



Volume 1 Issue 5

September 2008

### Special points of Interest:

- Br Kevin Ryan's Journey in 2008
- Ministry in Morawa Part Two
- Edmund Rice Institute for Social Justice Fremantle Immersion Program
- ERCKWA 20th Anniversary Ball 2008
- Br Vincent Duffy RIP
- Victorian ERN Conference Oct 18th 2008



# Edmund Rice - Networking WA

## THE ESSENCE OF MY JOURNEY IN 2008

**Br Kevin Ryan** was asked to give an update on 'what has been happening for him' over recent months and 'what is happening now'. Here it is!

In early February of this year I travelled to India to spend time at Anjali Ashram (a Catholic Ashram or centre for meditation – drawing deeply on the ancient Indian tradition) near the city of Mysore. After just over two weeks of introduction to ashram life and meditation I visited three Brothers communities (Bajpe in Mangalore, Goa and Dada in Mumbai).



An outside prayer setting at the Ashram: Swami in the background.

The main meditation centre and where we would celebrate the Eucharist daily using the Indian Rite



In Mumbai I commenced my participation in the Congregation Chapter, joining one third of the Congregation Chapter participants as we briefly experienced some interaction with some of the world's great Religious Traditions (Sikh's, Hindus, Jaines and Muslims).

The following four weeks of the Chapter in Munnar in the hill country of the state of Kerala were an inspiring and challenging experience of listening, learning and working with Brothers and others in the Edmund Rice Network as we endeavoured to shape a vision for the coming six years.

This photo is from the Congregation Chapter: It features Charles Majiliwa from East Africa, (who visited WA and SA in March 2007); Fidelis Toatahi from the Oceania Province (PNG cluster who is based in Wewak—where I will be



when this article is published); in the background on the right is Noel D'Sa from the West Coast Region of India and in the background on the left is Alfred from Tivinarlik PNG (Wewak and Madang) and Martin O'Flaherty from Ireland in the European Province.

Following the Chapter I spent a week with seven first year and nine second year Christian Brother novices in Bhopal and left India via Delhi for Ireland. In Ireland, with a few days in Dublin at the beginning and end of my five

weeks stay, I visited the Edmund Rice sites at Callan, Cork and Waterford and then three weeks at Tearman Spirituality Centre at Glendalough. The time at Glendalough allowed me to return to a meditative rhythm and to reflect again on the Ashram and Congregation Chapter experiences and also to explore the gifts of Celtic and Ecological Spirituality for our own Catholic tradition.

**St Kevin's Cross in the 'Monastic City' as it is called at Glendalough**

Soon after returning to Australia I had the privilege of participating in the first Oceania Province Chapter which assisted me to further explore the issues which surfaced at the Congregation Chapter and which need to be grounded in the context of our new and evolving Province.

What is happening now?

Prior to leaving Ireland and subsequent to my return to Australia I have been discerning with the Province Leadership and Paul Ryan (Director of Ministries). This has led me to be spending six weeks in Papua New Guinea (as you read this newsletter!), and in particular to explore the possibility of long term involvement in Callan Services, a service developed by the Christian Brothers for children and others with disabilities, and which in the future will seek to develop a response to the needs of young people 'living on the streets'. Happily the time in Papua New Guinea will allow me to spend a week on retreat at Goroka with all the Brothers and candidates of Papua New Guinea. After the time in Papua New Guinea I will continue to discern with those in leadership my suitability for living and working in the Melanesian culture and for a role in Callan Services.

Subsequent to the visit to PNG I will lead a retreat, based on the Congregation Chapter experience, with the Brothers living and working in Rarotonga in the Cook Islands. Soon after returning to Australia in mid October, and after a few days back in Perth I will return to India later in October for approximately three weeks. The return to India results from a request from the leadership teams of the current Region and Province of India to assist them with their continuing work with the Brothers on the restructuring of the Congregation in that part of the world.



## MINISTRY IN MORAWA PART TWO

This is part two of 'Ministry & Living in Morawa'. The article in the previous issue was mainly to do with geography and some information about the town of Morawa. This article will look more closely at the area of Ministry.

The title of 'Ministry in Morawa' is somewhat misleading. I do live in Morawa, but my ministry extends to other areas of the northern wheat belt. Before starting on the area of Ministry, let me add a few other facts about the town of Morawa. There is normal shopping available, including a newsagent, an IGA supermarket, a bakery and a coffee shop and some clothing stores. Morawa also has a small library, a hotel, one petrol station, a medical centre and a hospital with a resident doctor who comes from Nigeria. I have met him only twice, but I do know that he has a good reputation. There is no barber, nor is there a hairdresser, pharmacy or ATM.

As I mentioned in part one, my aim (and that of the two sisters who live and work in Three Springs) is to help the Catholic people live their religion, knowing there is every likelihood that in their own lifetimes there will be no resident priest in Morawa or nearby towns. Years ago there was a parish school opposite the house where I now live and a church full of people most Sundays. Some of the older people who knew the old days well really miss this Catholic atmosphere. The former convent is now a B&B named "Marian Convent B&B". The former parish school is now part of the local District High School, which goes to year 10. There is also a sports centre in Morawa catering for tennis, bowls, golf, and some indoor sports such as volleyball. A town football team is based in another area of the town. I sometimes stroll down at the weekend to watch the Morawa Tigers. In some way these sporting clubs make up for the lack of gatherings in the town - gatherings that once were taken for granted: dances, church gatherings, and similar club events that were a regular part of Catholic life. In the main street there is a small gathering place set up by the Lions Club for groups such as the Lady's Hospital auxiliary, fund raising projects, health days and so on. However, with the change in Catholic culture in recent years one of the gaps in the town life is the loss of social and other civic gatherings that were once a part of life.

There is no such thing as a typical week in my ministry, but any one week would look something like this. First of all, a Sunday gathering - either a mass or a communion service, attracts perhaps 10 to 15 people. On Tuesdays I go to the neighbouring town of Coorow where some 10 to 12 people assemble and explore the gospel for the coming Sunday (followed by a cup of tea or coffee). On Thursday mornings in my house there is a regular communion service, which is run by the people and followed by a similar exploration of the next Sunday's gospel. This is also a time of leadership training for the future. On Thursday evenings I join some people in the parish house in Three Springs for the rosary, then stay the night after dinner, deliciously prepared by Sr Anna, and on Friday mornings we have a team meeting. I find this meeting helpful, because we share our experiences of the previous week and also look at particular areas that need attention over the coming week. This would include suggestions of people who might benefit from a visit from me.



As I mentioned previously, this ministry is quite unstructured, except for the gatherings I mentioned above. This means that it is a somewhat lonely ministry, especially as I live on my own in what used to be the local presbytery.

However, living alone is not a major problem, even though some people might say that my cooking is! When things get desperate, I can always migrate to the local hotel which has a good dining room and a good chef. Every few months, I retreat to my community in East Perth. I try to link up two or three events at more or less the same time before embarking on the 420 km journey to Perth as petrol has been running at \$1.85 per litre for the past couple of months.

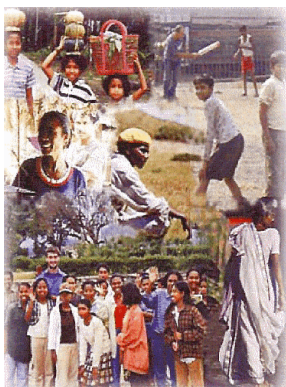
**Br Gerry Faulkner**

Contact: [gtfaulkner@edmundrice.org](mailto:gtfaulkner@edmundrice.org)

## EDMUND RICE INSTITUTE IMMERSION PROGRAM

The Edmund Rice Institute of Social Justice Fremantle offers an Immersion Program that is a unique model of active citizenship that allows participants to learn via 'experiential learning' what it means to be part of a global humanity.

The ERISJ provides immersion opportunities in Perth, Timor-Leste (East Timor), India, Broome in N-W Western Australia and Tanzania. People from all walks of life are welcome. Perth immersions are for ages 16-75; all others are for 18-75 years. The Immersion program includes cross-cultural preparation tailored to each Immersion location, post Immersion debriefing and an ongoing support network.. The entire process supports personal growth and transformation. Each Immersion operates as 'first come first served'



**Experiential learning** is the educational principle that some insights may require personal experience, **combined with** thinking. Face-to-face encounters that build relationships can greatly assist participant comprehension of such matters as human dignity, community and justice.

### ALL ARE WELCOME

#### Perth & Poverty: two aged-based options:

##### Secondary students

2008: Tuesday 2nd September—Friday 5th September

##### Adults

2008: Tuesday 2nd December—Friday 5th December

Non residential

**For these or any other Immersions**

Contact: [KhristoNewall-immersions@erisj.org.au](mailto:KhristoNewall-immersions@erisj.org.au)  
[www.erisj.org.au](http://www.erisj.org.au)



## Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball

The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball held by Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August was a huge success. Over 140 volunteers, supporters,



friends and family attend the celebration that marked the success of

Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA over the past 20 years whilst setting new goals and visions for the future.

Throughout the night there was a raffle and silent auction that helped raise over \$2,000 for Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA camps and programmes. The night included an address from Rob Marshall, Board Chair of Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA who detailed some of the current work of the Board and strategic

development of the organisation in the years ahead. Ashley Little, Executive Officer also address the room, with an exciting announcement, officially launching the new Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA 500 CLUB, aimed at raising funds for new programmes (FUN FEST and Mentoring Programme) as well as the creation of EDMUND RICE HOUSE (the new headquarters of Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA). For more information on the 500 Club please contact the ERCKWA office on 9365 2811.

Once again it was a fantastic night of celebration for Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA and an opportunity to dream for the future. Thanks to all those that helped plan and organise the night and all of those that attended. We look forward with anticipation and excitement to the years ahead.



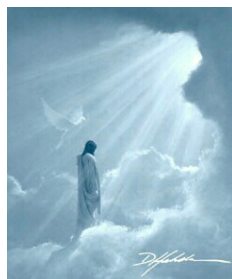
**More about The 500 Club in the next issue**

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### RIP

*We give thanks for the life of*

**Br Vincent Duffy**



*Our sincere condolences and love to all his family, the Christian Brothers and his friends.*

*May Perpetual Light shine upon him.  
May He Rest in Peace.*

*Edmund Rice Network Community*

### Prayer for Those Who Mourn

*Bless those who mourn, eternal God,  
with the comfort of your love  
that they may face each new day with hope  
and the certainty that nothing can destroy  
the good that has been given.*

*May their memories become joyful,  
their days enriched with friendship,  
and their lives encircled by your love.*

*Amen*

*Vienna Cobb Anderson*

### TARDUN

*The Edmund Rice Network salutes the Tardun community, past & present, for their outstanding contribution to the work of Edmund Rice. We also mourn the passing of such a great institution.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you*

*Thanks to everyone who sent information and articles for this issue. All are welcome to submit any information, stories, & news about your Ministry/School for inclusion in the next issue. Bless you & yours,  
Jill*

**Many thanks to Br Berkeley Fitzhardinge for setting up an online link to these Newsletters at**

**[christianbrothers.com.au/ernwa](http://christianbrothers.com.au/ernwa)**

## VICTORIAN ERN CONFERENCE

**Date: Saturday 18th October** **Contact: [dmoore@stpats.vic.edu.au](mailto:dmoore@stpats.vic.edu.au)**

**Theme: Dare to be Disciple (continuing from General chapter)**

**Hosting Ministry: St Bernard's College, Essendon**

**Registration begins at 9:am & the Gathering will conclude with dinner at 7:30pm followed by entertainment See [www.edmundrice.org](http://www.edmundrice.org) under "Our Network/ERN".**

The position of Edmund Rice (ERN) Co-ordinator is to aid the Oceania Networking and Development team in maintaining contact with individuals associated with the Christian Brothers and the Edmund Rice Network in Western Australia; to keep them informed and to encourage participation in future endeavours of the Christian Brothers Oceania and associated entities. I can be contacted on mobile phone **0414 629 218** or as below.

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