



# Edmund Rice - Networking WA



Volume 1 Issue 8

December 2008

## Special points of Interest:

- ERCKWA African Im-  
mersion
- Kanyini & Aboriginal  
Spirituality
- "A Book by Boys" by  
Trinity College Primary  
School Students
- ERISJ  
India Immersion &  
December Calendar
- Kairos Retreats -  
Trinity College
- Sundowner March  
30th 2009

Christmas

Blessings



**Aboriginal Nativity Scene**

With thanks to  
Donella Brown



## ERCKWA African Immersion



### EDMUND RICE CAMPS FOR KIDS WA

#### AFRICAN IMMERSION TRIP – DECEMBER 2008

Africa is a land full of adventure, and last Friday, a group of Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA volunteers took on a big African adventure indeed. A group of seven volunteers and two staff members flew to Kenya and Tanzania to help run some ERC Camps.

The group was formed in May and, since that time, we have met regularly to arrange details for the trip as well as explore some of the 'deeper' elements of our upcoming experience. The discussions have been thought-provoking, and we are all very excited to be given this fantastic opportunity.

Since May the group has also worked very hard to raise funds for the Camp program. Events to help raise money for the African camps have been coming thick and fast over the past few months including a volleyball tournament, sausage sizzles, Swan Valley wine tours, a movie night, swap meet stalls, a dinner, Rotary Club talks and the always-popular chocolate sales. It has been a huge endeavour to raise funds for two overseas camps, and we're incredibly proud of our efforts to raise approximately \$11,000 for the program.

The group flew to Nairobi (the capital of Kenya) to spend three weeks helping to run two Camps in the region. The camps will be held in conjunction with other Edmund Rice projects in the region of Arusha (northern Tanzania) and Kibera (Kenya). Kibera is an outer slum area of Nairobi



and is home to over 1 million people. The children of Kibera face a daily struggle to attend school due to poverty and health issues. The ERC camps aim to provide these children with an opportunity to experience fun and excitement while strengthening their links with local schools. During the trip we also aim to squeeze some other African experiences into our busy schedule including visits to other Edmund Rice projects, dining on African delicacies and spending a day on safari.

As a member of the group I feel very privileged to represent ERCKWA at a global level. It has long been a dream of mine to head to Africa and get involved in further volunteer work, so to think that I can fulfil this dream while also representing ERCKWA feels almost too good to be true. I have been with ERCKWA for a long time (over 10 years now... scary!) but my involvement has lessened in recent times due to work and life commitments. However, I felt that this African Immersion trip was an opportunity not to be missed, and would be a great chance to get me back into the world of volunteering. We'll be keeping in touch with you all via our blog <http://ercafricaimmersion.blogspot.com> so check it out throughout December to see how our African adventure is going. See you all soon.

**Jonathan O'Neill on behalf of the African Immersion Group: Ravin DeFonseka, Cheryl Millard, Bridget Lyons, Danielle Forward, Sally Rugg & Kellee Kemp.**



## KANYINI & ABORIGINAL SPIRITUALITY

The second gathering of the Yarning Circle was held on 22nd of October where we watched the DVD Kanyini

Kanyini is a Pitjantjatjara word meaning interconnectedness; to care for, to support, to nurture and protect.

*Kanyini* is a story about Bob Randall's life as an Aboriginal man. It is about living beside Uluru, the world's greatest monolith, in central Australia. It is about his personal journey and the wisdom he learnt from his old people in the bush. Bob attempts to understand the struggles of Indigenous people in a modern world and he looks for ways for Aboriginal people to move forward.

This is a story of Aboriginal wisdom clashing with the modern world.



Kathy Callow, Donella Brown, Sister Anula, and Rose Narkle.

While it is a story of one man and his people it is also a story of the human race. The story is about how he was taken away from his homelands for his own good.

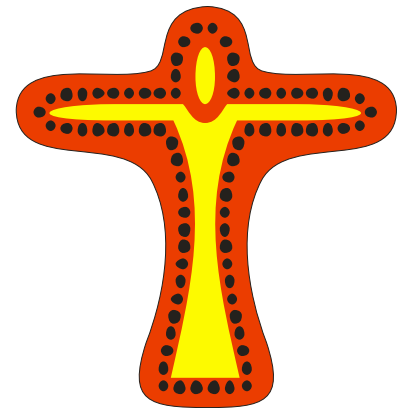
The significant point that Bob makes is that he as an Aboriginal person was separated from his belief system, spirituality, land and family—his interconnectedness—his KANYINI.

The ladies present at this screening were moved by the story, the scenery and the way that Bob told his story.

Once again we finished off with lunch and some more yarning about what we could do next year.

***The aim is to try to bring the Yarning Circle to Edmund Rice Ministries and schools in 2009 and maybe organise a retreat for the group.***

If you are interested in joining the group or would like to gather as a separate group to view this DVD and to yarn with other people **contact: Donella Brown 93652812**  
**DMBrown@edmundrice.org**



**This is the logo for the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry in Perth. It is symbolic of the Aboriginal people gathering around the cross.**

***Kind words can be short & easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.***

Mother Teresa

## "A BOOK BY BOYS" by TRINITY COLLEGE PRIMARY STUDENTS



for what you have done for our boys?' I looked over to the boys sitting at their signing desk, and as their beaming faces greeted excited 'fans' and they signed their 'author' signature, I realized they already had! "The next day I asked one of the authors, 'Is your hand sore from all the signing yesterday?' "No, I'd do it again!" he exclaimed grinning from ear to ear.

Prior to the Book Launch three representatives from the Young Writers' Club shared their stories with children from the Princess Margaret Hospital School. Mr Trevor Briedis, the Deputy Principal organised the visit, which turned out to be a wonderful experience for students and patients. The Writers' Club was also fortunate to have a visit from Mr Tony Curtis author of the book *Strive Manfully A History of CBC Perth and Trinity College 1894 - 2003*. Tony shared his experience of research, the creative process and marketing strategies with students.



Principal Ivan Banks presents copies to Authors

On Thursday 27 November *A Book by Boys* was officially launched at a special ceremony in the Trinity Junior School Library. Invited guests included Trinity Principal Mr Ivan Banks, Head of Junior School Mr Mark Hackett, Sub-Editor Mrs Janine Wyatt, Mr Trevor Briedis, Deputy Principal Princess Margaret Hospital School, Debbie Froom from Liwara Catholic Primary School, Alison Schultz from Thornlie Public Library, Mr Ben Brennan from Scott Print and author's parents and grandparents.

After official speeches and the presentation of the first edition to the College for the archives the authors cut a red ribbon and *A Book by Boys* was officially launched. Autographs were in high demand and the book was so popular that it is now sold out. The Trinity Junior School Writers Club has been privileged to have the experience for writing, publishing and marketing a book so early in life. Perhaps this experience will result in a famous Trinity author in the future!



Authors cut the ribbon at the official launch





## EDMUND RICE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE FREMANTLE

### INDIA IMMERSION Registrations due NOW

10 - 31 January 2009:

In spite of the horrendous terrorist attacks on Mumbai last week, this is to confirm that the India Immersion is still going ahead. Our Immersion Coordinator was in India at the time, and has returned safely, and with an excellent program now almost finalised. We at the ERISJ will continue to monitor the security situation in India closely and will make adjustments where needed to our itinerary or other arrangements, but it is considered very unlikely that the situation in India would deteriorate across the country to the point where we would consider cancelling.

Please continue to check this page as we will update it with further advice and plans related to security. In the meantime, feel free to contact Khristo Newall, the Immersion Coordinator, if you are interested in this Immersion but wish to discuss the Mumbai attacks or general security concerns on 08 9432 2411.

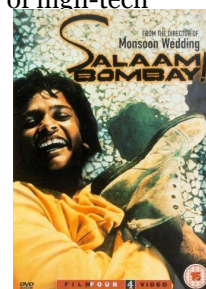
### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Engage with people and communities in rural and city contexts, and see stories of hope and positive change in this incredible melting pot of over a billion people. Learn about the rich history, and the ancient and complex cultures and religions that co-exist in this diverse and beautiful landscape. India is a country of huge contrasts between absolute poverty and extraordinary wealth, between traditional cultures and the new India of high-tech modernity.

### WHATS ON IN DECEMBER?:

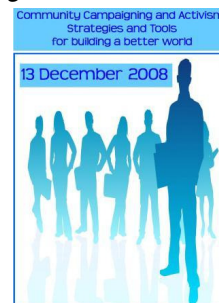
**Thursday 11th: India Film Night from 6pm (movie starts at 6:15pm)**

Join us at the Institute for a free film night with a showing of the great 'Salaam Bombay' by Indian director Mira Nair. With the India Immersion rapidly approaching, and especially topical given the recent violence in Bombay (Mumbai), this film night is open to all, but is also a last chance for those still interested in joining our journey to India. Come along and enjoy a great film, discuss India, and find out more about the Immersion in January.



**TICKETS SELLING FAST!**

**Friday 12th: Just Music Perth's Annual Concert for Social Justice at Samson Courtyard 6pm ~ 10pm, Fremantle Arts Centre. Celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 10 December 1948.**



### Saturday 13th: Community Campaigning and Activism: Strategies and Tools for building a better world.

The day will focus on where to start; how to build a campaign; and tools and strategies for various types of campaigns. Community campaigning and activism can be very powerful and effective. Come along and learn the 'how-to' for the issues you are passionate about. A PDF of the brochure is also attached to this email.

### Social Justice Congresses

2 day, group-based workshops providing induction into social justice. Congresses and Weeks are suitable for schools, TAFE, Universities, NGOs and PD in most workplaces. Content and delivery approaches are tailor-made and linked to the client's desired outcomes.

### Social Justice Weeks

5 days of intensive engagement in expert-facilitated social justice events, to add to our clients' existing efforts at social justice awakening, inspiration and ongoing commitment to action. These are delivered by one of our social justice education experts, on your premises to either the entirety of your organisation or just a portion.

Contact: The team at the ERISJ, Fremantle [www.erisj.org.au](http://www.erisj.org.au) Tel: 08-9432-2400

## VOLUNTEERING

### ARE YOU READY TO BECOME AN ERISJ VOLUNTEER?

**Volunteers** are worth *billions* to the community and add great value to not-for-profit organisations. We need **people like you** who are willing to commit to the volunteering process and who have time to dedicate to these issues. Training supplied.

Contact: Kate Vallentine +61 8 9432 2410 or [edmundricejustice@erisj.org.au](mailto:edmundricejustice@erisj.org.au)

## Volunteers





*May*

*the miracle of that  
first Christmas renew your heart  
with Joy*

*And may God bless you, love you  
and keep you close always*

*Happy Christmas*

*Jill*



*A Little Christmas Prayer I'd Love to Share with You*

*I want your life to be such a wonderful one.  
I wish you peace. Deep within your soul.  
Joyfulness. In the promise of each new day.  
Stars. To reach for. Dreams. To come true.  
Memories. More beautiful than words can say.*

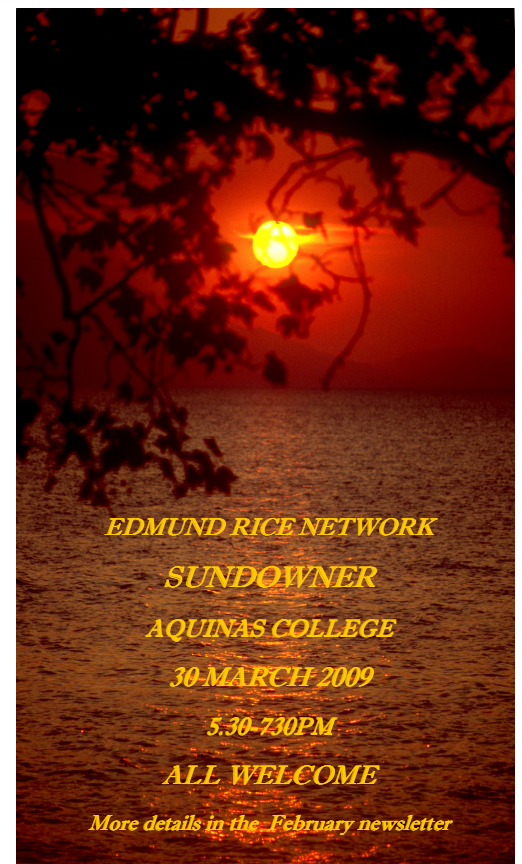


*I wish you friends. Close at heart, even over the miles.  
Loved ones. The best treasures we're blessed with.  
Present moments. To live in, one day at a time.  
Serenity. With its wisdom. Courage. With its strength.  
New beginnings. To give life a chance to really shine.*

*I wish you understanding. Of how special you really are.  
A journey. Safe from the storms and warmed by the sun.  
A path. To wonderful things.  
An invitation. To the abundance life brings.  
And a angel watching over. For all the days to come.*

*-- Douglas Pagels*

*Merry Christmas*



**EDMUND RICE NETWORK**

**SUNDOWNER**

**AQUINAS COLLEGE**

**30 MARCH 2009**

**5.30-7.30PM**

**ALL WELCOME**

*More details in the February newsletter*

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.

**Jill Parker Direct Line: 08 9365 2841**

ERN Regional Co-ordinator WA.

JCParker@edmundrice.org

**Westcourt**

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