



# Edmund Rice - Networking WA

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## Special points of Interest:

- **Ancient Voices of Country.**—Donella Brown.
- **Catholic Bible College Johannesburg.** - Br Geoff Seaman.
- **Trinity College Indigenous Program— 'Good Talking'.** Trinity College Indigenous Newsletter.
- **ERCKWA Entertainment Books for sale.**
- **ERISJ –What's on in July 2009.**
- **Brothers' Retreat July 2009 -Sean McManus.**
- **Creation Spirituality Retreat-Shelley Barlow**



### THE PATH

*"In order to arrive you must follow the signs.*

*God inscribed on the world the path that each man must follow. It is just a matter of reading the inscription he wrote for you."*

*Paulo Coelho*



**National Sorry Day** in May was an opportunity for me to be present in the Blue Mountains, just outside of Sydney, with the Congregational Leadership Team and the Oceania Leadership team. Both leadership teams were invited by Oceania Indigenous Ministry to "Walk Country Together".

We started the day with a stop at St Dominic's College in Penrith for a Smoking Ceremony but instead were invited to the College's Sorry Day Ceremony. The young Indigenous men of the college danced and hosted the ceremony before we started our journey to walk country.



St Domenic's College Penrith



Kings Tableland Mountain

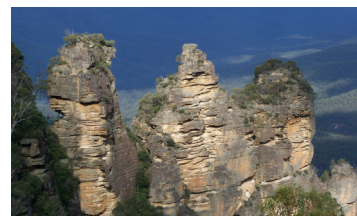
Our journey then began as the day invited us to travel together, to be present to one another and to listen to the ancient story of the land.



The backdrop of the Blue Mountains was not only picturesque but extremely spiritual. Before climbing Kings Tableland Mountain we announced ourselves and acknowledged "Country" in the grandeur of these great mountains. As we walked we heard the story of how Kings Table Mountain was named—on a clear day you could see Sydney and the Mountain is flat here like a large table—hence the name. We then followed the stories and evidence in the land of axe making, ceremonies and dances. We were shown the place where men held business and under the mountain the place where women and children gathered. We listened to the Aboriginal story of how the team of Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson were shown the way over the Blue Mountains by a young Aboriginal girl.



Br Phillip Pinto & BrJoe Lauren under the Mountain



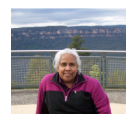
The Three Sisters

Our final stop was a late lunch at Katoomba and the opportunity for people to walk out to the Three Sisters. The journey home was a mixture of storytelling and people resting after the a day of connecting with the ancient voices. Certainly during the day we were presented with many stories to reflect on. The most important thing was that these leaders of our Oceania Province and the Congregation had a much needed opportunity to relax, reflect and rejuvenate their spirits.

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**EDMUND RICE CAMPS for KIDS WA**  
**COMING SOON: QUIZ NIGHT - Sept 4th 2009**  
**BALL - November 14th 2009**



# CATHOLIC BIBLE COLLEGE, JOHANNESBURG



Brs Joe Murphy, Brian Berg, & Kevin McDonnell at the Brother's house



Joe at the Brother's house Johannesburg

People often ask me what I am doing to pass the time. So at the request of Jill I am putting pen to paper, so to speak.

I started working for the Catholic Bible College in Johannesburg during 2006 after Kevin McDonnell asked me to prepare some distance education Modules of work for the planned expansion of the College into distance learning. And basically that is what I have been doing since then.

One needs to understand the rationale that motivates the work of the College. For this purpose I quote the vision statement:

*The vision of the Catholic Bible College is that it be instrumental in promoting biblical education for adults and young adults in such a way as to contribute to the moral regeneration of society, and to enhance the quality of youth leadership in local communities.*

Apart from the residential programmes operating, the Catholic Bible College has introduced a *Certificate of Biblical Studies* by distance learning. This is the programme in which I am involved. This flexible programme can be followed by learners according to their own time frame and is suitable for anyone wishing to improve their skills and understanding in study of the Bible. Applicants must hold a School Leaving Certificate or its equivalent, and be proficient in spoken and written English.



Dining at Brothers House

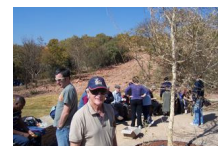
At present the programme is offered in the form of print materials. Thirty Modules of work have been planned of which fifteen must be successfully completed to obtain the *Certificate of Biblical Studies*. For each Module there is a Study Guide that contains all the learning material for that topic. Apart from the Bible, no textbooks or reference books are required. Assessment is by means of one Assignment and a Portfolio of four short statements of personal reflection for each Module. Students are recommended to complete it in two years.

I am one of a team of people preparing these Modules. At the moment I have completed seven, namely:

DL101 Introduction to the Old Testament  
DL102 Beginnings (Genesis 1-11)  
DL104 Former Prophets  
DL105 Latter Prophets I  
DL201 Introduction to the New Testament  
DL205 Parables in the Synoptics  
DL207 Passion and Resurrection Stories

This work has been quite a learning experience for me as I hope it has been for the students who study the Modules.

The College also runs other events during the year, one of which I attended in 2007. This was *Tshwarelo*: a two-week intensive programme on forgiveness and reconciliation for teachers and others in the Edmund Rice Network. Various presenters, who were involved in the apartheid era in South Africa, gave an account of their experiences. There were a number of visits to places of significance during the apartheid era. One of these presenters was Antoinette Sithole, the sister of Hector Petersen, the first schoolboy killed in the student protest in Soweto on 16 June, 1976.



Tshwarelo Freedom Park Pretoria



A Sithole at Museum  
Sithole, the first schoolboy killed in the student protest in Soweto on 16 June, 1976.

Joe Murphy

## TRINITY COLLEGE INDIGENOUS PROGRAM



Last term we saw the introduction of the **Indigenous Tutoring Program**, which replaced last year's Homework Classes. The program is fully funded through the CEO. Each student is eligible to receive two hours of tutoring per week. Students in Years 8-12 are participating. The Year 8 boys have their sessions during class time and the remaining boys have the responsibility of organising times with their tutors after school (or even before school in some instances). It has been challenging to organise times around sports training and matches, dance lessons and the odd social or two. To the credit of the students and tutors who have been incredibly flexible and enthusiastic, the program is proving to be a great success.



Indigenous Students enrolled in the **Senior Enterprise Program** (Years 10-12) work towards achieving competencies in the Certificate II in Business by engaging in a practical, on the job approach to their studies. As part of this program the students help run a graphic design business (Trinity Graphics Studio) where they produce fliers, tickets and other advertising materials for clients within the College. As part of this process, the students not only produce the materials but they liaise with the clients and work in an environment that simulates a real world work place. Their work culminates with client reviews and finally by the students invoicing the client for the work completed.

Another area where the students are involved in a practical way is in the work they do in maintaining the College olive grove at Dwellingup. It is here that the students get to work outdoors on projects such as fencing and reticulation. This area of their course is complemented by a venture run at the College where they are setting up a plant nursery, which has aspects of irrigation and environmental studies incorporated. Their literacy and numeracy skills are embedded within the program.

**'GOOD TALKING' Trinity College Indigenous Newsletter** School website: [www.trinity.wa.edu.au](http://www.trinity.wa.edu.au)

