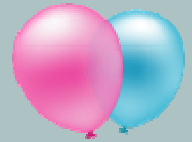




Edmund Rice - Networking WA



“WELCOME TO AUSTRALIA” PICNIC IN THE PARK

After three days of wet, squally weather, Sunday 24th May, with its beautiful sunshine – perfect for a picnic – had us of the Brothers Girrawheen Community feeling that God was smiling on us!

Transporting, feeding and entertaining so many – well over 200 in all – though demanding, was made so much easier by the generosity and hard work of



the almost one hundred volunteers who assisted. In that number, besides the truly admirable contingent from Sacred Heart College were many St Vincent de Paul Society members, parishioners from Girrawheen and Greenwood, and one most important volunteer from Clontarf Aboriginal College who brought with him a large and crucially important bus! On this picnic, as on previous ones, Br Laurie Negus and the College were most helpful in providing essential transport and a driver with a bright, cheery grin!

The organisers of the Welcome to Australia Picnics (We've had two each year for some years now) would be very happy to welcome any more of the Edmund Rice Network who would like to join us at Carine Open Space on

Sunday, 25th October, for the next Picnic.

**Volume 2 Issue 5
June 2009**

Special points of Interest:

- ‘Welcome to Australia’ Picnic at Carine
Br Geoff Seaman
- Edmund Rice Day Celebration at Catholic Agricultural College Bindoon
Br Tony Hackett
- ERISJ –What’s on in June 2009
- PERM Fundraising Social Terry Gee
- Reflection
- Public Protest
June 20th 2009



In perfect conditions we were co-hosts, with the St Vincent de Paul Society, of that day’s “Welcome to Australia” Picnic for some, at least, of those refugees recently arrived in Perth.

From among that group more than 130 people from nine different countries enjoyed the happy experience of a warm, friendly welcome in the context of a typical Aussie Barbecue in the beautiful surrounds of Carine Open Space.

That many of our guests spoke little or no English didn’t seem to matter. They were just glad to have left behind the sufferings and dangers of Afghanistan, Iraq, Burundi, Ethiopia, Congo, Burma, Sudan, Togo and Liberia. For the children

who were delightfully entertained by over forty students and eight Staff from Sacred Heart College Sorrento, the ‘language’ of games, varied activities, painted faces, etc was certainly adequate!



**Contact:
Br Geoff Seaman on
9 342 6710**

CATHOLIC AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE BINDOON



As part of our Edmund Rice Day celebrations on May 5th, we held a special Chapel Assembly where we reflected on the life of Blessed Edmund Rice (1762–1844) - the first Christian Brother.

Edmund lived in 19th century Ireland where there was great poverty and a resulting sense of hopelessness. Edmund was a wealthy businessman whose young wife had died in premature childbirth and was the father of a daughter who had a disability, which prevented her from living life independently. After his daughter was a young woman, financially independent due to his wealth, and cared for by an aunt, Edmund followed what he believed was God's call

to him and founded a free school for the poor boys of his city, Waterford.

In spite of age and inexperience, Edmund taught the boys himself and was soon joined by other men inspired by his vision and so the Christian Brothers were founded. In 1936 his vision was planted here at Bindoon. We are his heirs today. Christian Brother Kevin Paull cfc spoke to us about how small actions can have an amazing effect. He painted a word picture of an enormous container ship in Fremantle Harbour being turned around and pointed in the right direction by two small tugs. Likewise a small enterprise started by Edmund in Waterford began to change the lives of countless young people in that city and later throughout Ireland and the World. Edmund's aim was to teach young people and to inspire self-confidence. Edmund's enterprise is still changing lives today.

But the day wasn't just spent in the Chapel! Mr Armstrong and the catering staff put on a splendid morning tea and BBQ lunch—thank you!

Ms Alderman organised the Edmund Rice Day Games with novelty relays and tugs-of-war.

She had us all shrieking with laughter and shouting! The day ended with DVDs organised by Ms Murphy.

The day was a worthy tribute to our Founder—Blessed Edmund Rice.

Bro Tony Hackett cfc

Chaplain



EDMUND RICE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE FREMANTLE

WHAT'S ON IN JUNE?:

Join Us June 27th 10am-5pm and learn how to "Be More!"

Janeen Murphy, the Global Education Advisor for Caritas Australia, joins ERISJ to offer the Caritas 'Be More' Challenge! Many people want to do more than just donate money: they wish to be connected with the world and want to be part of the solution. Inspired by the words of Archbishop Oscar Romero 'Aspire not to have more, but to be more', you will be encouraged to 'be more' by making lifestyle changes and taking action for environmental and social justice. This workshop will help to unpack the 'Be More' campaign and provide participants with the opportunity to join thousands of other Australians as they take up the 'Be More' Challenge!

WHAT'S BEEN KEEPING US BUSY?:

Making Social Justice Mainstream in Schools

Our highly sought-after social justice educators, David Freeman and Dr Suma Kaare, recently returned from a week of workshops for Edmund Rice ministries, school and networks in Adelaide, where they shared ERISJ's innovative ideas and practices about mainstreaming social justice values and practices within the schools or University curriculum or within workplace mandates. Our Adelaide hosts made it a brilliant week.

Guided by the motto 'think globally and act locally', David and Suma worked with teachers and students to identify priority social justice issues as well as projects for addressing them. Bullying and anti-discrimination issues were high on the agenda for the year 11 and 12 students, while teachers discussed their responsibility to incorporate the values of fairness into everyday life. This included possible integrated science. For example, maths teachers can teach statistical techniques by reference to examples of health and educational inequality between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians.

Using practical tools for planning and participation, the teachers and students appreciated that social justice action in schools goes way beyond the traditional notion of soup kitchens and fundraising for charitable deeds. It's about seeing unfairness starting where we live and work, in communities that surround us and others, and taking affirmative actions against it.

The ERISJ conducts workshops across Australia and Oceania. For a limited time only, we are offering Western Australian schools special discounted rates for similar events. Workshops can be conducted on school campus or at the Institute in Fremantle – fees vary accordingly. Call 9432-2400 for more information.

WHY BECOME A TRAINED ERISJ VOLUNTEER ?:

1. Achieve heightened awareness of Social Justice issues in order to become a valued Social Justice Volunteer worker;
2. Many positions we make available are in areas otherwise difficult to get involved in as an outsider;
3. Volunteering experience with us supports your progress in various fields of employment; and
4. We offer Certificates and documented evidence of volunteer hours worked.

Volunteer & Internship Coordinator: Laurina Kersten. +61 8 9432 2410.





PERM

'Helping Children Achieve'



You are invited to

A Pleasant Evening of Music, Food and Dancing (aimed at 30 – 70 year olds).

Proceeds to help disadvantaged school children in Leyte and Kabankalan in the Philippines Missions run by Australian Edmund Rice Brothers.

Use of Hall and facilities generously provided by the Girrawheen Parish.

Funds will be directed towards the provision of special books and Science equipment to the mission. Br. Geoff Seaman of the Girrawheen Parish will ensure funds arrive promptly at their proper destination.

Sincere appreciation to all who are gratuitously giving of their time and talents to this event.

20th June 2009 at 6pm

Girrawheen Parish Hall, 5 Patrick Crt, Girrawheen

Music: DJ –Felix • Food: Selection

Drinks: Soft drinks available – BYOG

Cost of Ticket: \$20 (includes meal)

Tickets available after each Mass on 6th - 7th -13th & 14th June or until sold out.
Look for the PERM sign outside the church.

Enquiries: Terry 9304 8788

Looking forward to your company.

MINISTRY

“There is no more potent way to thank God for your gifts , or to increase them, than by sharing them. You will be given as much power in the world as you are willing to use on His behalf.

Think of your career as your ministry. Make your work an expression of love in service to mankind. Within the worldly illusion, we all have different jobs. Some of us are artists, some of us are business people, some of us are scientists, etc. But in the real world that lies beyond all this, we all have the same job: to minister to human hearts. All of us are here as ministers of God....

As ministers of God, we let our careers be an expression of our own depth - of what really *matters* to us. Knowing that we are acting on behalf of a higher purpose than our own self-aggrandisement, gives us the joy we're all seeking. Whatever we do, whatever our job, it can be a vessel through which we teach salvation - that the Son of God is innocent—and we are all sons of God. Kindness to Him transforms the world. We don't necessarily teach this verbally, but rather non-verbally. The problem most people have is that they're more concerned with the mode of their expression than with what they're seeking to express. That 's because they don't know what they want to express....

Any job can become a ministry, as long as it is dedicated to love. Your career can be an empty canvas for God to write on. Whatever your talents or abilities, he can use them. Our ministry becomes a joyous experience for ourselves and others as we let a mysterious force direct us. We simply follow instructions. We are allowing God's spirit to move through us, using our gifts and resources however He sees fit to do His work in the world. This is the key to a successful career...

Everybody wants a great job. Accept that it's already been given you. The fact that you're alive means a function has been assigned to you: open your heart to everyone and everything. That way you're a vessel of God. Don't worry about what to say or what to do. He'll let you know...

“God please use me” is the most powerful affirmation we can say for an abundant career.”

Marianne Williamson .



***Live Jesus in our Hearts
....Forever.***



**Saturday 20 June -
Public Protest Against Deaths in Custody**

The Deaths in Custody Watch Committee of WA is holding a public rally @ 12:00pm Forrest Chase, Perth, to protest Mr. Ward's death, and:

- Demand the State Government guarantee that people will be safe in custody
- Take immediate action to reduce Indigenous imprisonment rates in WA which are the highest of any developed country, and
- Do something real and substantial NOW to tackle racism in the WA Justice System.
- Email: dicwc@iinet.net.au for more information

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.

JCParker@edmundrice.org

Westcourt

PO BOX 1129

Bentley DC WA 6983

***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](http://Christianbrothers.com.au/ernwa)***

***With thanks to Br
Berkeley Fitzhardinge***

