



EdmundRice
FOUNDATION
AUSTRALIA

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REACHING OUT

PRESENCE | COMPASSION | LIBERATION

www.erf.org.au

CEO'S MESSAGE

I am writing this first letter for 2013 from the transit lounge of the Johannesburg International Airport en route to facilitate the inaugural Gone Fishing Immersion Program in Nairobi for the next 18 days. The Gone Fishing Program is aimed at providing a unique opportunity for corporate leaders who are looking for a meaningful and challenging international professional development program. The immersion provides firsthand experience of the projects supported by the Foundation. Ten business people from around Australia are attending the first program. Please go to our website or contact the Foundation for further information.

You will notice in this edition of *Reaching Out* that the breadth of the Foundation has changed in that Australian Projects are also a focus of our support. In particular, we have made a commitment of \$250,000 to Edmund Rice Camps in 2013. I encourage you to read the Edmund Rice Camps section in this *Reaching Out* in order to further understand the wonderful work being done for Australian youth at risk. The Foundation is also looking to develop stronger relationships with the network of Edmund Rice Schools throughout Australia. This year each Headmaster and School Principal of the Edmund Rice schools has committed to profile the projects supported

by the Foundation to the families in their community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each school for its extraordinary support of the development projects both in Australia and overseas.

Finally I would like to encourage you to continue to support the Foundation. Last year was our most successful fundraising year and each of our projects has been able to enhance their delivery of services to the communities in which they work. Thank you once again for your support.

Kind regards,

Anthony Ryan
Chief Executive Officer

PROJECT UPDATES: OCEANIA

Comunidade Edmund Rice

East Timor

Comunidade Edmund Rice (CER) is continuing to enhance its educational work in Preschools, Primary Schools and the Vocational Centre in Gleno, Community Development, Health Care, Coffee Production and Sales, Computer Education and Card Making. For 8 weeks during Term One, CER was most fortunate to have Katrina Powell from Brisbane, who in-serviced the Primary Teachers. Katrina also embarked on a demanding community development program. As a fluent Tetun speaker from previous years in the district she was warmly welcomed everywhere. This year's building project involving students from St Laurence's College,

Brisbane, St Edmund's College Ipswich and St Patrick's College, Shorncliffe, will be the construction of a Motor Mechanics Workshop at the Vocational Centre in Gleno, which assists teenagers in developing skills for employment. Currently, the Centre offers courses in Computer Education, Administration, Hospitality and Food Technology.

The work of Br Peter Coe in setting up a suitable venue for the introduction of computer classes, to be run by the East Timorese themselves, has created a great sense of anticipation. During Term 1 Inverell Rotary is hosting 2 CER teachers, Delfina and Flamina, in Inverell (northern New South Wales) where they are learning new teaching methods and improving their English Language skills.



Students - Gleno Vocational Training Centre



Street Children in Class
ERS Maasin



Preparing New Goat Breeding Project
ERS Kabankalan



Child Protection Workshop - Callan Services

Edmund Rice Services

Maasin City, Philippines

The latter part of 2012 saw an increase of 100 participants in the Back-to School and Alternative Learning Programs, with 286 being assisted at Elementary and 164 at High School level.

A family based income generating activity, involving the making of ropes from coconut fibre, is being investigated for the parents of the children in the programs. ERS is exploring the possibility of a partnership with a local agricultural co-operative to provide training and organize payments to the families. ERS research has identified a need in local barangays (rural villages) for qualifications in carpentry, horticulture and food processing and ERS is networking with local authorities to facilitate training.

ERS Community Based Rehabilitation Service (CBR) vision and hearing program screened 1,331 children and 494 adults during the 2012 December quarter in kindergartens, elementary and high schools and community centres. The CBR team collaborated with the Cataract Surgical Mission, which worked in Maasin City during January this year, with referrals from the CBR screening program. Dr Lemuel Gatchalian from the Cataract Surgical team conducted a clinic with ERS for children with refractive errors. Through its networking partner, the Cataract Foundation Bacolod, ERS has obtained Community Education and Prevention Awareness resources and vision aids.

Edmund Rice Services

Kabankalan City, Philippines

The generosity of Mrs Bernadette Ayala, a Trustee of the Anawim Foundation for the Deaf, has enabled the goat breeding project, established to supplement the income of the Anawim Foundation, to be re-established at a much more appropriate 7ha location in the foothills outside Kabankalan.

Two hearing impaired young men have been employed and a considerable amount of work has been completed with the construction of buildings and fencing of the hilly terrain. Roofs are being utilized for water catchment needed for the dry season. There is every confidence that this project, which involves the breeding and sale of goats, will become self-sustaining.

ERS promotes self-sufficiency in Catholic High Schools in the Diocese of Kabankalan that provide an education for poor rural communities. Currently, ERS is assisting 10 such schools. In 2013 two of the schools with larger projects will receive additional assistance and nine projects are being undertaken overall. Six of the ten classroom project at Our Lady of Sorrows Academy in Hinoba-an Town, about 100km south of Kabankalan, featured in our November edition, will be completed by June this year. These projects are necessary because the original buildings, mostly timber constructions built more than 50 years ago, have a limited lifespan in the tropics.

Callan Services

Papua New Guinea

The staffs of Callan Services National Unit (CSNU) and Callan Studies National Institute (CSNI) began the year in Wewak, East Sepik Province, with a one week workshop on child protection.

During the workshop participants were introduced to a range of important child development theories. Two of the presenters were Director of CSNU, Br Kevin Ryan and Jane Saun, National Trainer in Eye and Ear for Callan National Training Services. The workshop was informative and included PowerPoint presentations, group work, discussion and case studies about child neglect and maltreatment.

'This training is very new to me. I would like to attend another so that I could expand my knowledge of working with children with disability in physio.' said Lucy Aupong, a physiotherapist with Callan Services. Other staff members also shared similar feelings. Peter Sindu, a monitoring and evaluation officer said although the workshop was the second he had attended he really appreciated it and was looking forward to applying the skills in his work. Other presentations included Resilience Theory, Communication Skills and times for reflection. The workshop was concluded with the signing of the 'Code of Conduct' for staff members in the Network of Callan Services, regulating behavior with children and vulnerable adults.

PROJECT UPDATES: AFRICA

Mary Rice Centre

Nairobi, Kenya

The children of the Mary Rice Centre (MRC) are a living testimony to the fact that disability is not inability.

They may be intellectually challenged and have additional physical disabilities but at Mary Rice they get a chance to learn and live a normal life like other children. The staff has commenced the new year full of energy for enabling the students to change their lives positively so that they can learn to live independently in a variety of environments.

The new year saw five of MRC's 2012 students integrated in mainstream school, which is an important goal of the MRC program. Another two past students, Mary and Peter, have commenced at St Kizito Vocational Training Centre where Mary is doing catering and Peter is being trained in carpentry. A further three, Samuel, Victor and Joseph have enrolled at Mitaboni Primary School Special Unit in Makueni. A highlight in January was the visit of a group of students and 3 teachers from Parade College in Melbourne. The Parade students were active and vibrant and engaged with the children in the learning and creative activities in the Centre. The visitors also participated in outdoor activities and assisted with life skills classes.



Australian Volunteers

(Edmund Rice Camp Leaders from Victoria) at Mary Rice Centre

Ruben Centre

Nairobi, Kenya

The Ruben Centre has about 65 employees across the seven programs that it now operates and another 30 employed by its partners in particular programs.

To address the monitoring and support needs of a large and growing staff, 2013 has seen the employment of Mr Gideon Mvurya as Human Resources Manager. Another significant addition has been the employment of Br Stephen as a full-time teacher aid, assisting class teacher Anastasia Muli in Grade 4. Ruben School has an enrolment of over 1,700 from nursery to Grade 8 with class sizes often has high as 70 or 80. This initiative, initially targetting Grade 4, is in response to the challenges faced for students in acquiring basic literacy in such large classes. Anastasia is a past student of Ruben School who completed her secondary education and qualified as a primary teacher. 65 students from Ruben's 2012 Grade 8 Class qualified to go on to secondary education.

All people of the Mukuru slum in need of health, education, social support and economic development are welcome at Ruben. For a number of years Ruben has hosted seminars, workshops and public meetings which have had to be conducted in a small open shelter. A welcome addition is a new roofed, open air gathering place appropriately named "Jungu Kuu" or "big pot" as traditionally, villagers gathered around such a pot for story-telling and refreshments brewed in a pot. A particular highlight in the new year was the visit of Australian Para Olympic legend Kurt Fearnley. Kurt visited classrooms and met with about 30 mothers of children with cerebral palsy who are supported through Ruben Clinic and shared his story of conquering adversity. Visit www.rubencentre.org/



Comboni Sisters' Hospital – Nzara, Yambio

Star Support Group

Yambio, South Sudan

Currently, Star Support Group for people living with HIV/AIDS has over 1000 members and anticipates an increase during 2013.

As reported previously, responsibility for the medical component was transferred to the local Catholic Diocese. However, the medical personnel, two nurses and an assistant, continue to use Star's facilities and about 30 Star members attend daily for medication. They also treat opportunistic diseases when they can or refer patients to hospital. Two counsellors employed by Star conduct home visits to the bedridden and those in hospital. They take food every week and if medical attention is needed they inform the nurse or arrange with the Director of Star, Br Denis Reardon to take them to hospital. Star usually has between 5 and 25 patients in the Comboni Sisters' Hospital at Nzara at any given time and usually about 3 or 4 in Yambio at the Government Hospital. Denis and the counsellors travel to Nzara at least twice a week taking beans, rice, sugar, salt and soap for the patients. If a member dies in hospital they transport the deceased to their family. The Foundation assists the Comboni Sisters hospital for its support of Star members. Star continues to conduct monthly workshops for its members and their carers. As reported previously, Star is also supporting 300 orphans, children of deceased members. A monthly gathering is held and usually more than 100 attend for a meal and games.

Br Beausang Catholic Education Centre

Embulbul, Kenya

Pauline's Story

Pauline is an 18 year old Maasai girl currently in Form 2. Nine years ago, when her father died, an uncle offered to care for Pauline.

This turned out to be a ploy to marry her off in order to gain the dowry. So, at the age of 10, Pauline became the third wife of a sixty year old man in the tribe. As the youngest wife she was given many of the chores expected of Maasai women; grazing and milking the cattle, washing and walking long distances to collect firewood and water. The traditional customs and authority of the elders in the village meant Pauline's future was very set. However a few years ago, a visiting preacher learnt of Pauline's plight and organised for Pauline and her mother to escape from the forced marriage. Last year he enrolled Pauline in BBCEC. She and her mother now live nearby with two younger siblings. The mother struggles, doing odd jobs such as washing clothes. Their house is made of corrugated iron, they fetch water in a nearby stream because they cannot afford to buy from water vendors and they use a tin lamp for light at night.

Even living in such difficult circumstances has not dampened Pauline's determination to make the most of the new opportunities she now has.

"I do not know the right words I can use to describe the way I feel, because of the support I receive from Brother Beausang. The education I receive here has really changed my life and my future positively. I now want to excel in my secondary education, learn and understand other cultures beside the Maasai one. I hope to reconnect with my community once I am done with my education."

Visit www.bbcec.org

Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School

Arusha, Tanzania

The average age of the 1.2 million inhabitants of the Arusha region is 17.9. Hence, there is a great demand for access to schooling.

This is reflected at Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School (ERSSS) where enrolment has doubled in the past 10 years and is now almost 1,400. As there are not enough classrooms for every subject for every period, some classes have to be taken outside or in sheltered areas, irrespective of the weather. It is planned to put sides on the hall (a shelter shed), build 2 new classrooms adjoining this and pave the space between for an outdoor student dining area. The additional classrooms and improvements to the hall are needed to meet growing demand. ERSSS provides support to a number of needy families in the Sinon area and surrounding Maasai villages whose children could not otherwise access an education. This is an important element of the school's commitment to the local community and a significant number of assisted students have been very successful. The Foundation will be continuing to assist ERSSS in providing this educational support. Visit www.edmundricesinon.com



Arriving at the EFL Centre – Eldoret

Education for Life

Eldoret, Kenya

The Foundation has committed to the support of two additional African Projects in 2013.

Education for Life (EFL) is a project for people living with HIV/AIDS located in Eldoret, Kenya and is part of the outreach of the Christian Brothers East Africa District. Eldoret, the fifth largest and fastest growing area in Kenya, is located 263km North West of Nairobi with a population of close to 220,000. Regular EFL workshops are conducted which focus on prevention. Counselling services are available and in-home support is provided. Close to 500 orphans and vulnerable children (whose parents are infected) are being supported to enable them to continue in primary and secondary school.

Infected / affected families are assisted to initiate income generating activities and are encouraged to become involved in the Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) scheme. SILC, a development of the microfinance concept, has been designed by Catholic Relief Services specifically for the poorest of the poor in rural communities. EFL is also keen to establish a resource centre to support its staff, programs and clients.



Edmund Rice Camp – Stellenbosch, South Africa

Youth Project

Stellenbosch, South Africa

In 2013 the Foundation is also committing support for a Youth Centre project at Stellenbosch in Western Cape Province, South Africa, which is part of the outreach of the Christian Brothers South Africa District.

Stellenbosch is situated about 50km east of Cape Town and has a population of over 130,000. The population of Western Cape Province itself is around 5.8m of which around 56% is under 30 years of age. 56% of South Africa's prison population is aged from 18 to 30. The Youth Centre project targets children and young people who come from households characterised by poverty, food insecurity and overcrowding.

Other societal issues that impact on such households include high school drop-out rates, crime, violence, substance abuse and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS. Foundation funding will enable the renovation of a dilapidated 1950s era building for Youth Centre programs including Edmund Rice Camps. A number of community organisations who work with youth at risk will also utilize the Centre. The opportunities for Edmund Rice Camp young adult volunteers to develop leadership skills will enable them to become agents of change in their communities.

Edmund Rice Camps

Australia

In 2013 the Foundation has pledged \$250,000 for the support for Edmund Rice Camps Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia. The Foundation is proud to be associated with these not-for-profit community based organisations, which provide social learning opportunities through residential camps and recreational experiences for children and youth (7 to 16) and families across Australia, who are socially and financially disadvantaged, to enable them to strengthen their capacities and sense of self-worth. Participants are referred by community service providers with whom ERCs work in partnership. Over 1,500

disadvantaged children are engaged and supported annually by around 1,800 young adult volunteers, aged from 17 to 25 who staff the camps. The Camps are a vibrant, youthful expression of the Edmund Rice spirit and provide personal development opportunities for young adults in leadership, social understanding and social consciousness by empowering them to assist those in need in their communities. Camping programs now include children's camps, family camps and camps for indigenous and refugee children and families. From their origins in Melbourne in 1981 at Parade College, Bundoora, for Vietnamese refugee children, ERCs now operate in all Australian states and overseas in England, India, Ireland, Kenya, New Zealand, South Africa and Tanzania.

During January this year ERC QLD, NSW, VIC, TAS and WA held a total of 22 Summer camps, which were attended by around 460 participants and staffed by over 500 young adult volunteers. Two volunteers from ERC Victoria were nominated for a local Australia Day Citizens' Award. ERC WA has estimated that its volunteers provided 10,200 hours of volunteer time.

Visit www.edmundricecamps.org



Edmund Rice Camp – Victoria – Summer 2013



A Tribute to Project Kenya

The Foundation wishes to express its deep appreciation to Project Kenya which has raised more than \$800,000 for the work of the Christian Brothers in East Africa. The Project's focus has been the Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre (BBCEC) at Embulbul. Project Kenya began at St Bernard's College, Essendon, through the pioneering initiative of John McKenna, who was at the time Deputy Principal. In 2006 John participated in an immersion program with the Christian Brothers' projects amongst the poor in East Africa. It was through John's enterprise and that of a group of committed colleagues that the whole St Bernard's community embraced the concept of Project Kenya. Today, Project Kenya continues with the strong support of St Bernard's, Catholic Ladies College, Eltham, Catholic Regional College, Melton and a number of parishes in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, particularly St Francis Xavier Parish, Montmorency.

Recognizing that education is the key to gaining employment and escape from the 'poverty trap', Project Kenya aims to: enable the poor to access an education which would otherwise be beyond their reach; support BBCEC in obtaining resources and equipment and facilitate an annual immersion experience for Australian volunteers to work in the BBCEC

community. For more information about Project Kenya, contact John McKenna c/- St Bernard's College, 41 Rosehill Road, Essendon 3040 or at jmckenna@sbc.vic.edu.au

College Captain *St Bernard's College*

We are grateful to Luke Rocca, College Captain, St Bernard's, Essendon, for permission to publish these extracts from his address to the Edmund Rice Education Australia Annual School Captains' Conference held in Sydney in January.

Discere et Agere - to Learn and To Do - the St Bernard's motto - to be educated, to become aware and then to act. There is a huge opportunity at St Bernard's to learn about the struggles of the marginalized of our society but an even greater opportunity to do something about it. The student leadership team are front runners, organizing weekly soup vans, tutoring, blood donations and fundraising for charity but a group which best represents Social Justice is the newly formed Eddy and Bernie Group (Edmund Rice and St Bernard). The wider community is included with the Social Justice Network Team, parents wishing to be involved in support of the disadvantaged.

Founder's day is dedicated to Project Kenya and the Br. Beausang Catholic Centre, Embulbul, Kenya. The activities

and fundraising are integrated to raise awareness of the hardships in Kenya and to take action. Part of taking action is students being given the chance to travel to Kenya and experience the conditions firsthand. A friend who experienced the living conditions in Kenya has just had his 18th birthday and donated his birthday money to Project Kenya - just under \$3,000. St Bernard's also has the Fire Carriers, students who heighten awareness of issues facing the indigenous people of Australia through Reconciliation Week and the Daly River Immersion program.

One lunch time, frazzled with exams and captaincy duties I went into the chapel. I didn't particularly want to be seen. As I walked out a group walked past. I prepared myself for a light hearted ribbing but instead without ridicule and with acceptance one jokingly said, "I hope you prayed for me, I have a Maths test next!" Whilst we might have grand fundraisers and charity events, that little story to me shows how justice is being achieved at St Bernard's; through a culture. A culture by no means perfect, but at its core, a culture of acceptance, inclusion, peace and equality. A culture I am very privileged to be part of.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS 2013

For booking details visit www.erf.org.au/events

May 11

Edmund Rice Dinner Brisbane

May (date to be confirmed)

The 500 Supporters' Group AFL Luncheon

May 31

Edmund Rice Dinner Sydney

July / August (date to be confirmed)

Edmund Rice Dinner Melbourne

August 24

Zimele Dinner

October 12

Terrace Timor Network Annual Fundraiser

October 27

Zimele Walkathon

October (date to be advised)

Mimiki Foundation Race Day

October 29

The 500 Supporters' Group Spring Racing Luncheon

November (date & venue to be advised)

Edmund Rice Dinner Rockhampton

November (date to be advised)

Ubuntu Through Health Dinner



St Patrick's College Strathfield Table - Edmund Rice Dinner, Sydney