



Ruben Centre Nairobi / Photograph by Mark Chew Photography



UPDATE FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

Bren Arkinstall

Welcome to this quarters update.

Thank you so much to all of our supporters who have contributed to ERFA this year. With your generous contributions, we have raised over \$1,250,000 for our programs here in Australia and overseas. The impact of these contributions is significant and is changing lives.

I was privileged and humbled to personally witness this impact on my recent trip to Nairobi. I met some amazing human beings whose daily challenges are many and varied, and yet they smile infectious and graciously welcome visitors with open arms. The many programs ERFA is currently funding are delivering outcomes for people in need of support and we are very proud to be linking our amazing donors with such life changing initiatives and such supportive program staff.

As always, a very topical conversation in the Not for Profit sector is administration costs in organisations. At ERFA, we are working tirelessly to keep our costs down to ensure all donations go where they should. We are constantly reviewing ways in which we can work more efficiently and proactively internally, to ensure every dollar possible goes to where it matters most, supporting the children and communities in ERFA funded programs.

Thank you again for your support.
Bren Arkinstall

Gone Fishing Immersion

The most recent Gone Fishing Immersion was a life changing and perspective altering experience that I would encourage everyone reading this to do if they have not already. To be able to see first-hand the innovation of Frank O'Shea and his team at the Ruben Centre and the heart-driven hard work demonstrated by Gerald Mgalula and his beautiful team at the Mary Rice Centre, is something I will never forget. The constant challenges for those people living in the slums of Kibera and Mukuru is unfathomable and immense, and the work being carried out by these programs is providing not just hope, but most importantly, practical solutions for complex problems.



I am grateful to the very generous group of individuals who joined me on the trip. I am looking forward to working with them all to collectively harness their goodwill and passion. The group was lead by ERFA Board Member Ed Phelan and Victorian Chapter President Neil Hay, who did an outstanding job. I can't thank them enough for their commitment and professionalism in representing ERFA whilst in Kenya. Their leadership also enabled me to see things from a participant perspective and gain a deeper understanding of the challenges faced everyday by the people of Nairobi. For that I am also very grateful.

I absolutely cherished every moment of the Gone Fishing experience - It has truly shifted my world.

The next Gone Fishing Immersion is planned for October 2017 and we are now taking expressions of interest to be a part of this inspiring program. If you would like to register, please email Finley at fstupkin@edmundrice.org and an expression of interest form will be emailed to you.

Funding Application Process

The 2018 ERFA Funding Round will be online shortly. Based on feedback we have received, we have made some slight adjustments to our application form for this year.

Last year, ERFA funded 44 programs and we are excited to see another high quality round of applications. We hope to do our best to be able to fund as many worthy programs as possible and look forward to reading about the programs as applications are submitted.

Our funding committee will then provide recommendations to the ERFA Board for final funding decisions. Programs will be notified as soon as funding decisions have been made.

CEO UPDATE (July 2017)

Edmund Rice Foundation (Australia)
126 The Avenue, PARKVILLE, VIC 3052



Edmund Rice
FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA
Liberating Lives

Recent Events

The **Rainbow Ladies** luncheon on Friday 2nd June in Sydney was another fantastic success. The event supports the Mary Rice Centre and every year is getting bigger and bigger, with numbers at the Sydney event its biggest yet. We were also excited to have Jerusa visiting from the Mary Rice Centre to speak and sing on the day!

The annual **Prawns on the Lawn** in Queensland had over 430 people back at Ballymore to enjoy plenty of prawns, music, kicking competition and raising funds for ERFA programs. A quick video of the day can be viewed [here](#)

The **500 Supporters Group luncheon** on the 4th May saw funds raised for the Ruben Centre in Nairobi. It was a wonderful touch to see hand knitted footy jumpers made by The Ruben mothers available for auction on the day and of course that fantastic video of the Ruben children singing the Western Bulldogs theme song. You can view the video [here](#).

Thank you to the staff who put in a lot of hard work to make these events the successes they are. To the amazing volunteers who we could not do these events without. To those who attended - we thank you for your generosity and enthusiasm in supporting the foundation - we hope to see you at another of our events soon.



School Fundraising

A big thank you to our EREA (*Edmund Rice Education Australia*) schools who have contributed just under \$1million this year to date. All contributions are supporting ERFA programs around the world. We are incredibly grateful for their continued support.

www.erea.edu.au

Upcoming Events

Friday August 11, [Ubuntu Through Health Dinner](#)

Saturday August 26 [Zimele Dinner, Melbourne](#)

Friday Sept 8 [Rainbow Ladies Luncheon, Melbourne](#)

Saturday Sept 16, [Zimele 24hr Challenge](#)

for more upcoming events, please visit <https://erf.org.au/events/>

Thank you to everyone who supports our organisation and I look forward to working with you. Please feel free to reach out if you would like to talk to me about the work that we do.

Bren Arkinstall

Email: barkinstall@edmundrice.org



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