

# Reaching Out

## Coming Events

To support works for the poor and disadvantaged in Africa, Oceania and Australia.

### **Brisbane** **Edmund Rice Dinner**

Saturday, 21 May, 7pm, Great Hall, Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.

Both the Edmund Rice Dinner, Brisbane and the Edmund Rice Cocktail Party, Sydney (see below), support development projects in East Timor, PNG and the Philippines and the work of the Christian Brothers with indigenous people, refugees and asylum seekers, initiatives in justice advocacy and work with young people at the margins. Guest speakers: Cameron Clyne (CEO NAB Group), Wayne Bennett (NRL coaching legend) and Pete Murray (leading singer, song writer). For details contact Anthony Ryan on 0435 963 091.

### **Melbourne** **500 Supporters Group AFL Luncheon**

Tuesday, 10 May The AFL Luncheon is to be held in the Olympic Room at the MCG. The 500 Supporters Group twice yearly luncheons provide funding for health and education projects, supported by the Foundation in East Africa. For booking details visit [www.the500supportersgroup.org/](http://www.the500supportersgroup.org/)

### **Sydney** **Edmund Rice Cocktail Party**

Saturday, 20 August, 6pm onwards. Venue and guest speakers to be announced. For details contact Anthony Ryan on 0435 963 091.

(continued page 2)

## Reaching Out to Others

The year of 2011 has been marked by a series of natural disasters within Australia and beyond. Devastating floods in Queensland and Victoria followed by the terrible earthquakes in Christchurch and Japan have gripped the world's attention. In the midst of these tragic circumstances there have emerged many inspiring examples of people reaching out to others, a powerful reminder of our need for each other.

This edition carries news of Foundation - supported projects in Africa, East Timor, PNG and the Philippines and activities of our Australian supporters. The plight of people in these developing countries is not in the world's headlines. The provision of education and health services is not guaranteed by governments there. When disaster strikes there, the response is not as we have seen in the developed countries.

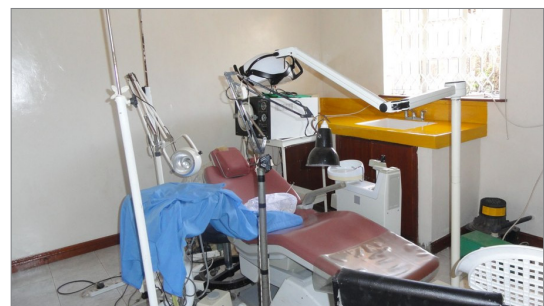
On behalf of the unseen and unsupported poor, we ask for your support to enable the development projects in education and health to continue.

Br Bill Wilding  
Foundation Board Chair



## Community Engagement

New Director Br Frank O'Shea, well known to our many supporters, is working closely with Ruben School Principal, Scholastica, Mildred the Clinic Head Nurse and Sara the HIV/Aids counsellor. Some marvellous things are happening for the students and Frank has listened to what the community has told him about the spiralling violence, incest and drug use in the Mukuru slum. To increase safety and reduce the vulnerability of the slum children, the school will be open as many days as possible to provide sanctuary, food program, sports activities, educational and life skills.



*Renovated Dentist's Room, Ruben Centre*

There are now 1700 students in the primary school and clinic numbers are increasing. Sara and her staff have commenced a men's group and eighty men from the slum aged 17 to 25 years have attended an inaugural and follow up men's group in the school hall. This is a very significant community engagement and the staff and Frank are to be commended for their care for the whole community. The men report feeling happy and a part of the Centre now. The Ruben Centre team is a wonderful group of committed, visionary, passionate Africans who, in concert with Frank, will move the project to the next level and introduce robust sustainability and community engagement.

Visit Ruben Centre's new website at [www.rubencentre.org](http://www.rubencentre.org)

## Coming Events

*(continued from front page)*

### **Brisbane Terrace Timor Network Annual Fundraiser**

Friday, 17 June, 7pm, Brisbane Riverview Hotel. TTN's Annual Fundraisers support Christian Brothers' health, education, and development projects in East Timor. Contact Dympha on 0409 059 737

### **Melbourne Zimele Foundation Dinner**

Saturday, 25 June Zimele Dinners held at St Kevin's College, Toorak, provide generous support for the Ruben Centre and Br Beausang School in Nairobi Contact Tom Purcell at purcellt@stkevins.vic.edu.au

## Philippines

Recently, Brs Rod Ellyard and John Moodie completed five years working with the local community in Kabankalan. Rod, in his role as superintendent of Catholic schools, works to improve access to quality education through supporting local programs in the poorest rural areas. With two Filipina teachers, John has developed an alternative Learning Program to assist young people in getting back into mainstream schooling. The establishment of a similar project is under discussion in Maasin, where Brothers from Oceania and India are in dialogue with the local people. The establishment of a joint project in the Philippines would be a first for the Brothers' Oceania and Indian Provinces.



*Learning the basics, Kabankalan, Philippines*

## Milestone at Embulbul

The release of the 2010 Kenyan Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) results was met with much delight and celebration at Brother Beausang School. Daniel Kuria, the 2010 College Dux, became the first student to achieve an A grade in the KCSE. This is a significant milestone in the short history of the school, considering the first group of candidates sat for the KCSE only in 2007. There was also a marked improvement in student performances in Categories B & C.

Once news of the results became known, the whole school community fell into a celebrating mood. The current students carried the top students shoulder high in a parade through Embulbul village. There was much excitement (and curiosity) as the villagers joined the parade. The results have proven to be a major boost to our work as it has raised the confidence of the community

about the school. Congratulatory calls were received from across the country (and outside of Kenya).

It is worth highlighting that Daniel and a number of the other 'top' performers are currently volunteering at the school, including tutoring students and working in the library in both primary and secondary – evidence that the Edmund Rice spirit is alive and well in our graduates!

It is also relevant to note that nearly all the top students were sponsored through the Christian Brothers Foundation program. As a school community, we join in thanking all our supporters, particularly the Christian Brother's Foundation for their financial and moral support, the parents for believing in us, the efforts of all members of the staff and the students themselves who lived up to our motto - *Carpe Diem*.

Catherine Gathogo, Head Teacher (Secondary)



*Trophy Winning Football Team, Br Beausang School.  
Br Francis Otieno, Principal, far right*

## Embulbul, Nairobi - Kenya

Early 2011 has seen the completion of the construction of 6 new Primary classrooms to first floor level with all underpinning and structural works. Additional funding is needed for the completion of the primary school block (12 classrooms in all) and amenities, water collection and drainage works.

## Edmund Rice Secondary School, Arusha - Tanzania

Edmund Rice Sinon continues to be a real oasis in the hub of the village and very student focussed. For some months, the whole school community has been engaged in a strategic planning exercise to identify priorities over the next five years, covering curriculum and resources and the development of local leadership. Other priorities include additional classrooms and security fencing for the student hostels.



## Justice Products

The Terrace Timor Network (TTN) has launched a new website at <http://www.justiceproducts.org/> to promote the sale of JUST Coffee and handmade cards and Tais products.

The TTN, a group of current and former parents, staff and students of St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace, Brisbane, is a not-for-profit organisation supporting the design, production, marketing and sale of unique locally made quality Timorese products. All proceeds are returned to the makers and their communities in Timor Leste.

TTN works in partnership with Comunidade Edmund Rice (CER), the Christian Brothers ministry in Timor Leste, which supports projects and initiatives in health, education and economic development. These projects are undertaken in partnership with local rural communities in the mountains beyond Dili. Initiatives are chosen that will make a real difference to the people as they seek to build futures of hope and opportunity for their families.

Timorese families grow and harvest a premium organic coffee in the Ermera district of Timor Leste, roasted by Blue Sky Coffee to produce a rich, mellow, high quality organic coffee.

The coffee crops are family ventures which enable extra rice to be purchased for households, or to further educational opportunities for the children. JUST Coffee purchases enable you to support economic development within regional Timor Leste.



*Weighing the coffee beans, Ermera District, Timor Leste*



*Card Making, Railaco Kraic, Timor Leste*

A Coffee Tree Pruning Project to be undertaken in 2011 will provide farmers with expert on-site education by agriculturalists from the Coffee Cooperative Timor. Over the next two years an increase in coffee yield of approximately 30% is expected to result from proper pruning. Funds generated from the sale of JUST Coffee will be used to supplement the reduced income of the farmers whilst they participate in the pruning project.

More than 52 women are employed in an Arts and Craft Co-operative in the hills outside Dili at Railaco Kraic. Beautiful and reasonably priced handmade occasional cards and gift tags highlight traditional Timorese weaving (Tais). The range features both Timorese and Australian themes and includes bookmarks and wristbands. A popular item among young people are the Bro-Bands, which are available in the many colours of the Tais rainbow.

Every purchase of Justice Products contributes directly to supporting sustainable activities as the Timorese move towards creating a life of hope, choice and independence for themselves and their families.

## Mary Rice Centre, Nairobi

In late 2010 the Mary Rice Centre, along with a number of other community agencies, unexpectedly lost its home when the Kenyan Government compulsorily acquired land for road construction and many dwellings and sites were bulldozed. This valued and important service, which supports vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people with physical and intellectual disabilities from the Kibera slum, is now operating from a small local Catholic primary school and was reopened with great local community celebration on February 9. Ongoing funding is needed for the provision of programs and activities.



*Children Singing, reopening Mary Rice Centre*

## PNG

Our congratulations to Br Cliff Fogarty for his excellent production of a new video, recently released, on the work of Callan Services in Papua New Guinea, which can be viewed at <http://www.vimeo.com/album/1529536>. Callan Services is a major provider of education and training for people with disabilities generally and children in particular.



*Callan Services National Unit, PNG*

## South Sudan Votes for Independence

Following a negotiated ceasefire and five years of uncertain calm after 50 years of civil war, a referendum in January saw South Sudan vote overwhelmingly to separate from the north. This has been ratified and formal separation will take place in July. However, the new nation will be largely bereft of the operations of a viable state with education, medical services and the civil service in a parlous state. An additional scourge of the war has been a huge spread of HIV/Aids.

For 20 years the Christian Brothers have had a presence in Yambio, a large centre near the borders with the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda, contributing significantly to the secondary school, teacher training and health services.

Readers of Reaching Out will be familiar with STAR, a support group formed in 2003 for people living with HIV/AIDS. At the time, Christmas was approaching, so STAR was chosen as the name because it was the Star that gave hope and direction. This project continues to operate as one of very few providers of services for people living with HIV in the Yambio district.

Star Support Group has around 1100 programme users and is now under the direction of Canadian, Br Bill Colford, who is assisted by a program co-ordinator, a nurse and two counsellors. Services include home based care, practical support and counselling for patients and families, prophylactic medicine as available and community education to reduce infection rates and improve care.

Br George Gikonyo newly arrived in Yambio and working in Star Support Group wrote recently:

*As you all may be aware, South Sudan is celebrating its separation from the north. This separation may mean a lot more than a line separating the two nations. This may also mean a bigger separation between the poor and the rich. As the rumour goes - when war began those who had resources and those who got opportunity through the help of international communities left the country to further their education and to seek for greener pasture. Those who didn't get this opportunity, especially the warriors of the land, remained and all they could do was to join the army and fight. This became their daily routine and they earned their livelihood from it, whatever that may mean. My main worry is what will happen to those who went to the bush and had no opportunity to go to schools. I have had firsthand experience when children come to our gate with desire to learn but they have no school fees, the system is becoming expensive and, again, only those who have can afford. Yambio community happens to be in the middle of this revolution. We have the chance to influence this new nation and with your support we will, with confidence, immerse ourselves in it.*

Visit Our Website:  
[erf.org.au](http://erf.org.au)

## BRING HOPE WITH HEALTH & EDUCATION

I would like to support the work of the Christian Brothers' Foundation (please select a box)

- ☐ Health & Education in Africa  
☐ Health & Education in Oceania (PNG, Timor Leste, Philippines)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Payment Method:

- ☐ Cheque (payable to **Christian Brothers Foundation Overseas Aid Fund**. All donations are tax deductible)  
☐ Credit Card ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Amex ☐ Diners

\_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Expiry (mmyy)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Post: **Edmund Rice Foundation, P.O. Box 819, Parkville, Vic 3052**

Fax: **03 8359 0137**

Email: **info@erf.org.au**

Please send completed form via fax, post or email to: