



Edmund Rice - Networking WA

Volume 2 Issue 10

November 2009

Special points of Interest:

- **CBERS Consultancy
Dr Philippa White**
- **ERCKWA Environ-
mental Camp Kellie
Pickford**
- **ERISJ –Aboriginal Ad-
visory Program**
- **Visit to the ERISJ 'Unity
in Diversity' Celebra-
tion. by the ERCM
'Women Together'
Group -'Christina Ward**
- **ERN WA Sundowner
March 15th 2010**



Sundowner 2010 Western Australia

CBERS CONSULTANCY



Christian Brothers Ex Residents & Students Consultancy is an Edmund Rice Ministry operating from **ERISJ** in Fremantle. The service is coordinated by **Dr Philippa White**, and carries forward some of the roles formerly fulfilled by CBERSS (Christian

Brothers Ex-Residents and Students Service) in Subiaco. The previous agency, set up by Dr Maria Harries in 1995 at the request of Br Gerry Faulkner, was designed to provide a broad range of services for men who previously lived at Homes run by the Christian Brothers in Western Australia. Counselling for ex-residents of Nazareth House and Sisters of Mercy Homes was introduced in 2000, and by 2005 CBERSS had provided over 500 men and women with services such as family tracing; travel funding for former child migrants; adult literacy programs; counselling; and no-interest loans.

CBERSS in Subiaco ceased operation in December 2005, after demand for services had dwindled and the child migrant travel fund had closed. Ways to meet the ongoing needs of the client group were identified during a lengthy planning and consultation process undertaken by a reference group of ex-residents, CBERSS management and staff, and members of the Christian Brothers WA/SA Province Leadership team.

In keeping with the planning group's recommendations, CBERS Consultancy commenced operation in January 2006, offering a two-day per week counselling and advocacy service in Fremantle. The new service was developed on a non-dependency model, and called for greater input from a network of ex-residents. Key developments in the service are recorded in the *CBERS Network*, a biannual newsletter produced by CBERS and ex-residents representing Tardun, Bindoon, St Joseph's, Nazareth House, Castledare and Clontarf.

During the consultancy's first two years of operation a fairly consistent and relatively low demand for service was maintained, but in December 2007 the announcement of *Redress WA* led to a substantial increase in the number of people contacting CBERS. The redress scheme was set up by the State Government to provide acknowledgment, apology and a financial payment to adults who experienced

childhood abuse and neglect in out-of-home care in Western Australia.

A tender to the Department for Communities, submitted under the auspices of ERC Mirrabooka, subsequently funded counselling and assistance for CBERS clients applying for the redress scheme. Pip is most grateful to Steve Bowman and his staff at ERCM for their excellent project management of *CBERS Redress Service*, and the Christian Brothers, who have continued to support and fund CBERS 'above and beyond', what might have been expected.

Pip White says the values and principles informing her work reflect those of the Australian Association of Social Workers, and valuing the human dignity and worth in each person she encounters in her work is of primary importance to her. As a new member of the ERN, Pip was pleased to discover many similarities between the AASW values and those of Edmund Rice - most apparently in Respect for Dignity of the Person, Commitment to the Poor and Marginalised, and Nurturing of Right Relationships.

Pip says, "I feel extremely fortunate to have this opportunity to provide a service that is so personally and professionally rewarding for me, and I feel well supported by the Brothers. In my opinion the Christian Brothers' work in helping ex-residents to move forward with their lives locates them as leaders in this field. It was heartening to hear Senator Humphries at the recent Community Affairs Committee hearing in Perth describe CBERS' model of service as 'best practice in the field'. The Senator's comments give due recognition to the Christian Brothers' implementation and support of the former CBERSS in Subiaco, which predates my work by many years. I feel honoured to carry forward the CBERS name".

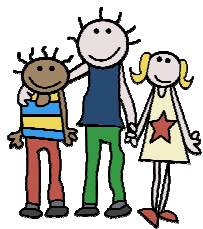


L-R: Br Rod Ellyard, Mr Allan Tranter, Dr Maria Harries, Dr Mark Sachmann (seated), Dr Philippa White, Dr Debbi Rosser, Ms Maureen Briggs-Trewin, Mr Peter Bent, Br Kevin Ryan (seated), Mr Gordon Grant, Mr Laurie Humphreys (seated), Mr George Horton

cont



EDMUND RICE CAMPS FOR KIDS WA ENVIRONMENTAL CAMP



Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA.

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 7/10/2009

Today's youth passionate about conserving the environment for tomorrow

Fourteen young people aged 14-16 years and ten volunteer university students were recently involved in an Environmental camp with Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA (ERCKWA). This camp aimed at giving youth a better understanding of our unique natural environment and the impact their Daily activities can have on it

The camp participants planted trees to re-vegetate the banks of the Moore River, Guilderton and explored recycling and other initiatives which they themselves can undertake at home as well as educate others in their household. The young people explored hypothetical case studies of environmental impact in the future and even looked at ways in which the organisers - Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA, could do to become more environmentally sustainable and decrease their carbon footprint. ERCKWA's Programmes Officer Mrs Kellie Pickford said "The feedback given by the youth would play an important role in the way we plan future camps and events."

Whilst there were also a number of other activities based around teamwork including problem solving, crafts and sports, Kellie said, "Whilst the youth of WA may not always be the most vocal on environmental issues, the camp proved that environmental conservation was a passionate topic with the young camp participants. It was fantastic to see how involved they were and willing to share their ideas".-

Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA Inc (ERCKWA) is a non-profit community based organisation that serves the needs of kids (aged 7-16) and their families. We provide camps and other recreational and developmental activities for kids who would not otherwise have such opportunities, supporting kids who are 'at risk' or experiencing some form of disadvantage.

Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA also supports and encourages the growth and development of young adult volunteers, through empowering them to assist those in need in the community.

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CBERS Symbol

The CBERS symbol recognises the origins of the men and women who have been a part of the Christian Brothers Ex-Residents and Students Service in Subiaco, and CBERS Consultancy in Fremantle. A map of Australia joins with emblems from Ireland, Eire, Scotland, England, Wales and Malta – reflecting the heritage of both Australian born ex-residents, and those who arrived in Australia as child migrants and resided at Catholic child care institutions. The crest of the Catholic Migrant Centre also forms part of the CBERS symbol, and acknowledges the CMC's significant role in supporting former child migrants. The motto, *Travelling Together*, captures the historic journey shared by this network of men and women, and the bond they carry into the future.

(<http://www.cbbers.org/news.html>).



EDMUND RICE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

ERISJ ABORIGINAL ADVISORY PROGRAM

The **ERISJ Aboriginal Leadership Program** supports the identification, development and nurture of personal, cultural and professional skills useful to current and emergent Aboriginal leaders. The Program's premise is the centrality of Aboriginal leadership to the wellbeing of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australia. That the median age of Aboriginal Australia is 21 (when Australia overall is 37) underscores that Aboriginal youths will likely need to be equipped with leadership skills earlier than their non-Aboriginal counterparts.

Further, the Program disseminates insightful Aboriginal skills and capacities not widely present within non-Aboriginal Australia - and vice-versa. In this and other respects, the Program hopes to contribute to the national post-reconciliation dialogue.

The ERISJ Aboriginal Leadership Program Advisory Council is comprised of Aboriginal Australians who are eminent educators and leaders within Aboriginal Australia.

The ERISJ Aboriginal Leadership Program Advisory Council advises the ERISJ Director and Board to support:-

- Aboriginal perspectives and delivery as central to the ERISJ Aboriginal Leadership Program;
- the usefulness of identified Program objectives, content, methods and presenters,
- and promotion of the program in a culturally relevant form.



'UNITY IN DIVERSITY' AT ERISJ

On Friday 23 October as part of WA Week **Edmund Rice Institute for Social Justice** in Fremantle held an event to celebrate '**Unity in Diversity**' which was attended by about 80 people including students and teachers from CBC Fremantle.



The **Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka 'Women Together' group** provided a multicultural lunch for all those present and the women from Sudan, Iraq, Iran, Vietnam and Italy dressed in national costume, danced and discussed their backgrounds and traditions



A Multicultural meal was enjoyed by all



ERCM 'Women Together' Group traditional dance

Three of our youth leaders; Pashtana a muslim woman from Afghanistan, Elizabeth and Achech from Sudan who are all studying at Uni or Tafe, talked to the students about their experience of being refugee young people including life in their country of birth, and the opportunities they have gained from now being Australian. Joe Moniodis ERCM Youth Worker gave an overview of his sports and leadership programs at **ERCM**.

Everyone representing **ERCM** returned to the centre very excited and happy about the events of the day and believed the experience was very rewarding for all concerned. **Chris Ward**

"The greatest use of Life is to use it for something that will outlast it"

William James



**WELCOME
TO
ALL**

**RELAX OVER A
GLASS OF WINE OR
A CUPPA**

MIX & MINGLE

**ENJOY THE
DELICIOUS FOOD**

**MEET WITH
FRIENDS
—OLD & NEW**



**EDMUND RICE NETWORK WA
SUNDOWNER**

**MARCH 15TH 2010 5.30 PM
CBC FREMANTLE**



Earth is not a backdrop for the human adventure.



Fish, birds, and all the animals; rocks, rivers, and woodlands; air, water, and soils are members of the sacred community. We humans are not in charge of the community of life. We are not in control of it. We are members of that community and as such we have our privileges and also our responsibilities.

(John Surette SJ, <http://www.csjthewell.org>)

Thanks 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.

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