



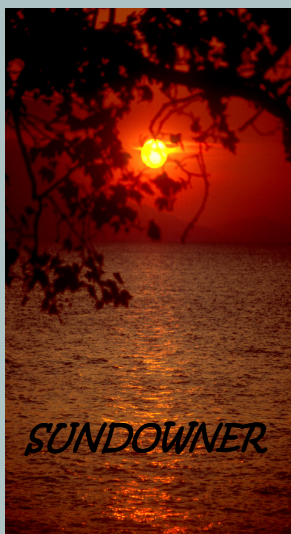
Edmund Rice - Networking WA

Volume 2 Issue 2

March 2009

Special points of Interest:

- Congratulations to Linet Tessie Laban Graduate of CUEA Nairobi Kenya
- Ruminations from Jill
- Greetings from Br Terry Casey
- English teachers desperately needed at ERC Mirrabooka
- ERISJ –What's on in March 2009
- Sundowner Aquinas College March 30th 2009



CONGRATULATIONS TO LINET TESSIE LABAN



Linet Tessie Laban graduated in December 2008 from the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA) in Nairobi, Kenya. She gained a four year Bachelor of Education degree with majors in Mathematics and Science. Most of her results were at Distinction level and she is now employed in the Catholic Secondary School in Embulbul, Ngong.

All this was made possible for Linet through the generosity of two members of the wider Edmund Rice network in Perth.

Five years ago Linet could complete only one Semester of her University study because she had by then used all her savings. She could no longer afford even the relatively moderate fee charged by CUEA. She refused to give up hope, however, and took employment in the kitchen of a Retreat House conducted in Nairobi by the Loreto nuns.

The Sisters rapidly came to know the quality of this young woman, but although they wished to help her they were already sponsoring a number of others at CUEA and elsewhere. They asked the Brothers could they help. By the end of the year Linet returned to the University whilst still working some nights and weekends to support herself and also her family back home.

Eventually generous Australian sponsors were found and they saw Linet through her degree for the next three years. At the end of her fourth Semester Linet wrote to them:

"I am just so grateful and I hope to continue benefiting from my studies and gaining the teaching skills that will prepare me to give something in return to the society of my country Kenya. I want education to be my vocation as an African lay woman."

Being a science student (majoring in Mathematics and Biology/Chemistry) I am striving to lay a solid foundation in disciplines which can only very rarely be chosen by women in my culture. I hope to serve all young people, but especially young women, persuading them to believe that with education, anything is possible. I want to dedicate my life to quality, diversity, accessibility and social justice in education. I especially hope to be a role model for women"



Linet has achieved her ambition and here she is, on her graduation day, in company with her friends. She is the only Maths/Science graduate amongst them.

ERC MIRRABOOKA IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF ENGLISH TEACHERS
SEE PAGE 3

RUMINATIONS FROM JILL

THE WEIGHT OF ONE SNOWFLAKE

Several years ago I was helping at an Edmund Rice Camp up at Tuppin House in Moore River. My daughter Tina was Camp Coach and I was there minding my Grandchildren Courtney and Jeremy (who went everywhere with her), and filling in as kitchen hand in between times.



Over the course of the Camp several 'events' took place.

On the first night the fire alarm went off at midnight. Great confusion ensued as every one hastened outside to the marshalling area

When the leaders realised that it was a hoax everyone went back to bed. The following night a hole was discovered in the wall, and at one stage one of the boys had to be taken to Gingin hospital with a foot injury.

After many incidents, long days and little sleep, some of the leaders felt that they had failed to make any difference with this group of kids.

Tina then told them the story of 'The Weight of One Snowflake'

It is a simple story that reminds us that while something may be small, it is not insignificant.

"Tell me, what does a snowflake weigh?" said the song thrush to the white dove. "Next to nothing," was the reply. "In that case, I have a wondrous story to tell you," said the song thrush. "I was sitting on the branch of a fir tree one day, quite close to the trunk, when it began to snow."



It didn't fall violently like in a wild storm, but rather as in a dream, quietly, weightlessly.

Since I had nothing better to do, I counted the snowflakes as they came to rest on the twigs and needles of my branch. There were exactly 3,741,952 of them. When the three million, seven hundred and forty one thousand, nine hundred and fifty third flake fell - as you say, a mere nothing - the branch broke."

(From "A Tale for All Seasons" by the German philosopher Kurt Kauter in his New Fables tale, "Thus Spake the Marabou.")

A snowflake weighs little to nothing and yet the one was enough to break the branch when added to the others.

Sometimes it can seem that we are not making a difference but at a later time our seemingly insignificant acts of goodness do make a difference. We may never see the change ourselves, but it is possible that our time spent here on Camp with these kids is like the falling snowflakes. Together with future camps we are providing lots of snowflakes, and that could be all that is needed to contribute to making a huge difference in their lives.



In all our Edmund Rice Ministries whether it be Christian Brothers Individual Ministries; ERCMWA; ERCKWA; EREA; Shopfront; ERISJ; CBERSSC; ER Prayer Groups; ER Formation Services; ORSO Westcourt; ER Community Salter Point; Indigenous Ministry; PERM; ECC Broome; Wheelchairs for Kids Wangara or in our family lives let us remember the effect of the one snowflake.

Volunteering to help as a cook, kitchen hand or a bus driver at an ERCKWA Camp is a great experience. You can come for all or a part of the camp. **Contact: Ash Little 08 9365 2811 or email: amlittle@edmundrice.org**

BEST WISHES TO YOU ALL, FROM BR TERRY CASEY

19 Winders Avenue
Tugun Qld 4224

Greetings from sunny Queensland and the Gold Coast. Life is pretty tough here! It's five minutes walk to the beach, quiet house with about six rooms and there is a pool at the back! I have been here now for two weeks and beginning to find my way around. All very different from our climate and a very busy Gold Coast Highway nearby which takes you to Coolangatta, the airport gateway to the Gold Coast. Tugun is a short 5 minutes away from Coolangatta and a quiet little village with good shopping but none of the big stores. Fruit at the local fruit market is very fresh and reasonably cheap. Pineapples and rock melons are two for \$3. It is quite a way to Brisbane from here, about an hour's drive if conditions are good, about 100 kms away. I have been up there once to visit the regional office and took a walk in the beautiful gardens along the river. Very tropical, green and well watered. The other night we had about 24 mls and the humidity is really high at this time of year. We are fortunate in having quite often a southerly cool breeze which takes the temperature down a few degrees and makes life easier.

All my luggage arrived very promptly from Perth on the Tuesday after I had arrived. That was pretty good since it left on the Friday before, a long way to come from Perth.



I have unpacked and set up my room to make myself feel comfortable and at home with a few familiar things around me. Luke Quinn who is a local Queensland, has been very helpful in assisting me to familiarize myself with new surrounds. We spent a couple of days at Mt Archer in the first week and drove through the hills which are looking green and lush at this time. There is some stunning scenery such as the Glass Mountains. Geologists would have field day. And the wildlife is no less stunning. Everywhere in Tugun are these large dragon lizards some of them 80 cms long scuttling across the path near water and lagoons located nearby. Smaller versions of them frequent the garden and backyard, one of them finding his way into our kitchen the other day through a hole in the screen wire. Must have been impressed with our cooking! We are managing quite well with our catering, not too difficult with just the two of us at present. Cyril Bosco, our third member will arrive on the weekend.

So far we have not been successful in getting an internet broadband connection so the only way I can get email is down at the local internet café. So I faithfully trot down each day and check to see what needs to be attended to. Mail seems to be a bit slow getting here, taking about a week from Perth.

I love to hear all the news from home so please remember to keep me in the loop about what happens back in the West. My first trip back will be on May 4th till the 12th, when the weather should be a little milder and hopefully not as humid as we have here.

CRY FOR HELP FROM ERC MIRRABOOKA

THE ERC MIRRABOOKA IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF ENGLISH TEACHERS FOR THE MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM

On behalf of the Chair of the Edmund Rice Centre, Mirrabooka, Jim Elliot, we are posting a plea for assistance.

The Edmund Rice Centre at Mirrabooka cannot meet the demand for English language classes! We desperately need qualified Teachers to help us. You don't need to be ESL qualified (though if you are, that's great!) but you do need to have a teaching qualification and ideally some experience teaching at school or TAFE.

These voluntary positions are EXTREMELY rewarding as you are able to give practical assistance to people who are keen to learn and participate in their new homeland.

If you are able to help, please contact the Edmund Rice Centre on

Phone: (08) 9440 0625 or 9440 1920 and say you are interested in being a Teacher at the Centre.

Fax: (08) 9207 1178

Email: ercmwa@westnet.com.au



EDMUND RICE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH:

Saturday 14th: Aid or Development: Charity or Social Justice?

Most people agree that poverty is obscene. Many fear that we are stuck with it. This Intensive explores techniques and understandings that are already building a world in which poverty need not be. **Registrations closing soon –**

This Intensive provides participants with an opportunity to:

- reflect upon key issues in aid and development;
- build clarity about the practical and conceptual similarities and differences between aid, development, charity and social justice;
- engage with the Millennium Development Goals as a framework for identifying development priorities;
- examine Caritas Australia's mandate and model of development; and
- learn how to become involved in campaigns to tackle poverty.

Presenter: Janeen Murphy

Janeen is Global Education Advisor for Caritas Australia. She has worked in this position for 8 years, including working with Caritas partners 'on the ground' in Uganda, Timor-Leste (East Timor), Cambodia and India. Janeen runs education programs in schools and higher education institutions, providing pathways to engage with justice issues



Saturday 21st: Leadership Skills For Not-For-Profit Organisations

This Intensive introduces current and aspiring leaders from the Not-for-profit sector (both employees and volunteers) to 'mission-centric' management.

Key Outcomes. Participants will:

- discover the particular skills needed to work within a resource-scarce environment;
- find ways to keep the organisation's mission a central priority despite managerial processes and decision-making frameworks that would otherwise render 'mission' a reduced priority; and
- gain practical tools and ideas relevant to meeting these challenges;
- depart the Intensive more capable of assisting their organisation to deliver effective management without losing focus upon their larger, core purposes.

Presenter: Professor David Gilchrist BA, BBus, CPA, FAICD

David has consulted for over 15 years to not-for-profit, commercial and government organisations. He has also held positions of CEO, CFO and voluntary director in each of these sectors. David is currently Assistant Auditor General in Western Australia and Adjunct Professor of Not-for-profit Leadership & Management at the University of Notre Dame. He has taught at the London School of Economics, Portsmouth University, Curtin University of Technology and Edith Cowan University. David's research focuses on accounting and governance in the not-for-profit sector. He is a Counsellor on the Anglican Schools Commission, and past President of WACOSS and COTA(WA) and Relationships Australia.

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.

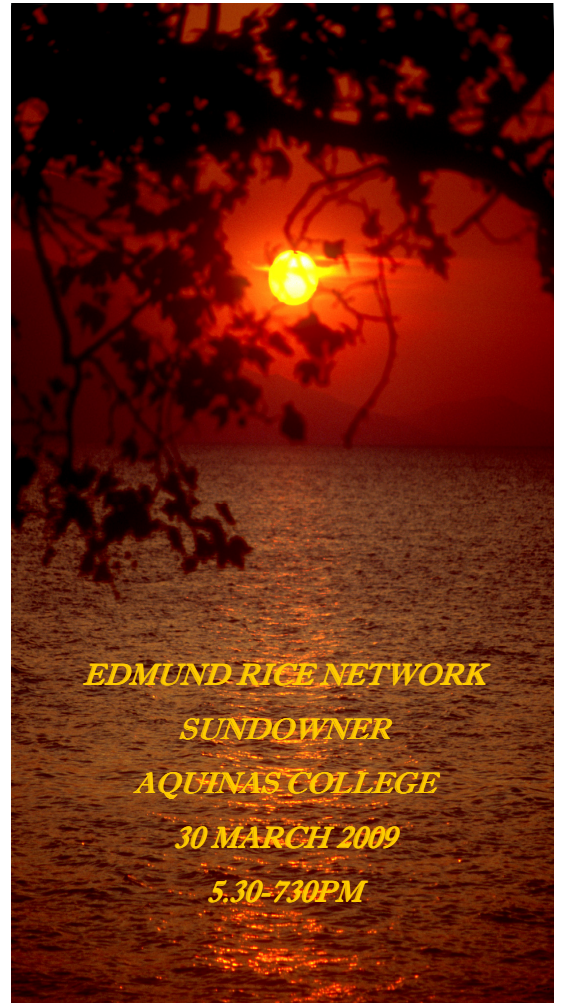
Mix & Mingle with colleagues and old friends ;

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

Take time for a celebration of the last twelve months

I look forward to seeing you there - Jill

Contact: direct line 08 9365 2841 or email:
jcparker@edmundrice.org



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

Archbishop Desmond Tutu



UBUNTU

"If I diminish you I diminish myself"

"In my culture and tradition the highest praise that can be given to someone is, "Yu u nobuntu", an acknowledgement that he or she has this wonderful quality, *ubuntu*. It is a reference to their actions towards their fellow human beings, it has to do with how they see themselves within their intimate relationships, their familial relationships and within the broader community. *Ubuntu* addresses a central tenet of African philosophy: the essence of what it is to be human....

People with *ubuntu* are approachable and welcoming, their attitude is kindly and well disposed, they are not threatened by the goodness in others because their own esteem and self-worth is generated by knowing they belong to a greater whole. To recast the Cartesian proposition "I think therefore I am", *ubuntu* would phrase it, "I am human because I belong". Put another way, "a person is a person through other people"...

"I am what I am because of who we all are"

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

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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