



Edmund Rice Network Oceania

PRESENCE COMPASSION LIBERATION

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[Edmund Rice
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UPDATE:

New Pathways Project

Project Coordinator, Catherine Tesoriero

In 2010, a consultation process took place to explore people's hopes for possible pathways of commitment to the charism of Edmund Rice. The aim of the consultation process was to gather information about the various connections to the Christian Brothers and the charism of Edmund Rice as well as to provide the opportunity for people to express their hopes for connections with or commitment to the charism of Edmund Rice.

In 2011, the New Pathways Project moved to engaging people in conversations about the various interest areas that emerged in the consultation project from the previous year.

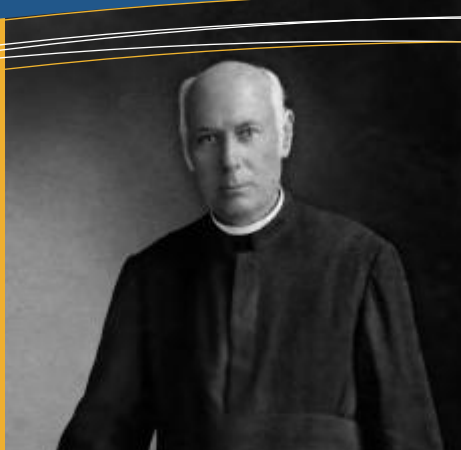
This reinforced that many people were drawn to the charism of Edmund Rice and wanted to continue to connect with this charism in a variety of ways. Most people were happy with the current connections they experienced. A smaller number of people wanted to formalise their connection to the charism.

In 2012, we are keen to provide opportunities for individuals to continue to share and explore the hopes they have for commitment to the charism of Edmund Rice; to continue to explore the possibility of individuals taking private vows of affiliation and commitment to the charism of Edmund Rice; to explore the many ways in which commitment to the charism of Edmund Rice is currently recognised, ritualised and celebrated across the province; and to explore possibilities to formally acknowledge the commitment that people have to the charism of Edmund Rice.

Importantly, there are many exciting and enriching opportunities for connection to the charism of Edmund Rice are available through the Edmund Rice Network and the Edmund Rice Networking Coordinators in each region promote these on a regular basis.

If you wish to share the hopes that you have for commitment to the charism of Edmund Rice please do not hesitate to contact the Project Coordinator Catherine Tesoriero at cpesoriero@edmundrice.org

[READ MORE >](#)



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Patrick Ambrose Treacy

Responding to the Needs of Our Time— Grants in Honour of Br Patrick Ambrose Treacy

Br Treacy was the driving force in the establishment of the Christian Brothers' mission in Oceania. His spirit is described as that of an enterprising immigrant.

He was able to read the signs of the times and respond wholeheartedly over the forty-four years from 1868 to 1912 by developing Christian Brothers' schools in every state of Australia and New Zealand.

Br Treacy gave himself heart and soul to providing Christian education for the youth of Australasia. His many journeys to achieve this end are the stuff of legend. Despite being lost on one occasion while collecting in remote mountain country and, on another, being thrown from his horse while crossing a flooded river and injuring his back, he continued his work. Adversity never deterred him.

In this centenary year 100 years of his death, when we commemorate the life, dedication and work of Br Ambrose Treacy, the Oceania Province have announced in his honour *Br Patrick Ambrose Treacy Grants for 2012-2013*.

People in the Edmund Rice Network are invited to apply for seeding grants to support an initiative that honours the work and legacy of Br Treacy who laid the foundations of the Edmund Rice Story in Oceania.

These grants are to enable people in the Edmund Rice Network to develop an initiative that brings to life an aspect or aspects of Edmund's charism and the Christian Brothers' values of

Presence, Compassion and Liberation

These grants aim to facilitate the opening of people's hearts to the *cry of the poor and the earth* and enable them to take the first steps to bring about healing, transformation and reconciliation in our world.

Grants of up to \$5000 are available.

For further information please contact your Regional Networking Coordinator—see the list on the back page.

Brochures available [here](#).

Applications available [here](#).



Edmund Rice Network.... People with a Heart for Justice



'The Crew' who attended FIER 2 in Queensland

Rapping for Justice

Jim D'Arcy cfc, Networking Coordinator (Qld)

On July 13 Indigenous students from Edmund Rice Schools, Flexible Learning Centres and ministries across Queensland gathered at St James College at Spring Hill for the third annual FIER: Festival for Indigenous in Edmund Rice. The Festival is an opportunity to celebrate and take pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture within the Edmund Rice Network. This year's theme was "Rapping for Justice."

The day began with the Welcome to Country by Turrbal elder Uncle Joe Kirk who is also Indigenous Support Officer for St Edmund's College Ipswich. St James Deputy Principal Marty Wiseman and Indigenous Support officer Aunty Theresa Nunn went on to welcome all to St James.

From here students rotated from various workshops facilitated by Champion Sounds. These focused on: Aboriginal dance, Torres Strait Island dance, Indigenous art, hip hop and beat box. After lunch students and staff came together to perform the chorus of a song written by Champion Sounds that invites both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to support the campaign to include rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Australian Constitution. The song when finished will be made available to Edmund Rice schools and ministries to share with their schools and work-sites.

The day concluded with all people present being given red scarves to mark the day. These included some done earlier featuring their own artwork. Aunty Theresa gave a blessing to all using the language of her people- the Ngugi people of Stradbroke Island. The FIER festival is sponsored by the Christian Brothers through the Edmund Rice Network.



Above, Donna Mulhearn with former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser at a gathering calling for an inquiry into Australia's involvement in the Iraq War.

Why don't we hear about this in mainstream media?

A request from Donna Mulhearn, Peace Activist and Writer

Having emerged from her jetlag after her recent visit to Iraq, Donna Mulhearn hit the ground running. Donna's mission has become reporting on, sharing stories and raising awareness about the issues facing the victims of war in Iraq.

Donna explains that the resounding question from the many hours she is spending in schools since her return has been "Why don't we hear this in the mainstream media?" So, she is asking for our help....

Many of you ask me if I could appear on this radio program or that TV show, and of course I am ready to do so, but it's up to that program to decide and they will make a decision depending on what they sense is their audience interest. So if you'd like to see me interviewed on your local radio program or a particular current affairs show, then contact them and suggest they interview me. Many of you have good media contacts, so let's use them. Otherwise you can contact programs via their web-sites and by phone and email ... give them my contact details: email: donnamulhearn@yahoo.com.au my phone is 0422 749319.

For up to date news on Donna's campaign, join her [Pilgrim Group](#).

Edmund Rice Trail WA

Trevanna Cooper, WA ERN Spirituality Committee

The newly formed ERN Spirituality committee in Western Australia organised an Edmund Rice Trail to mark the 250th anniversary of Edmund's birth and the 150th anniversary of the coming of Ambrose Treacy to Australia.

Author, Br Peter Hardiman, wrote five vignettes based upon the life of Edmund Rice and called them "Conversations with Edmund". People from wide-ranging ERN ministries volunteered to perform them: Both clients and staff from the Edmund Rice Centre at Mirrabooka and teachers and their families from CBC Fremantle were among those that took part.

Special thanks to director Jane Pike of Les Miserables fame, whose talent and enthusiasm inspired and encouraged the cast, to Patty Macknay who procured and adjusted some wonderful costumes from Aquinas College and to Oceania Finance Manager Max Montisci who stepped in at the last minute to take the role of Edmund Rice.

The City of Cockburn Pipe Band lead by ex-Trinity College Band teacher June Corcoran braved the incessant rain to put us into the mood and processed into the Clontarf chapel venue playing jigs and reels.

These intrepid people entertained a crowd of about sixty who later joined the team for delicious food and wine and some jazz music by some boys from the CBC Jazz Orchestra.

The Edmund Rice Trail was an unusual and unique celebration of Edmund and everyone said they'd thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. It is hoped that the script and some video highlights and interviews with author, actors and public will shortly be available on the website for others who may like to run their own.

Thank you to all the actors, The Pipe Band, CBC Jazz Band and all who helped in different ways to make the day a success.



Below — the cast from the Edmund Rice Trail Performance WA



News from Tasmania

Sean McManus cfc, Networking Animator (Tas)

Book Launches in Tassie

ERN Tasmania hosted two Double Book Launches in July. Br Regis Hickey spoke at each about his recent release: *Patrick Ambrose Treacy-Christian Brother, Enterprising Migrant*. The story of Ambrose Treacy is largely unknown in Tasmania as the arrangements leading up to the Hobart Foundation in 1911 were made after Ambrose retired from Leadership.



Above, authors Katrina Powell (left) and Br Regis Hickey (right); Below, ERN representatives at "Walk Together"

Katrina Powell proved inspirational as she read from her book *From Little Things Big Things Grow*, the story of the Edmund Rice Primary School in Deleco. Those in attendance helped to sing the chorus. The Hobart launch was attended by several people who had visited Deleco as part of a Timor Immersion. Thanks to Gerard Keating who accompanied Br Regis as roadie and manager.

Edmund Rice Camp Funfests

During the June Tasmanian School Holidays (first term!), Edmund Rice Camps held four Funfests involving 101 youngsters and about 120 leaders/cooks/specialists (including two from Victoria). Funfests are like camps except the participants go home each evening. Events were held at St Brendan Shaw College Devonport, St Patricks College Launceston, St Virgils College Austins Ferry (all EREA member of associate schools) and Sacred Heart School Geeveston. Birthday Cakes, songs and even an Olympic Torch marked Edmund Rice's 250th birthday. The Launceston *Examiner* and North-West Coast *Advocate* featured articles on the Camps.

Walk Together

Saturday 23 June saw the banner of the Edmund Rice Network Tasmania carried high by a group of young members and friends in the *Walk Together* March in Hobart. The march held nationally was an initiative of Unions Australia and involved community groups speaking out in welcome of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. Speakers emphasized that in essence "we are all boat people". One of the Edmund Rice group, resplendent in ER Camps jacket and logo, was interviewed on local television.



What are we trying to do in the Philippines?

Rod Ellyard cfc, Community Leader (Kabankalan)

The defining work is that done for the poorest of the poor. In both Kabankalan, Negros and in Maasin, Southern Leyte we have 'Back to School' programs for children who have dropped out because of poverty—John Moodie had 120 children in this program before I left for sabbatical—he will have more now. Roshan D'Chuna in Maasin has a smaller number, but it too will grow. This life changing opportunity means that these children have a chance to rise out of poverty. Both John, currently assisted by Jim Quinn, and Roshan are also involved in a program for youth and young adults called Alternative Learning System giving them a chance to obtain high school certificate. It is much harder work, and the success rate is lower but that doesn't make it less valuable.

In Maasin, Theo Alvares leads a Campus Ministry thrust in a number of government schools and Graeme Leach is developing a program identifying and assisting children with disabilities. Jim Quinn in Kabankalan has put the house and ministry finances in good order and has done other good organization work. In Maasin Paul Coster does most of the Ministry coordination. My own work has been providing leadership and coordination in the diocesan schools. I now have ten months to complete that involvement and hand over to an already identified lay woman, Mrs Flerida Demegillo.

From June next year I have been asked to develop ERN groups and through them to seek new members for our Congregation.

Justice Facilitator in Residence

Lynne Moten, ER Associates (SA)

Heard of an "Artist in Residence"? Well, what about a "Justice Facilitator in Residence"?

A recent visit to Australia by Br Steve Rocha from India saw this 'first' in Adelaide as the "Justice Facilitator in Residence" at Seymour College. Steve also spent time with several Edmund Rice Network groups during his stay. Steve's priority was supporting staff and helping students to integrate and embed issues of justice, ethics and service into all areas of curriculum. While here, Steve worked with pre-school students through to Year 12 classes and in the areas of english, geography, religion, drama, music, art, biology, legal studies and languages.

In spending time with students at our Adelaide EREA schools, Steve silenced an entire assembly of college boys—they clicked their fingers in unison every five seconds, with each click representing the death of a child in a developing world country. Just as striking was Steve's time with the ER Associates, Wisdom Group and Adelaide Office of United Nations Association Australia (UNAA).

Champion of the NINEISMINE Campaign in India, Steve uses his passion, energy and creativity to engage young people across the globe in challenging the Indian Government to keep its promise to dedicate 9% of GDP to Children's Education and Health.

Below, Br Steve Rocha with Hilary Swanson (Yr 3 Seymour College)



Upcoming Events

• Victoria

Sept 2—10 **Flinders Ranges Retreat**
For details contact [Glenburn Ecology and Spirituality Centre](#) \$1045 pp (ex-Glenburn)

Sept 11 **EREA Justice Groups** 5-8pm
St Bernard's Essendon

Sept 19 **Wisdom Group Re-Launch**

Oct 19 **Eucharist and Meal in Celebration of Ambrose Treacy**

For details of these events, please contact [Terry O'Shannassy](#)

• Western Australia

Sept 7-9 **Harmony Weekend 2012**
Camp Kelly Dwellingup

Sept 10 & 24 **ERNWA Centering Prayer Meetings** Westcourt 7.30pm
PLEASE NOTE: Change of dates

For details of these events, please contact: [Jill Parker](#)

• Tasmania

Sept 4 **Advocacy Workshop with Br Peter Harney** 7.30pm St Therese's Moonah

Sept 6/7 **East Africa Day with Br Daniel Lyimo** (Tanzania) Northern ER Schools

Sept 27 **Iraq War: The Aftermath with Donna Mulhearn**

For details of these events, please contact [Sean McManus](#)

• South Australia

Sept 10 **Integrating the work of ERI into the Classroom: A Staff Workshop** 1.30-3.30pm St Pauls College

Sept 11 **Human Rights Workshop for Social Justice Students** 9—11am CBC

Oct 1—6 **Ambrose Treacy Commemorative Flinders Ranges Retreat** Willow Springs Station \$480 pp (ex-Adelaide)

For details, please contact [Natasha Siebert](#)

• Queensland

Sept 15 **Advocacy and the Queensland Environment** Presentation by Br Peter Harney (Edmund Rice International)

Oct 2 **Ambrose Treacy Anniversary Graveside Service**

Oct 12 **Ambrose Treacy Brisbane City Pilgrimage**

For further details of these events see [Website](#) or contact [Jim D'Arcy](#)

• New Zealand

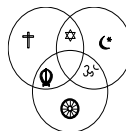
For details of events, please contact [Damaris Kingdon](#)

Harmony Weekend Camp

CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSITY

7th—9th September 2012

CAMP KELLY DWELLINGUP



For details, contact [Jill Parker](#)



Ambrose Treacy Commemorative Flinders Ranges Cosmology Retreat

1st October — 6th October

For more information
visit www.edmundrice.org/ERN-SA

or contact [Natasha Siebert](#)
nmsiebert@edmundrice.org 08 8354 2100



Anniversary Year Events

Please contact your Regional Networking Coordinator for upcoming anniversary year events.

The Edmund Rice Network Oceania Newsletter is a periodic electronic publication sharing the news and events of the Edmund Rice Network within and beyond Oceania.

Contributions are welcome — please send articles, photos and advertising to your regional networking coordinator.

More news and events can be found on our website— www.edmundrice.org

Distribution of this Newsletter is not limited— share with your friends and colleagues!

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