



Edmund Rice - Networking WA

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March 30th 2009



AFRICAN IMMERSION ERCKWA



Camp at Sinon School Tanzania

with corrugated iron rooftops, separated by undulating paths of rocks and holes and dirty streams of water. There were people, mostly children, everywhere.

I was overwhelmed by the squalor, filth and deep sense of pride and community that emanated from the clutter of houses.

As we travelled to the sounds of children chanting "howareyou! howareyou!", I wished I could've lifted my eyes from my precarious footwork, as there was so much to take



Martin Kelly Qld & WA Group -

in. It was like being in a completely different world. We all felt lucky that we had been given such extensive preparation in the forms of research, formation meetings, discussing culture and risk management, because without that grounding and prior expectations, I think we would've struggled significantly more. In small groups, we visited different areas of the slum, including orphanages, schools, homes of people bedridden by HIV Aids, and homes of those living with the disease. In my group, we met a woman who is unlike anyone I've ever met before, but unfortunately is a common character in the Kibera Slum. Josephine lived in a house no bigger than a small bathroom; she had six children, two of which had been taken away to boarding school, and the other four being under the age of ten. She also cared for her 17yr old niece who contracted HIV the previous year, and had come to live with her in order to get access to the freely distributed AntiRetroVirals in Kibera. Her niece had a son who was also positive, but was taken away to a hospital so he could receive necessary care. While her husband was unemployed and spent the day sleeping, she looked after all the children; did the cooking and cleaning; went to the forest to illegally chop firewood; carry it all the way back and then took it to market to sell. After we left, our guides told us that if she did not have dinner prepared for her husband every night, he would beat her. It is a terrible fact that this is not a unique situation. Sitting in her tiny house and hearing her story was an immensely challenging and almost harrowing experience.

I never knew the meaning of hard work until that day.

That night, I was left reeling from the events of the day. Such strong images kept flashing back into my head; a half-naked toddler crying alone on the railway tracks; women washing clothes in buckets on the street; the big welcoming smiles of members of the community and climbing up rocky alleyways being careful not to fall in rubbish. The camp we will begin on Monday will be tough, but I am so looking forward to it. I believe we were able to embark on this camp experience with a greater depth of understanding because of the immersion process we have participated in over the past 12 days and previous months, and especially by experiencing first-hand the conditions in which these people live.

Participants were: Danielle Forward, Sally Rugg, Kellee Kemp, Ravin Defonseka, Jonathan O'Neill, Bridget Lyons & Cheryl Millard, Kellie Carnaby WA & Martin Kelly, QLD.

Kwaheri (Goodbye), Sally Rugg

<http://ercafricaimmersion.blogspot.com>

OUR DAY IN KIBERA

Jambo na karibu Rafikis (Hello & Welcome)

After months of preparation in Perth, and 12 days experience in Kenya, we ventured yesterday into the Kibera slum. We were accompanied by our guides and new friends from the Edmund Rice centre, most of whom actually live in the slum.

It was an intense, confronting and challenging experience. Home to between 1 and 3 million people, Kibera is a maze of tiny clay huts



With Kelsey -4th left (a past ERC volunteer who started 'Food, Water Shelter' in Tanzania)



PERSONAL PROFILE—BR ROD ELLYARD

I was born in Perth in 1941 to Alma Keogh and Frank Ellyard. Mum died of Tuberculosis at the age of 29. I have two beautiful memories of my mother which I treasure. I was 5 ½ and the second of five children. My siblings, Vincent, Frances, Ian and Michael are all still living in Perth. Dad married Kathleen Orrell five years later and together they brought my youngest brother Ted into the world. Kath died in 1991 and Dad in October 2008.

I won't delay on formation years. My first mission was Brunswick in 1962 where I taught Grade 4 for a year and two terms. Jack O'Shaunessy was the boss. Paul Noonan was sub. Pat Kelly was a key man in the community. It was a pretty good start. In the last term of '63 I transferred to Abbotsford where I stayed until the end of '69. They were my growing up years. Frank Webster taught me heaps just by being himself. Towards the end of '69 Linus Kelty invited me to go to PNG to Banz. A great adventure was about to begin.

From 1970 to '76 I was at Banz. We were a young and vigorous group of brothers in a relatively small school of 400 boys from Years 7 to 10. The students were 2 to 3 years older than the age groups we'd find in Australian schools for those years. They were relatively simple, keen to learn and had lots of energy. There were few problems in the class room but plenty out of class, mainly of cultural clashes between the various tribal groups. It was a very happy period for me.

In 1977 I went to Vuvu on the north coast of East New Britain about 10 km outside of Rabaul as headmaster and stayed there for three years. The students were younger and the cultures very different. The Tolai people are a beautiful race; proud, intelligent and the faith runs deep. It was a great little school and has its place in the history of education in PNG. After the '94 volcano the school was destroyed but continues its existence at Vunakanau, the site of the former teacher's college.

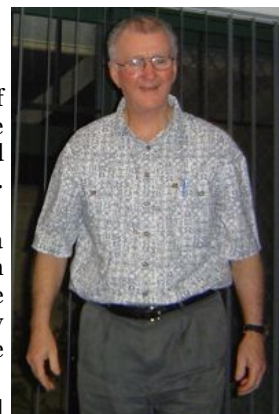
At the end of '79 I returned to Perth and worked at Leederville for two years teaching junior secondary classes, took a B.Ed from Edith Cowan, Mt. Lawley and spent some time getting closer to my family!

Back in PNG in 1982, I was stationed at Wewak at a Primary Teachers' training college. It was my first experience of coed and a very positive one. The change to training teachers was difficult enough, but the beach was not far away and the students loved to jump on the back of a truck on weekends and spend a couple of hours in the surf or snorkelling at Wom beach over a beautiful reef.

In 1984 I had the Sabbatical mentioned earlier and was also appointed to the Region Leadership team. In 85 and 86 I was stationed at St Paul's Teachers' College, Vunakanau. I was in charge of our Scholastics. I had a good first year but the group in 86 included two West Africans whom I had great difficulty coming to understand. I also found myself drawn more into the administration of the college. Overall it was one of my hardest years. Graeme Leach suggested I change to be Vocations Director, which work I enjoyed for the next three years. At the end of '89 I returned to Banz as Principal with the set purpose of finding a National to replace me. In the event that process took seven years.

Fatima was like a second home for me. The school had grown to about 500 boarders. A building programme was under way. We continued to build something every year. In 1996 an Aus-aid grant made possible the up-grading of the school to year 12 and coed. Western Highlanders are an energetic people. A succession of good leaders before me had built the school's reputation. It performed academically at a high level. But they are also a volatile and aggressive people. We had our share of problems and always faced tight budget constraints. Until Easter 96 I was also a member of the Leadership team. It was time for a break. It seemed better to make a decisive break. So I came home.

I had six months sabbatical in Melbourne then went to Broome for 18 months. This was followed by three years at Bindoon and one at Wembley. There followed three years at Westcourt with one of the best communities I have been blessed to live with and now I am in another community of very special people in Negros, Philippines. My sister Fran often reminds me that God writes with crooked lines. There have certainly been plenty of surprises in my life. I believe I have been specially blessed in my life as a Brother, for which I thank God most sincerely.



INVITATION

Many of you are aware that on the **13th February** it will be 12 months since the Prime Minister extended the Apology to the Indigenous people of Australia. I am planning to have a gathering at Westcourt to honour this day. The shape of the day has not been finalized but will certainly allow for lots of yarning both formal and informal and maybe finish with a BBQ Lunch, nothing too flash. I know it is short notice so I am just checking to see if you are interested and able to come along. Confirmed attendance will help the catering and planning the time together.

Friday 13th February

Approx Time: 11.00-1.30pm

Westcourt

53 Redmond Street,

Salter Point

If you are interested in coming please let me know by Monday 9th February 2009 and I will get back to you with confirmed times etc .

Donella Brown Ph: 9365 2815;

email: DMBrown@edmundrice.org

Edmund Rice Network Sundowner March 30th 2009 Aquinas College 5.30pm

PHILIPPINES UPDATE



Rod addressing a group of Principals in Kabankalan.

quality of English teaching and practice in the 19 Catholic schools of the diocese. I am really looking forward to the coming year and what it will bring. From the beginning of the Brothers' mission to the Philippines the idea of having it open in partnership with the ERN was mooted and promoted. Now after



At a very isolated Primary school at Kantenakip. To get there we had to borrow a 4WD, then walk the last half hour.



The Kabankalan Community: l-r Peter Hardiman, John Moodie, Rod Ellyard, Neil Langan and visiting from Hilongos Community, Peter Thrupp.

Our really exciting news is that next month, indeed on Valentine's Day, our first ERN Volunteers will join us in Kabankalan. They are Joe and Anne Steyns of Goulburn NSW. They probably will think of themselves as well past the age when Valentine's Day is an exciting prospect, being in their early 60's, but that won't stop us Brothers decorating their room in our house appropriate to the day.

Joe has just completed his time as Principal of Trinity College in Goulburn. His major academic qualification is in the area of English and so is Anne's. Anne also has Psych and ESL qualifications so they are ideal for the task we have in mind for them, which is to identify and implement ways to improve the



Kamagau : A typical first year high school classroom

three years establishing a 'beach-head' we are ready for what we hope will be an ongoing opportunity for volunteers to bring their expertise and enthusiasm to bear in this wonderful but poor land. Maybe the next volunteers will be closer to the age when Valentine's Day is truly exciting!

Of the seven Brothers in the Philippines three are from Western Australia – Peter Hardiman, Peter Thrupp and Rod Ellyard. Thrupp is in Hilongos on the island of Leyte with Carl Sherrin of Sydney and Frank Perkins of NZ. Peter Hardiman and I are with Neil Langan of Townsville and John Moodie of Sydney in Kabankalan.

We have learned a few things in our three years in the Philippines. One realisation is that people really are happy with less. We have now some inkling to what Jesus meant when he said, 'Blessed are you poor'. Yet poverty is an evil and it causes much suffering and is an ever-present reality for most of the people in the Philippines. Population density contributes, but so do the structures which allow the rich to maintain the status quo which keeps the lions share for so few. I am often reminded of the line in the Wizzard of Id comic which says the golden rule is, 'He who has the gold, makes the rules'. The rich become the politicians who ensure that little changes to the structures, that keep them rich.



At the home of Terry and Mimia Gee, organizers of PERM fund raising group. l-r Mimia, Br. Pat Kelly, Terry, Rod, Drusilla Pico and Br. Peter Hardiman.

Meanwhile we believe our presence is making a difference to the lives of some. Peter H and I are involved in the formal education sector – doing our best to help the schools; John and Neil work in the informal sector – working with school drop outs, and certainly they are making a significant difference for these youngsters.

May 2009 be a happy year for all readers of this wonderful publication. Thanks Jill!

Br. Rod Ellyard

EDMUND RICE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE FREMANTLE

It is a great pleasure to introduce two of the **Edmund Rice Institute for Social Justice, Fremantle's** training programs in social justice. These programs are relevant to organisations seeking to orient their people to be introduced to, then to understand, and then to truly commit to social justice in their daily lives.

We customise content and delivery to all kinds of communities - Schools, Universities and TAFEs, workplaces and not-for-profit and other community-based organisations.

Much of what we provide is truly unique in the field of social justice education.

Brochures that explain the methods, personnel, prices and dates are available for

1. **ERISJ Social Justice Congresses** that provide a two-day social justice induction for up to 50 people from a school, University, TAFE or workplace; and

2. **ERISJ Social Justice Weeks** that enable educational institutions, workplaces and community organizations to host an **Edmund Rice Institute for Social Justice, Fremantle** expert staff member for a week of social justice activities and education. website www.erisj.org.au will explain our objectives and provide you with further insight into these programs and others.

Dr Suma Kaare Email: sjeducation@erisj.org.au Phone: (direct) (08)9432 2414

ALL ARE WELCOME
Edmund Rice Network
SUNDOWNER



March 30 2009

Aquinas College
Mt Henry Road

SALTER POINT
5.30 to 7.30 pm

Relax over a glass of wine or a cuppa

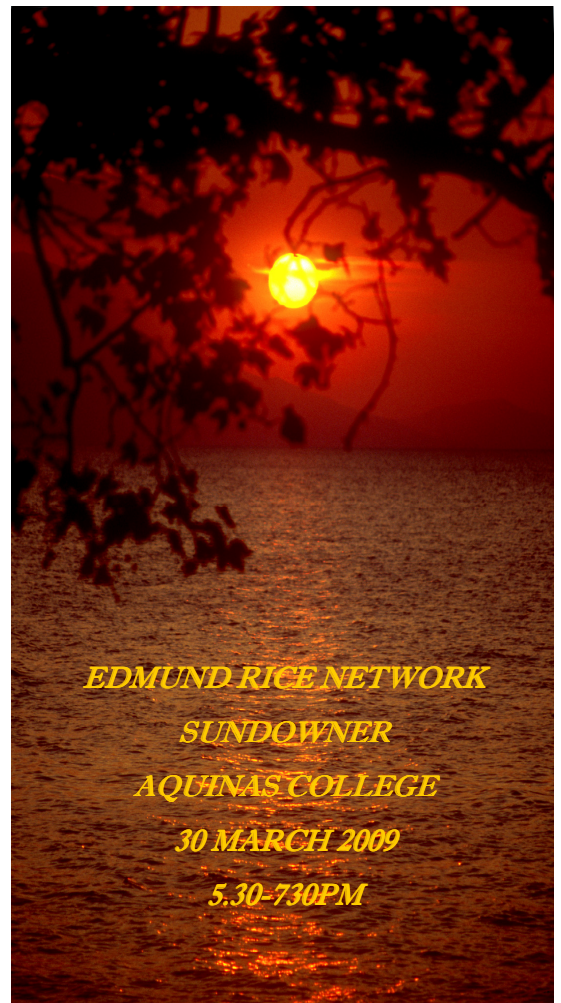
Enjoy the scrumptious food provided.

Mix & Mingle with colleagues and old friends ;

Meet people that you have heard about and some of those who are new to the Edmund Rice Network;

Take time to find out what is happening in the EREA and all the different Ministries and people that make up the ERN WA

I look forward to seeing you there - Jill



EDMUND RICE NETWORK
SUNDOWNER
AQUINAS COLLEGE
30 MARCH 2009
5.30-730PM

Blessings 2009



Wishing you a peaceful New Year and all the blessings of the Christ Child in 2009

"Let us celebrate this life of beauty and love. Forget not that even though we suffer, others suffer more.

Take time to gaze upward to a night of trembling stars. And even though life's journey is not always smooth, you are part of something greater and more wonderful.

Let this fresh New Year be filled with light and love, and may you realise the dreams closest to your heart"

Roy Lessen

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

With thanks to Br Berkeley Fitzhardinge

Edmund Rice Network Sundowner March 30th 2009 Aquinas College 5.30pm

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.

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ERN Regional Co-ordinator WA.

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Westcourt

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