



Edmund Rice - Networking WA

Volume 1 Issue 7

November 2008

Special points of Interest:

- **Aquinas College Philippines Immersion.** John Richards
- **Pearl Shell Prayer Group.** Alan O'Neill
- **PERM Fundraising Raffle.** Terry Gee
- **Farewell Peter Hahn** Br Kevin Ryan
- **ERISJ November Intensives & other Events**
- **Cooks, Kitchen Hands & Bus Drivers needed for ERCKWA camps in January 2009** Ash Little
- **Jubilee Celebrations for WA Christian Brothers**
- **Report on Victorian ERN Gathering Oct 18th 2008** Jessie Moniodis

AQUINAS COLLEGE PHILLIPINES IMMERSION

Our journey to Dancalan in the Philippines marked the first overseas immersion program for Aquinas College.

An immersion experience focuses on areas of justice and faith and its objective is to empower students to act towards building partnerships with poorer communities and to seek ways to improve their lives.

The Philippines provides an excellent opportunity for

Aquinas boys to see, firsthand, the compassionate and challenging way in which the Christian Brothers live the vision of Blessed Edmund through their love for educating the poor.

Some of the immediate challenges faced by the schools we visited were: large numbers of children to be educated; not enough classrooms; no money from families; the shortage and rising costs of teaching resources from an education department that cannot guarantee class sets of text books; depreciation of buildings, furniture and recreational areas and the need to train and retain teachers to work in the poorest schools whilst their counterparts are paid much more in other schools. They also occasionally experience a delay in government funding which means they have to borrow money from their banks in order to pay teachers and bills.

The **Immaculate Conception Academy** (ICA) is a co-educational high school for first to fourth year students. It has a student population of approximately 600 and a staff population of nearly 20. The school day begins at 7.30 am with a flag ceremony and assembly and finishes at 5.00pm. There is a 20 minute morning recess at around 11.00am and a long lunch break from 1.00-2.30pm. Nearly all the children go home for lunch using the most common form of local transport - the motorcycle-trishaw.

Our immersion began and ended with a Mass and in between we visited several schools and farming and fishing communities in the area

Each Aquinas student was paired with an ICA host student and one afternoon was spent visiting their hosts' family home. The six host students boarded at the convento with us.

We experienced cutting sugar cane and rice and we spent a whole morning planting mangroves. We facilitated a 'feeding program' for the poor that included shopping for their food at a local market, killing and de-feathering chickens and cooking and serving over



one hundred people. We rode on caribous and visited a rice mill. We swam at Mag Aso Falls and had dinner with children and volunteer staff at Anawim (School for the Deaf).

At ICA we left a permanent reminder of our stay by painting part of the canteen and laying the foundations of the newly built grotto for which we provided most of the funding.

The cultural program on the final day culminated a whole week of rehearsals for cultural dancing involving



Aquinas boys as well as performances by ICA students and staff. We also chipped in with renditions of Waltzing Matilda, a Home among the Gum Trees, Advance Australia Fair and of course, the school song!

Whilst we gained much from experiencing a totally different culture, we could, in future visits, deepen our immersion into the daily routine of our Dancalan friends. We could assist staff with programs; we could interview local people about their lives and we could work in villages that need volunteers. Most importantly we have come to realise that by donating more resources and money to ICA, we can make an enormous difference to their quality of education.

This was truly a most unforgettable experience for all of us.

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Director of Service Learning Aquinas College



THE PEARL SHELL PRAYER GROUP



The name **Pearl Shell** originated from a conversation between Betty O'Neill and Br Rod Ellyard when they were discussing initiation of a prayer group. It was likened to a "seed" in a pearl shell which over time grows into a beautiful pearl. It is to be hoped that the seed will grow into a Pearl of great price which is our faith in God.

There are twelve members in the group; most of us consider that at our age our best contribution to ERN is to focus on prayer for the various missions listed on the Network Directory enhanced by reflection on Blessed Edmund's life. The members gather on the third Friday of each month at 6.30 pm in Betty and Alan's home which has been selected because of its centrality.

Each brings a plate and the first course of a buffet meal follows until about 7.15.

The leader for the day takes us through a reflection on some aspect of Blessed Edmund's life - we have used "God in the Ordinary" in the past and are now using "The Price Of Freedom".

Individual prayers of Petition follow: for the wider Church, for the Network generally, especially the Brothers on the foreign missions and any member's special intention. Hence we request of anyone who is aware of any crisis in the Brothers anywhere in the world that they bring it to our attention so that we can include it in our prayers of petition. Sweets and coffee follow the meeting. Some people stay on to socialise after others have left.

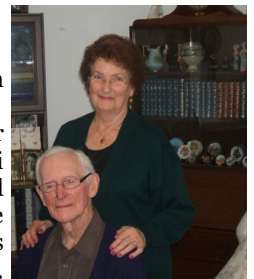
Terry and Mimia Gee have been married 30 years and have two children, David and Catherine. Mimia works at Kingston International College as Principal of HS Department and DOS VET. Terry is a retired teacher and former Christian Brother for 25 years. He is a member of Wheel Chair for Kids and a fund raiser for PERM. Terry plays the guitar and tries to inspire the group with his music. "The group has a great spirit of sharing of opinions and thoughts- nothing is beyond discussion. This makes for an interesting and prayerful experience. All are tolerant and accepting of each other and it is a great social group. Refreshments are shared and enjoyed by all; actually we just come for the food each month!!

We have a great advocate in heaven in Eileen Ryle, who inspired everyone by her patience in suffering.

We enjoy the group very much and look forward to it each month".

Rod Ellyard, Peter Thrupp & Peter Hardiman are three Christian Brothers who were previously in the Pearl Shell Group and are now working in the Philippines missions.

Alan and Betty O'Neill "We have been married about 39 years. Betty had 7 children when I married her - now there are 16 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. I worked in the Chemistry Dept of the WA Uni and then on the teaching staff of Servite College. Until I retired from formal work, Betty worked in paid jobs; a cook in a boys' boarding school; canteen manager in a girls' boarding school; and cleaning jobs. She also took in overseas students. Since retirement we have worked in a voluntary capacity: The Little Sisters of the Poor, Notre Dame Uni, Scarborough Youth Care (which oversees religious in State Schools), Churches Together in Stirling (an ecumenical movement) and The Edmund Rice Centre, Mirrabooka (though I have retired from there Betty hasn't). I send a subscription to the National Civic Council and distribute their message - war with the pen - against the evils besetting Australia. We have travelled a bit: most of Australia, Ireland, UK, Switzerland and USA"



Alan and Betty

Lawrie and Carmel Mousley have been blessed with close contact with the Christian Brothers over the years since marriage and have 3 children, Sean 26, Anne-Marie (24) and Chris (22). Lawrie is a teacher and former Christian Brother for 35 years. He is now teaching Year 12 Maths Tuesdays and Thursdays for Kingston International College run by Mimia Gee. Their son Chris, has been living with four other young people in the Edmund Rice Community at Salter Point run by Br Bernard White and Br Terry Casey. Reflecting upon the life and charism of Edmund Rice is important to us and our group is a very special group.

Other members of the Pearl Shell Prayer Group include: Barry & Shaaron Brown, Br Basil Hickey, John & Kerry Hollywood, Kevin Johns, Br Pat Kelly, and John Ryall.

PHILIPPINES EDMUND RICE MISSIONS (PERM)



'Helping Children Achieve'



'Helping Children Achieve'



to provide computers for disadvantaged Schools



Second Prize: Rinnai Patio Pal Gas Heater (Value \$649.00)

Third Prize: Blu Ray DVD Player (Value \$699.00)

Name.....

Address.....

Phone.....

Return Monies and Sold/Unsold Tickets to:
PERM, 39 Glencoe Loop Kinross WA 6028
By 8th January 2009

Permit No. LS037066 Permit Holder: Terry Gee 39 Glencoe Loop Kinross 6028
Drawn: 11th January 2009 at 39 Glencoe Loop, Kinross Western Australia
Results published on 17 January 2009 in West Australian Newspaper

Thank You for your Support!

TICKETS
\$2 each

To order books of tickets ring Terry Gee - [93048788](tel:93048788) & leave a name, address and phone number. Books will be posted

FAREWELL LUNCH FOR PETER HAHN

On October 21st 2008 Staff at Westcourt were delighted to be present at a farewell for Peter Hahn on his retirement from Clontarf Aboriginal College.

After a delicious lunch was enjoyed by all present, Br Kevin Ryan spoke of Peter's great contribution during the 20 years of his association with the College and the Christian Brothers.

"Peter became associated with the Clontarf Campus in 1988 when he became a part time teacher at Clontarf Aboriginal College while also being a part-time teacher at Culunga Aboriginal School in the Middle Swan.

In 1990 Peter became Deputy Principal and several years later, he became the Manager of the Clontarf Campus.

This was done in the context of a 1993 decision by the Christian Brothers of WA/SA to seek a suitable Aboriginal body so as to hand over the Clontarf campus to Indigenous ownership/trusteeship.

It was also in the context of needing to formalise many arrangements/rental and lease agreements between the Christian Brothers as owners of the Property and a number of organisations which were conducting services and programs on the Campus. Grounds, building and infrastructure upgrades were also needed.

Over recent years, Peter has also worked successfully with a number of men who were brought as children to Clontarf from the British Isles. A plaque that has recently been



placed on the main building of the Campus is a result of the work of that group and Peter and Dennis McNerney.

Peter has very successfully built a sense of collaboration and community, bringing appropriate financial and legal arrange-

ments into place, and upgrading the campus. Similarly, it is to be hoped that the process of 'handover of the Clontarf Campus' to the Indigenous Land Corporation is only a matter of months away. This is due to the generous and professional work of Peter.



Br Kevin Ryan; Peter Hahn; Linley Hahn

Many generations of Aboriginal people may or may not ever know the wonderful work you have done, but let me say that I will carry it with me through the all the days of my life.

Peter has brought to this most complex and challenging role patience, diplomacy, a deep sense of justice, loyalty and long commitment to a cause, wonderful skills in relationship building and a peace building presence

Peter, you have come to this role from a very deep place of values and motivations. You have a deep place of faith in a God who calls us to justice, and equality of opportunity for all.

This faith, this belief, is integrated into values and a spirituality which allows you to live your whole life in a holistic way and this has been expressed not only in your personal life but also in your professional role on the Clontarf campus.

The last two Christian Brothers Leadership Teams of Holy Spirit Province are greatly in your debt, as also are Don Allen, Max Montsci and most recently Vince Sinagra.

As you leave this professional role in the Oceania Province/ER Network, may it not be the end of your involvement in the Network. So I hope the appropriate people here make sure your name is moved onto a data base to ensure you get the necessary communications.

Peter, your faith, your expression of this in your values, spirituality and skills are needed in the ER Network, in reflection groups, mentoring and in a whole range of other ways. I invite you to make your skills available to the Network in whatever way is possible.

All of us, some who have known you for greater and lesser numbers of days, weeks, months and years wish you well for the future

May you, Linley and all your extended family journey forward in a deep peace which will take you through the joys, sorrows, highs and lows of life in a wonderfully fulfilling way".



"Thanks again – your work is treasured by all you have touched".

EDMUND RICE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE FREMANTLE

November Intensives and other events:

Saturday 1st: ["Environment and Sustainability - Rising to the Challenge"](#)

Saturday 8th: ["Non-Violent Direct Action"](#)

Tuesday 11th: Immersion Alumni Dinner

Saturday 15th: Volunteer Training Day (please attend FREE Info night on 28th October first)

Saturday 22nd: ["Between Governance and Mission Centricity"](#)

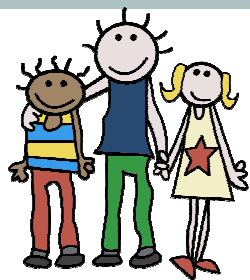
Thursday 27th: FREE Film Night - India Immersion Promo

Saturday 29th: ERISJ Staff, Board and Volunteers Christmas Party:

Contact: edmundricejustice@erisj.org.au

Volunteers





Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA.

Each school holidays Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA needs the support of adults like yourselves who can lend their time to making the camps so special by volunteering to

drive a bus or as cooks or kitchen hands.

With this in mind we invite anyone interested in Edmund Rice Camps to come and join us these school holidays.



Cooks & Kitchen-hands

(no experience necessary)

- All ingredients have been pre-purchased
- All menu's and instructions provided
- No experience necessary *(if you can cook toast that's perfect)*

Camp Dates:

- *Camp 1:* Saturday 3rd - Wednesday 7th January
- *Camp 2:* Thursday 8th - Monday 12th January
- *Camp 3:* Wednesday 14th - Sunday 18th January
- *Camp 4:* Monday 19th - Friday 23rd January

If you are available for one night, two nights or a whole camp please let us know.

(Helpers are needed from approx 3pm on the first day to 9am on the last day)

Bus Drivers

(no singing experience required)

- Need to hold a current Light Ridged license
- We cant get to camp without a bus driver!!!
- Learn lots of Camp Bus Songs on the way

Dates drivers required:

- *Camp 1:* Sat 3rd, Sun 4th, Wed 7th, Thurs 8th January
- *Camp 2:* Thurs 8th, Fri 9th, Mon 12th, Tues 13th January
- *Camp 3:* Wed 14th, Thurs 15th, Sun 18th, Mon 19th January
- *Camp 4:* Mon 19th, Tues 20th, Fri 23rd, Sat 24th January

If you are able to help for one or any of these dates please let us know.



If you would like to help out or would like more information please contact the Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA office on 9365 2817 or artrott@edmundrice.org



BROTHER'S JUBILIES WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Congratulations to Br Patrick O'Doherty and Br Bruno Doyle on their 70th Jubilee and to Br Gerald Faulkner and Br Ernest Travers on their 60th Jubilee. A celebration will be held on December 5th in the Aquinas College Chapel followed by a meal in the dining room for relatives and friends.

May God bless you all for your inspirational lives of service and love to the school communities and ministries in which you served. We of the Edmund Rice Network community thank you and salute you.

DARE TO BE DISCIPLE CONFERENCE, MELBOURNE 2008.

An Edmund Rice network gathering was held on the 18th of October at St. Bernard's College in Essendon, Melbourne. Around 80 representative of the Edmund Rice Network from across Australia and New Zealand gathered for a day of spiritual learning and interactive discussions. The conference was divided into three main segments including a welcome, which symbolized the unique position of Indigenous people in Australian culture and history.

There were four guest speakers for the day. The first was David Tacey from La Trobe University in Victoria. He gave an intriguing insight into religious and secular forms of spirituality and journeyed into the realm of earth spirituality, referring in particular to the cultural heritage of the Aboriginal people and their connections with the land.

The second part of the conference was an intimate conversation with three inspirational nuns who were fervently devoted to public service. Anne Dixon sgs, spoke of her experience with Melbourne City's destitute, and told of stories where she took homeless people into the convent for shelter for the night. The other sisters suggested that it in the long term this was unsustainable, and this inspired her to open a shelter to accommodate the homeless. The second sister, Glenys Dellamarta sgs, worked closely with prostitutes and spoke passionately about her desire to help them break out of the addictive cycle they were often trapped in. The last nun, Brigid Arthur, from the Brigidine Congregation, was actively involved in situations where the rights of humans had been breached. These examples of selfless service to the people, and of humility and hard work was a most memorable and moving example of love in action.

In the final section a video titled "The Imam and The Pastor" was shown. This described an influential peace pact formed between warring Muslim and Christian activists in Nigeria who were "programmed to hate" at all costs. The Imam and the Pastor, after overcoming their hatred of each other set up a Mediation Centre between Muslims and Christians which led to peace in the town.

Delegates were invited to respond to this video suggesting practical ways in which unification of diverse cultures may be lived out in the future. One such practice was performed when everyone participated in a Muslim prayer. The closing ceremony of peaceful music and another spiritual ritual was the perfect way to end the conference. Entertainment followed with a light-hearted, enjoyable quiz night about the life of Edmund Rice. With some dogged competition amongst the Brothers, it was a night of fun and laughter for everyone. *Jessie Moniodis*



Jill Parker; Jessie Moniodis; Pashtana Yad; Michelle Jack

Evening prayer



*Mother God, giver of life
As evening wraps her quiet arms about us,
And birds sing the sun to rest,
We thank you for the day now waning in soft light.
Your presence pervaded every step we took.
Your gifts brightened our path with joy.
We listen tonight with all the wisdom of our spirits.
We listen too with all the compassion
Of our hearts, as we savour the words
"Be still and know that I am God"*

Jacinta Shailer sgs

*Thank you
to everyone who sent
information in for this
issue. Please keep the
news coming in for
the next issue.*

*Blessings,
Jill*

*Online link:
Christianbrothers.com.au/ernwa
Many thanks to Br
Berkeley Fitzhardinge*

Eddie Rice Camps need cooks & drivers—it's good fun, PLEASE HELP. See page 4

The position of Edmund Rice Network (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.

Jill Parker Direct Line: 08 9365 2841

ERN Regional Co-ordinator WA.

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