience which gives insight into the lives of real people, promoting empathy and understanding.

Our walks cost \$495 (including GST) and can be booked for groups of up to 20 (and we can provide up to four walks concurrently). If you are interested in bringing a group along, please email [naomi.escott@stjohnsanglican.org.au](mailto:naomi.escott@stjohnsanglican.org.au)

## Regular Programs

- [Rough Edges](#) Sunday - Friday 7.30-9pm
- [CAPP](#) aka "Daytime Rough Edges" Wednesday and Friday 12-2pm.

- [Banksia Women](#) Survivors Connect Wednesday 11am-1pm. Kids and pets welcome  
[Click here](#) to see our other services
- [St John's Legal Service](#) is open for telephone appointments and in-person appointments on Thursdays.
- Our five week cooking skills program Thursdays 12pm-3pm has just finished, and a barista training program will be starting soon. Contact Rough Edges for details.
- [Orange Sky](#) Laundry at Roughies every Friday (11am-1pm)
- **St Vincent's Health clinic**, every Friday night during Roughies
- [Pass it on Clothing](#), every third Friday of the month
- **Short Back and Sidewalks**, free haircuts last Friday of every month at Roughies

[Donate](#)

All donations to St John's Community Services are tax-deductible



**ST JOHN'S COMMUNITY SERVICES**