



Edmund Rice Volunteers and Immersions Victoria and Tasmania



HADITHI ZETU

(our stories)



Third Edition

April 2012



SPECIAL IMMERSION EDITION!
 • 2012 "TUTEMBEE PAMOJA"
 EAST AFRICAN IMMERSION
 • LAKE MUNGO IMMERSION
 - WALKING ON MUTTH MUTTHI LAND



From the 3rd of January 2012, thirteen eager Edmund Rice adventurers from Melbourne and Tasmania set off to Kenya and Tanzania for a month of cultural exchange, learning and immersion. Hosted by the Edmund Rice Karibu Youth Group in Nairobi, and young Edmund Rice Camp leaders in Arusha, the group spend time participating in camps with up to 100 children, on placements at a juvenile remand centre, a Masai girls school, a centre for children with disabilities and a children's village (to name a few!) and engaging in a genuine and sincere way with the people and communities they encountered. They experienced language barriers, rides on buses packed full of people and tasted and cooked many new foods – the experience was one which, for many of the group, changed the way they viewed the world around them. It was an experience of solidarity, new friendships and walking together...

"We've swapped thousands of stories about East African and Australian culture and people to dispel the single stories"



**If Eddie Rice saw us here today he would be proud that young people living far from each other have banded together for justice. He would say:
 "Right on! This is just the beginning!"**



"We met as strangers and now we are friends!"



A reflection from Godfrey

Isali...

**Secretary Edmund Rice Karibu Group
Nairobi, Kenya**

We met as strangers and saved each other in our hearts and as we soldier on in the spirit of Blessed Edmund rice, we realized the spirit is getting stronger and stronger and we feel we have a family in Australia and you have a family in Kenya.

The last Karibu immersion activity with the Melbourne group was marvelous. Every one showed their tenacity and determination to use every ounce of energy.

In the Bible we have parable of two sons, one is reluctant to do anything -he resists being involved "why should I swallow gallons of dust? Why should I give myself to those grotty, snotty-nosed kids? They don't belong to me. I am not their mother, their neighbor, father, anything let me rest. So! Yeah! These are the thoughts of the son, may they be mine, But God has disturbed me. I may not be doing too well in my own life but I have at least received education, spiritual formation and am able to model the dream of Jesus that all should be included in the circle of love. The other son says yes!! Without thinking, without passion, mere words "oh Yeah", oh there's a camp, an immersion. Yeah, COOL I'll be part of it but he doesn't turn up. So too may find resistance within me, excuses not to be part of the EDMUND RICE SPIRIT and the BIG BROTHER, BIG-SISTER MOVEMENT. But I have allowed myself to be disturbed by the voice of the spirit. "I can do something I am an agent of change" Says the spirit in me. And I come all the way... to make a change and hey! Yes I did it.

As we reflect on the Eddy rice spirit and the passion of Jesus for the children, let us all think of the experiences we had in East Africa and specifically the respective placements that we visited. The young single mothers, Mary Rice Centre, the schools (St. Juliet's, St. Christens and St. Stephens) Most importantly Kibera slums, the camp leaders you met and not forgetting the place you called home for one month.



We get the best feeling in the world when we communicate to each other and even if it's just saying hi or even just smile at each other electronically, because we know even if it's just for one second that we've crossed each others mind, because we don't want to say that we miss each other, though deep in side we do because we are afraid we might see through and know how much fear we have of losing each other.

On behalf of the Edmund Rice Karibu group I wish to say thank you guys for the effort you made to make sure the camp was good, thanks to those who supported this project. Friends and families. In a special way I wish to thank Katrina and Brenton (aka Samaki) for the leadership skills they portrayed for that one month, it was not easy but you cracked it. Kudos. THANK YOU and see you soon.



Walking on Mutthi Mutthi Country...

Lake Mungo Indigenous Immersion March 2012

Aboriginal Catholic Ministry/Amberley Edmund Rice Centre

Vicki Clark, a Mutthi Mutthi woman and old friend of the Edmund Rice Network, invited us to come and be with her and her family, to listen to and learn from them and to experience something of her culture of Lake Mungo and Balranald. Lake Mungo is a place of immense cultural significance. Vicki shared with us her Grandma's belief that this is 'the most cultured place for the Mutthi Mutthi people' and is a significant place for all Australians. Evidence of thousands of years of life has been preserved by the Mungo landscape. The moving sands at Mungo are continually revealing ancient campfires, footprints, tools and children's toys. My experiences at Mungo have left me with the strong sense that wherever we walk in Australia we are walking on land that has been walked on for thousands of generations. Vicki's family continue to live on Mutthi Mutthi land, in the river country at Balranald. The stories of Vicki's family in Balranald are amazing in their strength and achievement, running against the grain of dominant discourses on contemporary Aboriginal culture. These stories were shared with us by Vicki's Aunties, Uncles, cousins and their grandchildren. These stories and the contributions of Vicki's family to the area go, however, largely unrecognised. My experiences at Balranald continue to invite critical reflection on our broader cultural narratives and their silence on the roles of Aboriginal people.



The Amberley Edmund Rice Centre and the 2012 Tutembe Pamoja East Africa Immersion Group invite you to...

a night of story sharing

Come and join a group of young adults from the Edmund Rice Network who journeyed to Kenya and Tanzania for a month of walking in the footsteps of young Edmund Rice volunteers in these places.

Share a BBQ meal, and then relax into an evening of creative story telling.

Sunday 29th April 2012
4-8pm

The Edmund Rice Centre *Amberley*
7 Amberley Way Lower Plenty

RSVP: Monday 23rd April 2012

Brenton & Katrina

(03) 9439 8282

brenton@amberley.org.au

For more information regarding Volunteer and Immersion Programs in Victoria and Tasmania contact:

Brenton Carey brenton@amberley.org.au (03) 9439 8282 0419 389 920

Katrina Powell katrina@amberley.org.au (03) 9439 8282 0403 150 997