

Reaching Out

New Executive Officer

The Foundation is delighted to announce the appointment of Anthony Ryan as Executive Officer. Anthony has had a long association with Christian Brothers' education in Brisbane as a past student of St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace and as a teacher at Nudgee College, St Joseph's Gregory Terrace and as assistant principal at St Patrick's College, Shorncliffe. A change of career then saw Anthony general manager of a small aviation company. For the past 7 years Anthony has been the founding director of the Mimiki Foundation (a position from which he has resigned upon accepting his current role). The Mimiki Foundation is a significant provider of aid and support for the homeless community of South East Queensland and a number of agencies supporting marginalised youth in South Africa.



Anthony Ryan
Edmund Rice
Tapas Evening,
Sydney,
November 2011

The Foundation welcomes Anthony who brings insight into development work for the poor, a breadth of educational experience and the energy to make a difference. He is already making great advances in assisting the formation of the Queensland and NSW Chapters of the Foundation.

Bill Wilding cfc
ERF Board Chair



Leadership ERSSS - Centre: Headmaster, Br Francis Nkwabi
From Left: Deputies, Joseph Githenji & Yacini Kimaro

Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School

ERSSS commenced the New Year welcoming Br Francis Nkwabi as Headmaster with Joseph Githenji and Yacini Kimaro as deputies. Two new science laboratories and a sick bay constructed during 2011 are now in use with the former science facilities having been converted into computer rooms. These developments were completed with the landscaping of adjacent lawns and gardens.

New Science
Building and
landscaping
ERSSS



At present, three Australian volunteers are partnering a Tanzanian teacher in Form 1 in a special programme emphasising an interactive style of learning, language acquisition skills and cooperative learning. The volunteers include Eddie, an engineer and past student of St Joseph's, Geelong and Eoin, a teacher and former student of Trinity College, Colac.

Br Beausang Catholic Education Centre

The 2012 school year commenced in early January with an orientation day for the senior students in both primary and secondary who later in the year sit for their respective national examinations. This came only a week after the release of the 2011 primary results which saw the school achieve its highest mean average since the first group of candidates sat for exams in 2004

A significant event at the end of 2011 was the farewell to Francis Otieno after completing his three year term as Principal. Francis is well known to many in the Foundation and in Australia, particularly after his trip in June last year for the Zimele Foundation dinner. The new leadership team is Mr Peter Shanahan as Principal and Brother Simon Kaswahili as Deputy Principal.

The 2012 Form One students recently commenced and the process of selection was a difficult one with nearly two hundred applications for the ninety available positions. Particularly pleasing was the large number 'Beausang' primary students who elected to continue their education at the school.



BBCEC Principal, Peter Shanahan, Head Teacher, Eva Njagi & Deputy, Mary Madida with KCPE High Achievers

A recent arrival has been St. Kevin's College, Toorak, past student, Dan Code, who is working at BBCEC as a volunteer until May. Dan first visited Kenya with Tom Purcell's Zimele Foundation group in 2009. Dan is working as a tutor in Business Studies as well as helping out in P.E. Dan is BBCEC's first long term Australian volunteer

ERS – Maasin, Philippines

In the Philippines, **Edmund Rice Services** operates in partnership with the Catholic Dioceses of Maasin and Kabankalan across the provinces of Leyte, Southern Leyte, and Negros Occidental. While ERS Kabankalan has been in operation for around 5 years, work on the establishment of ERS Maasin began only in mid-2010. In Maasin, under the leadership of Br Paul Coster, a team of 4 Brothers and Filipino staff comprised of education, health, welfare and



Office Renovations
ERS Maasin

liaison personnel are involved in the provision of education and disability services.

In terms of educational support, the ERS Team in Maasin is engaged with needy government schools and the provision of schooling and back-to-school support for children and young people who are not attending on account of poverty. The disability services team is establishing prevention and rehabilitation services for visually and hearing impaired children. A screening program in urban and rural areas focuses on prevention, detection and intervention in regard to hearing and sight issues as well as the detection of signs of malnutrition. Medical referrals are organised as appropriate. ERS teams carry out frequent school and home visits. A significant project, currently nearing completion, has been the renovation of the former Diocesan Social Action Centre which will serve as central office for ERS Maasin.

ERS – Kabankalan, Philippines

Br John Moodie shares another story from ERS Kabankalan's Alternative Learning System.

At age 7, John, the eldest of three, lost his father to cancer. At 14 he dropped out of school to support his family and enable his brothers to remain in school. He worked selling herbal medicines, escorting local children to and from school and collecting scrap.



At 16 John joined ERS Alternative Learning System. He eventually gained his High School Certificate, which enabled him to move on to a vocational course. John chose tailoring. Eventually he graduated and received his Diploma. Currently



he is seeking a position in one of the tailoring businesses in Kabankalan. Now 19, John has developed into a quiet confident young man, determined to take opportunities and to continue to support his family.

Ruben Centre – Nairobi, Kenya

The New Year has commenced with great energy and enthusiasm with the Centre Team participating in a facilitated weekend workshop on leadership and management. Ruben Primary School celebrated the results of four Grade Eight students who achieved exceptional results in the 2011 KCPE examinations, with top student Beatrice attaining a result only slightly below the top mark in the country. Beatrice has high hopes for the future and hopes to study medicine because she believes that Kenya needs more doctors who will stay in Kenya and serve the needs of the people. With opportunities, disadvantaged students can achieve as well as anyone. In the words of one, *Even if you come from a house made from iron sheets, your brains are not made of iron sheets.*



Ruben Management Team with Director, Br Frank O'Shea, at Right

During the Christmas New Year break Ruben maintenance crew built a new kitchen and maintenance workshop. The kitchen features five large stoves and serves breakfast each morning for Grades 1 to 3 as well as providing lunch for all 1700 students attending Ruben Primary School. Ruben Clinic, which is now treating around 50,000 patients a year, has taken a leap into the 21st Century with the setting up of a computerized database replacing the old card system. To date, over 11,000 patients' details have been entered, which is enabling the integration of services. Data Recorder, Elizabeth, is a product of the Ruben Education system. Late 2011 saw the establishment of Wangari Maathai Memorial Garden, named in honour of Kenya and Africa's only female Nobel Peace Prize winner. The Garden has been designed using permaculture techniques. It is hoped that it will assist households in Mukuru slum with improvement in food security and provide Ruben Centre with food throughout the year

An exciting development is the establishment of Ruben FM radio station (presently set up in a converted shipping container). There is great expectation of a successful outcome to their application for a broadcast licence. The station will serve the residents of Mukuru. There will be an emphasis on community access and participation and staff are being trained to deliver accurate and culturally appropriate information. Periodically, evaluations will be conducted to monitor and assess the effectiveness of the station as a tool for social and economic change. ([visit www.rubencentre.org](http://www.rubencentre.org))



Pictured centre is Sr Lorna on one of her supervisory visits to Callan Services Goroka Unit.

Callan Services National Unit – PNG

Callan Services Mental Health Programs are part of CSNU's focus on building an inclusive society where people with disabilities are welcomed and can participate in education, work and community life. These programs enable persons living with a mental illness to live full and productive lives in their communities. Co-ordinator of Callan Services Mental Health Programs throughout PNG is Sr Lorna (Franciscan Sister).

Also at Goroka, text books and lesson materials at Sacred Heart School are transcribed into braille by Br Cosmas Manau for visually impaired students. Br Cosmas also assists teachers with guidance and teaching strategies that enable visually impaired students to be integrated into regular classrooms.



STAR Support Group – Yambio, Sth Sudan

The promotion of a healthy lifestyle to reduce infection rates and the provision of support in working towards self-sufficiency, remain important elements in STAR's community education program for its many members who are living with HIV/AIDS. In early 2012 STAR hosted 3 workshops facilitated by German natural therapies professional, Frauke Siedenburg,



STAR Workshop participants arriving

who has been working with Catholic Church health agencies in South Sudan. These workshops provided practical advice on how to support the immune system with local natural healing plants, tapping in particular into the wisdom and culture of the local Azande people. This provides a valuable adjunct alongside western style medical care in a region where such is limited.

The first workshop included the creation of a herbal garden at STAR Centre. To encourage participants to set up their own gardens seeds were distributed, including the quick growing Moringa, the African variety of which has been used to combat malnutrition because the leaves contain essential amino acids and are rich in protein, vitamins and minerals.



Terrace Timor Network

The TTN, formed in 2006, facilitates a partnership between Comunidade Edmund Rice (CER) in Timor Leste, the community of St Joseph's College, Gregory

Terrace, Brisbane, and the growing network of Edmund Rice communities across Australia.

During 2012 the TTN will be continuing to foster its partnerships with volunteer health practitioners whose time and expertise has been resulting in amazing projects in support of better health outcomes for the Timorese. Ongoing financial support for preschool and primary teachers in CER associated schools will continue to be a major focus as will support enabling Australian Catholic University 4th Year students to complete placements in CER related schools. TTN is hopeful that discussions with ACU and other educational organisations may lead to further student placements across other professional disciplines. The highly successful Terrace Yr 10 immersion program will also continue to be encouraged. In 2011, through its association with BlueSky Coffee, TTN roasted and sold over 1 tonne of organic coffee. (visit: www.justiceproducts.org/)

Australian Volunteers in East Africa



Sam with students at BBCEC

Coming Events

May 7

The 500 Supporters' Group AFL Luncheon – MCG
Supporting Health, Education & Community Development projects in East Africa

Booking details will be available at
<http://www.the500supportersgroup.org/>

May 12

Edmund Rice Dinner Brisbane – Great Hall, Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre
Supporting Oceania Province development projects in East Timor, PNG & Philippines and Australian projects supporting impoverished youth and families

To book visit <http://erf.org.au/events/>

June 1

Terrace Timor Network Annual Fundraiser
Supporting Comunidade Edmund Rice health, education & community development projects

Booking details will be available at www.justiceproducts.org

June 30

Edmund Rice Dinner Sydney – Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre
Supporting Oceania Province development projects in East Timor, PNG & Philippines and Australian projects supporting impoverished youth and families

To book visit <http://erf.org.au/events/>

August 25

Zimele Foundation Dinner – St Kevin's College, Toorak (Melbourne)
Supporting Star Program, assisting people living with HIV/AIDS, Yambio region, South Sudan

Booking details will be available at
<http://zimele.org/events.html>

October 30 (date to be confirmed)

The 500 Supporters' Group Spring Racing Luncheon – MCG
Supporting Health, Education & Community Development projects in East Africa

Booking details will be available at
<http://www.the500supportersgroup.org/>

Reaching Out – Available in Electronic Format

In future, Reaching Out will be available in electronic format. If you would prefer to receive Reaching Out electronically, please email your request with your name and postal address to foundation@edmundrice.org and you will receive Reaching Out via email, which will enable a significant reduction in administration costs. The electronic format will include a link to enable online donations. The option of receiving hard copy via surface mail will remain and Reaching Out will continue to be available on the Foundation's website.