



**EdmundRice**  
FOUNDATION  
AUSTRALIA

# REACHING OUT

PRESENCE | COMPASSION | LIBERATION

[www.erf.org.au](http://www.erf.org.au)



## Dear Supporters,

In early January, Purity Achieng, one of the students from the Mary Rice Centre in Nairobi had a terrible accident in the Kibera Slum. Purity was walking close to the train line that bisects the slum and was unfortunately hit by an oncoming train. She was dragged one hundred metres and has lost both legs and an arm. Since Purity's horrific accident a remarkable collaboration of care and support has taken place that gives testimony to the strength of the Edmund Rice Network. In those first vital days after the accident the Mary Rice Centre and the Christian Brothers of East Africa met with the Achieng family to assist with Purity's emergency medical needs; a week later, Louise Allison organised a 'pop

up' fundraiser in Melbourne that raised enough money to support the ongoing costs for Purity and her family; then the O'Brien family organised a donation to purchase state of the art rehabilitation equipment to be used not only by Purity but all children at the Mary Rice Centre; Br Olly Picket and Br Gerard Brady organised delivery of a specially adapted wheel chair and finally two nights ago I rang QANTAS to organise delivery of the wheel chair and other supplies for our projects in East Africa. From the other end of the phone I heard the following, "Edmund Rice Foundation. My son goes to an Edmund Rice School. QANTAS will be happy to waive all costs for the freight to Nairobi".

The Edmund Rice Network is an extraordinary gift for the poor. I could list so many more stories similar to Purity's story. At the heart of each story is collaboration and I believe this is the cornerstone of all our development activities. In 2015 the Foundation will continue to engage with communities throughout the world, listening to their story and working collaboratively to bring about sustainable change to the disempowered.

**Anthony Ryan**  
Chief Executive Officer



Ear screening Port Moresby



John Couani at Gerahu PNG

## PROJECT UPDATES: OCEANIA

### Edmund Rice Services

#### *Maasin, Philippines*

Community Based Rehabilitation is central to the work at Maasin. Eye and Ear screening of children and adults was the major activity. In the last quarter of 2014 a total of 1,344 children and 147 adults were screened from 12 schools. Refracted errors were identified, 53 were given reading spectacles and others were referred to optometrist. 440 children had impacted ear wax and 29 had otitis media. Medicines were provided and written instructions were given so that home management was initiated before the follow up visit. Sessions on primary care of eyes and ears were delivered to parents and teachers across the schools of Maasin. Parents and teachers received this new information well. The traditional way of taking care of their eyes and ears, which was quite inadequate, will now change. The mobile Ear Clinic continued to conduct screening to Leyte Province. A total of 2,923 children were screened in 15 schools. Other community development activity included Human Rights Awareness sessions to over 600 Year 6 pupils in 20 schools. Parent meetings were conducted in 8 Assisted Schools to discuss the activities planned by the parents including skill/livelihood training, school and backyard gardening, savings schemes, sourcing of funds as start up for their planned small business, assisting each other, and food processing training. Delivery of the above required collaboration and networking with the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Education and Local Government Units.

### Edmund Rice Services

#### *Kabankalan, Philippines*

This was the first full year of the Community Engagement program. From a development perspective it was clearly very successful, as it addressed the needs of very poor communities identified and articulated by themselves. Initial targets set by the communities were all met. One of the communities had a period when difficulties occurred, but they sorted their problems, moved forward, and are now doing well.

Our approach to Community Engagement involves a form of micro-finance through interest-free loans. In the first four communities, a total of \$1,200 was loaned. The loans were completely refunded within seven months. Second tranche loans were then made allowing expansion of operations. A total of \$3,700 was involved, and regular repayments are received either fortnightly or monthly. Word is clearly spreading, making new communities quite enthusiastic to be part of the program. A fifth community in the Community Engagement program was granted funds to commence their livelihood projects. Contracts were signed by all active members. By the end of the year there were eight communities in this program. A Strategic Planning session was held recently setting objectives and targets for this year with a projection for 21 communities to be involved by November 2015. The Alternative Learning System was upset with a series of postponements of the National Examinations. Two weeks before the test was due the date was changed. Then two weeks before the new date, it was changed again.

### Callan Services

#### *Papua New Guinea*

St Pius X College Chatswood has for a good many years supported the work of Callan Services through the Edmund Rice Foundation. Last year, Mark Casey (Assistant Principal) and I visited Callan Services in Port Moresby, Vanimo and Wewak. Our visit was to experience first-hand the social, educational and health services as well as the geographical situation in Papua New Guinea and to develop an understanding of the work of a Special Education Resource Centre. It is astounding that throughout PNG there are only 23 centres for persons with disabilities and of these 19 are conducted by Callan Services making it the largest provider for the country. They are making a huge difference to help these students who have disabilities such as hearing impairment, sight impairment, mobility issues and speech and learning difficulties. Callan Services are providing transformative work making a real difference. In particular, its work in early detection has a profound impact. Utilising an inclusive education model, Callan Services successfully integrates students with disabilities and assists in transitioning some students with disabilities into mainstream classes – with some outstanding results. Our visit to Callan Services PNG clearly reflected the extraordinary efforts of all involved throughout the 19 Centres and it is with deep admiration and appreciation that we offer our sincere congratulations and thanks to Br Kevin Ryan and his team for their work serving the students and families of these wonderful communities.

#### **John Couani**

*Principal – St Pius X College, Chatswood*





CER Ambulance in TL

# PROJECT UPDATES: AFRICA

## Comunidade Edmund Rice East Timor

The CER Health Team, in partnership with the Timorese Government Health Department, offers constant support of health care across 5 villages in the mountains of Railaco. The team consists of a nurse, a mid-wife and an ambulance driver. They work in cooperation with the Government doctor, nurse and administrator. They use the recently renovated clinic (by American Naval Engineers) based in the village of Railaco Leten as their treatment centre. Patients mostly make the long walk from their village to the clinic for consultations. The Health Department provides regular immunization and corn powder supplies for young babies. Among the illnesses treated are TB, chest infections and infected sores on legs & arms. Regular blood tests are administered & pregnancy checks made. The life expectancy of the Timorese people is in the mid 50's, but it is on the improve. CER operates a mobile clinic in a converted Land Cruiser, visiting the villages across the rough terrain, and a donated ambulance for emergency cases going to Dili. In 2014 the team saw 4667 patients, the mid-wife assisted 59 mothers giving birth & the ambulance made 225 trips to hospital for ill patients & women wishing to have their babies in a hospital. The CER team makes itself available 7 days a week. The support of the Foundation keeps us operating and is deeply appreciated by all involved for the health improvement of our people.

**Frank Hennessy** *cfc*



## Mary Rice Centre *Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya*

This year there are 42 disabled children being assisted, 34 at the centre and 8 on outreach program. The work of the Centre is provision of basic learning skills to the children, provision of adequate information for access to free or affordable health facilities within the local community, provision of meals at the Centre and facilitating parents to start income generation activities through micro-finance. There are also workshops on addressing issues affecting people with disabilities to sensitise the community to the needs of the disabled. The number of children enrolled at the centre has increased, last year there were 20 on the waiting list. New successes have been in the management of children with epilepsy as parents have been helped to access medication free or at affordable prices, through micro-finance there are 14 parents can now earn a sustainable income, and through the outreach program 8 children have benefited in therapy services - 4 children can now sit and respond to stimulus. The pre- vocational skills program has provided alternatives for children cannot comprehend academic skills with skills in bead work, creative art, modeling and tapestry. The centre has 5 staff and 2 volunteers. A promising new program is being introduced to guide understanding of motor development skills for 2 to 6 year olds with intellectual disabilities where most of the time is spent within home environments either with parents or caregivers.





*Eldoret Bead Making*

## Education for Life

### *Eldoret, Kenya*

In the west of Kenya in the town of Eldoret the Education for Life program endeavors to protect the rights of the children, people living with HIV/AIDS and affected families including orphans and vulnerable children, widows and widowers, poor families and old guardians living in the slum areas of the town. This is in line with the United Nations Convention of Child Rights. Through payment of fees, purchase of uniform and text books, the children have a chance to get holistic education which will not only benefit them but also their vulnerable families. Some of the children will get a chance to join vocational colleges for other which lead to personal development and the society at large. Successes are that all clients of EFL are involved in income generating activities guided by EFL, children are going to school, there is a child protection policy in action, there is improved livelihood among the clients, more support through the clients welfare support. There is also more openness in reporting cases of abuse of rights. There is evidence in change of attitude in schools among the groups who have benefited from the program. We have 450 children who are going to school. There has been initiated poultry and vegetable farming for food supplements for the clients. They have formed groups and contribute to assist each in times of difficult such as when one is bereaved or terminally ill.

# SOUTH SUDAN

Despite signed peace agreements the civil war rages on, displacing hundreds of thousands of poor people, and involving forced boy soldiers. Even though the fighting has not extended to the western regions of Yambio and Nzara, economic instability and shortages of food and commodities has greatly increased.

## STAR Support Group *Yambio, South Sudan*

In 2014 1,236 did benefited from Home Based Care Support and through workshops. Statistically, 250 male clients 755 women have so far benefited from the workshops and home based care support. In addition to 400 orphan children did benefit from the project for the last one year though workshops and the first Saturday gathering for the children. Home based care support entails; provision of food stuff i.e. beans, rice, Sugar, salt and soap. The first Saturday of the month, the orphan children do have their monthly meeting and this is aimed at supporting the orphan children. The dependency syndrome has been reduced making the clients more responsible. The dispensary is fully being supported by the Government and the clients are now receiving the ARVS drugs in the Government hospital. Through networking the project has been supported in terms of provision of farm tools, seeds to plant in the garden and all these initiatives is geared towards the reduction of the monetary resource used to buy the food stuffs from the market thus a vision to locally produce the crops from the garden a strategy for nutrition support for the members. Currently the project is in a way moving towards increased sustainability that is making the members to own the project and become responsible and become independent.



*SOG patient receiving treatment at Nzara*

## Comboni Hospital *Nzara, South Sudan*

Despite the national crisis, the hospital is achieving magnificent results for the 50,000 people of the area. Many come from beyond for the specific services of the TB program, the Leprosy program and the HIV/Aids services. Progress made towards achieving the long-term vision and outcomes has included increased knowledge and skills of medical staff through training, improvement of the quality of the service through new basic diagnostic tools, and adequate accessibility to the hospital services for the whole community. This is evidenced by increased number of trained medical staff and the proportion trained/non trained is changing in favour of trained staff, more accurate diagnosis leading to better outcomes by early referral, adequate treatment plan and patient follow up, and the number of Out Patient consultations (33,190) has increased compared with the previous years (29,000 in 2013, 24,600 in 2012, 18,747 in 2011). Specific developments were the purchase of a new laboratory machine and the donated UltraSound machine, participation of some hospital staff to a short course on basic midwifery organized by WHO/MSF in Yambio hospital, 3 certificated nurses have completed their training and returned to Nzara and another 3 have begun training. The quality service of the hospital in very difficult conditions is a great credit to Sister Sara and her staff.



## Br Beausang Catholic Education Centre *Embulbul, Kenya*

The public recognition the school received in the Transform Kenya Award and great success in the co-curricular area have lifted morale and profile considerably. The Award placed Brother Beausang as runner up in the Education category from over 6,000 nominations. The boys' soccer team competed in the national championships after being crowned the Nairobi region champions and the girls' netball raised the bar by winning the county championship, followed by similar success in athletics, scouts and science competitions.

The two major projects for 2014 were the construction of a netball/basketball court and the borehole project. The fee installment scheme introduced to assist parents in their planning and in spreading the fee payments out across the year has proved of help for many families and will continue in 2015. The Pastoral Care and Counselling departments provided great support for many students and families and their work was a strong feature of the school. The senior year (KCSE) results were very satisfactory but mathematics and the science subjects remain the biggest challenge for the students. Enrolments are 804 (400 Primary and 404 Secondary). There was general acclaim when the Principal, Peter Shanahan, was re-appointed for a further three year term. The BBCEC Strategic Directions plan has five key areas: Community, Resources and Facilities, Pastoral Care, Excellence and Sustainability. It is the latter that will require close attention to ensure financial viability into the future.



BBCEC Lunch time



ERSSS student assembly

## Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School *Arusha, Tanzania*

The year began with a new Headmaster, Br Simon Kaswahili, a Tanzanian who comes from Br Beausang in Embulbul with ideals and enthusiasm that have already challenged the staff and students to approach their opportunities as having the potential to change not only their own lives but those of others.

The Brothers have moved away from the school site allowing their former residence to be converted into boarding accommodation for the Form 1 boys who were formerly off-site. Another wing has been added to the girls boarding wing and at last all boarders are safely on the school site. There are 1100 boarders, mostly from Maasai villages, and 300 local day students. Sponsorships for students from very poor backgrounds are limited to locals.

The demand for places pressure continues as academic results continue to improve. Recently the results of the National Examinations for both Forms 2 and 4 were published with ERSSS continuing to rank in the top 8% of schools in the country, an excellent outcome considering that most of those ranked around ERSSS are small select entry schools. Nationally only about 65% of students pass. At Edmund Rice all except 2 of our 440 Form 2 and 4 students passed. Over 50% of the Form 2 students achieved the highest grade, Distinction. It has been an exciting start to the year, and it is confidently believed that it will continue this way.

## Ruben Centre *Nairobi, Kenya*

The Ruben Centre provides key community development programmes to one of the largest slums in Nairobi. The primary school being the main offering on the site was substantially enhanced by the opening of the 24 new classrooms. The Nairobi governor commended donors for committing themselves to projects that benefit the less fortunate in the community saying the project at Ruben Centre will benefit many generations and will be a model school for other projects. The governor also ordered the county lands chief officer to get the title deed for the land where Ruben Centre rests as well as to identify "grabbed" land and repossess it for the purpose of building a high school in the next 12 months. The clinic continues to serve a huge clientele with ever increasing capability through more trained staff, donated equipment and greater access to medications through effective networking. The recent review of the strategic plan gave Ruben Centre a clean bill of health but also highlighted two issues that require attention in the 2016-2020 strategic plan. Of key focus were the issues concerning partnerships and advocacy. Advocacy came out very strongly as a strategy to promote people's rights and help maintain control over their lives. Creating more linkages and partnerships with the wider community was seen as a strategy of creating sustainability of Ruben Centre through capacity building, use of experts and improving the profile of the organisation.





## TRI-UMPH FESTIVAL GEELONG

Geelong's four Catholic Secondary Colleges unite every three years for a major fundraising effort, with the proceeds directed to those most in need. 2014 saw the third festival, all of which have been held at St Joseph's College Newtown. This year St Joseph's hosted 5500 secondary students and 600 staff members. The organising committee made up of students from the four colleges was coordinated by St Joseph's College staff member, Mrs. Rebecca Westwood.

Triennially United to Make Poverty History (TRI-UMPH) is a music festival with over 50 performers and 200 special guests. The 2011 Festival raised \$43,000 and

the 2014 total was \$62,000, which was directed to our nearest and poorest neighbour, East Timor. Beneficiaries included schools and ministries supported by the Edmund Rice Foundation in Railaco, the Baucau Teachers College and a number of schools in Viqueque, Geelong's sister city.

College Principal Mr. Paul Tobias described the day as "triumph, because it demonstrated how today's youth can be trusted to organise events and to act responsibly." The College's key values of Compassion, Innovation & Integrity were clearly evident both in the planning and the implementation of the day.

## FUNDRAISING EVENTS 2015

### May 5

*The 500 Supporters' Group AFL Luncheon – MCG*

*Jonathan Brown - Guest*

### May 15

*ERF Networking Event Brisbane*

### June 19

*Abruzzo Club Dinner Dance - Melbourne*

### August 7

*Edmund Rice Dinner Brisbane – Royal International Convention Centre (Ekka)*

### August 29

*Zimele Dinner  
– St Kevin's College, Melbourne*

### September 4

*Rainbow Ladies Luncheon Brisbane*

### September 25

*Rainbow Ladies Luncheon Melbourne*

### October 17

*Terrace Timor Network Annual Fundraiser, Brisbane*

### October 16

*Friends of Africa Golf Day, Melbourne*

### October 25

*Zimele Walkathon  
– Yarra Bend Park, Melbourne*

### October 27

*The 500 Supporters' Group Spring Racing Luncheon – MCG*

### December tba

*GOA Edmund Rice Race Day  
– Doomben Racecourse, Brisbane*

For booking details visit [www.erf.org.au/events](http://www.erf.org.au/events)

## THE WEST GETS ON BOARD

CBC Fremantle, Trinity College, Bindoon Agricultural College and Aquinas College form the Western Australian schools of Edmund Rice Education Australia. This year our Western EREA schools will further support the Edmund Rice Foundation through contributions from their school communities in particular through parent contributions. The Western EREA schools believe that Christian Service-Learning must play an integral part in a boy's education. Together with a dynamic spirituality and religious education program, all students experience a wonderful encounter with life by being involved in all areas of Religious and Service Formation. Together, all members of our Western EREA schools communities are challenged to make; 'every day at Aquinas a better day for others'; whilst Trinity is 'creating men for others'; CBC are 'educating tomorrow's gentlemen'; and Bindoon 'seeks to inspire each person to become optimistic, hopeful and fulfilled'. Irrespective of individual school banners we all come under the same philosophy; a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition. This philosophy links to the values and commitment of the Edmund Rice Foundation. There is no doubt these financial contributions to the work of the Foundation will assist local and global change through responding to poverty and injustice. May this Western EREA schools engagement continue to grow and flourish.



Mark Sawle



ACFID  
MEMBER

Edmund Rice Foundation (Australia) is an accredited member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)



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I would like to support the work of the  
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- ☐ **Africa Projects** (supporting education, health and community development)
- ☐ **Oceania Projects** (overseas projects supporting education, health and community development)
- ☐ **Australian Projects** (local programs supporting disadvantaged youth and families)

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**Please accept my donation for the amount of \$**

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Signed

## CHEQUE

**For overseas projects** please make cheques out to Edmund Rice Overseas Aid Fund

**For Australian projects** please make cheques out to Edmund Rice Foundation

☐ Indicate interest in Immersion programs



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**Thank you for supporting the Foundation and liberating those in the poorest regions**