



Edmund Rice - Networking WA

Volume 6 Issue 4

October 2013

Special points of Interest:

- **Aquinas College Philippines Immersion 2013** John Richards
Tour Manager
- **ERN WA Rabbit Proof Fence Immersion 2013.**
Peter Baldry, Tour Leader.
- **Philippines Justice Immersion 2014** John
Richards, Tour Leader
- **Love in Action Workshop November 1st
2013** John Richards
- **Centering Prayer Every Monday 7.30 to 8.30 pm
Westcourt Support Centre . Facilitator:
Br Terry Cant**
- **Spiritual Direction Available.**
- **ERN Harmony Weekend 2013**



**Edmund Rice
Network**

Harmony Weekend

25—27 October 2013

Aquinas College Philippines Immersion 2013



On Wednesday 25 September, twelve students and three staff embarked on our sixth annual Immersion to the Philippines. Our main destination was the village of Dancalan, which is situated on the island of Negros Occidental. This vil-

lage is just a twenty-minute drive from the Brothers' residence in Kabankalan City. Our program included nine days in Negros where the group attended classes; learned cultural dance, language, sports and music; organized a village Feeding Program at Lunoy; stayed with host families for five days and joined in activities with the deaf children from Anawim (a project which is partly funded by the Brothers). They also got to see first-hand some of the other important programs run by the Brothers such as the ALS (Alternative Learning Scheme) which caters for students of all ages who either have not gone to school or had to drop out early. The group also explored the Goat Farm Project



Jack Fletcher & host family

that was set up to raise money for the Anawim Foundation. From the students' perspective, the highlight of the Immersion was being able to stay with local families and attend school with their host buddies. It was this experience that took them out of their comfort zone and the first night of homestays is always the hardest because they could not rely on each other for company. Although many young Filipinos speak and understand some English, many parents, aunties and grandparents did not. Some boys also volunteered to stay one night at Anawim and apparently language was not a barrier. They picked up American Sign very quickly during the day and the love and attention from the children was infectious. They did not want to leave amidst all the tears and hugs. Aquinas students are the only Australian visitors to attend the day schools where the children attend Special Education Programs (SPED), take the children for a picnic and a swim and also have dinner at their Home followed by their special show!

After our time in Negros the group spent four nights in Manila. Over the course of three days, they visited squatter projects supported by the Malate Church of Our Lady of Remedies, sponsored and took part in a Feeding Program for nearly 120 children at night and visited the Tuloy Foundation – a school that is well funded by a variety of sources. Despite its lavish appearance, every student at Tuloy comes from a very poor background with most found on the streets living lives of crime, drugs and prostitution. We witnessed how special vocational programs coupled with strong spiritual discipline have turned their lives around. Our last day was spent at Hospicio de San Jose situated on a four hectare island on the Pasig River and joined to the mainland by a small bridge. It is here that over 350 orphans,



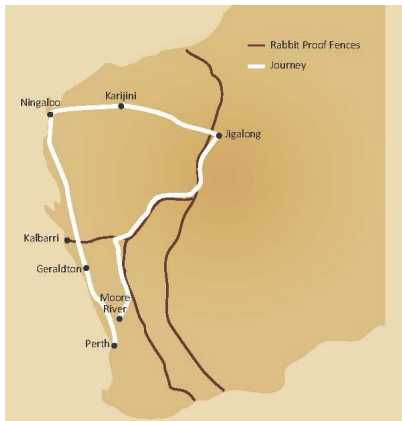
abandoned aged, and those with disabilities are cared for by the Daughters of Charity along with about 100 paid or volunteer staff. Within the Hospice is a new center funded by an Australian charity that houses women and children who have been abused. As an extension of our previous visit in 2012, we sponsored a feeding program for street people and then walked with them to the areas where they slept every night. With the help of case-workers, we were able to ask questions about their lives and how they managed on a daily basis.

It is good to see Year 10 and 11 boys become men along the journey and how easily they developed relationships with people from all walks of life. During our daily reflections it became apparent that they had learned so much from what they had seen first-hand. After all, when young boys decide to eat local food from a restaurant instead of Western fast-foods you know they have truly immersed!!



**John Richards – Tour Manager
Director of Christian Service-Learning**

ERN WA RABBIT PROOF FENCE IMMERSION 2013



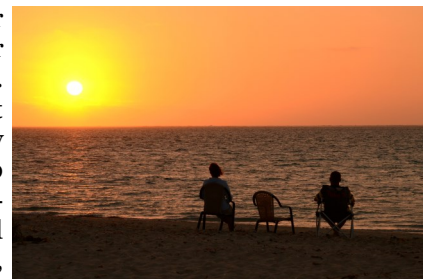
The Western Australian ERN Immersion route marked in white. The Rabbit Proof Fence marked in black.

On the 28th of September a group of enthusiastic adults set off along the path taken by the three aboriginal sisters that left the Moore River Settlement to head back to their home in Jigalong. The girls used the Rabbit Proof Fence as a guide back home. The trip was not about the fence as such but more about the taking of the children from their parents by the government, what they experienced and how the community felt about the act. We travelled to Moore River Settlement and visited the graves of those who died during their stay at the mission. It was a very moving moment for the group.

We then moved on to Moora to talk with a group of locals who were taken from their families. Thanks to Kevin and a group of ladies who talked to us for over an hour about their experiences. It was then time for us to move on to our first stop at Geraldton.



Rabbit Proof Fence



Ningaloo

The next day we moved on to the Murchison Downs Station to walk the Rabbit Proof Fence and experience what it might have been like. We were warmly greeted by Lindsay who showed us around the Station. We then travelled to Jigalong community where we spent the night at the local school. We were welcomed by the children and then had a very interesting talk with Margaret and Heather who are direct descendants of Daisy, one of the ladies who, as a child, walked back home to Jigalong from Moore River Settlement along the Rabbit Proof Fence. This was the highlight of our trip and will live forever in our hearts.

We then travelled to Karijini National Park and Ningaloo Station. During this time we processed a lot of what we had experienced on the Immersion.

At the heart of this Immersion was the development of right relationship and the discovery of a common humanity between the group and Jigalong. This was characterized by a partnership approach that ensured that we were attended to and that the immersion was sensitive to and respectful of the needs of the Jigalong community. Through this experience, the group grew in an awareness of the realities of the Community. This was reinforced by ongoing reflection, debriefing and social analysis during the trip. It is hoped that this Immersion will lead to an ongoing commitment by the participants to work towards alleviating injustices. This will facilitate a spirituality that nurtures both personal and societal transformation. It is characterized by a movement in thinking by the group, both spiritually and in action towards building a better world for all.

This is highlighted by the following comment from one of the members of the group:

“The Rabbit Proof Fence Immersion experience was unlike any holiday away I have ever had. On the first day we saw for ourselves what the Moore River Mission was like; we struggled to comprehend just how lonely and hungry a place it must have been for the children. We went on to walk a section of the Rabbit Proof Fence later in the tour. We were all quiet, no one really felt like talking as we contemplated what the girls must have gone through to get home. For anyone who has ever wondered just what it would have been like for Indigenous Australians during the ‘apartheid era’ in Australia this Immersion is a must”. Rachael.

Peter Baldry—Tour leader



PHILIPPINES JUSTICE IMMERSION 2014



This is a twelve-day immersion experience for those interested in exploring the work of Catholic ministries in Manila and Christian Brothers projects in Negros Occidental. This program is highly suited for teachers and Social Justice coordinators, Parish and Youth Leaders, tertiary students and anyone wanting to learn more about programs that meet the needs of those abandoned by their community and who want to make a difference. This Immersion includes reflective practices and unique opportunities to serve others. Some time is also set aside for cultural exchange and exploring the Philippines in a way not many tourists are able to do. Part of the Immersion will involve living with local families in Negros Occidental. The total cost includes international and domestic airfares, insurance, all meals and transportation, program activities and tours. There can be no better way to start the New Year with an experience so profound, enjoyable and meaningful. You will not leave this Immersion feeling powerless!

For Expressions of Interest, please email **John Richards** at livecompany10@gmail.com or phone 0417933470. You can also visit <http://www.christianservicelearning.com/upcoming-events.html>. This link includes a link giving you a full description of the program. This can also be sent via email. The closing date for all registrations is Friday 29th November 2013. All those who are interested are urged to attend an Information Evening on **Wednesday 30th October** from 7.30-8.15 pm at the Willetton Catholic Parish of Saints John and Paul Centre, Pinetree Gully Road, Willetton. More updates regarding this evening will be sent during the coming weeks.

When: Sunday 5th- Friday 17th January
 Cost: \$2650 (maximum 14 people). Minimum Age: 17
 Tour Leader John Richards, Aquinas College



BUTLER FALCONS CALD GIRLS AFL TEAM 2013 SHOWCASE NIGHT



EDMUND RICE CENTRE
MIRRABOOKA
Alternative Learning and Community Development

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2ND

BEAUMARIS COMMUNITY CENTRE

66 Constellation Dr, Ocean Reef WA 6027



(Cost \$20 includes Full African Buffet, soft drinks and entertainment)

RSVP Maria Maker: makemaria7@gmail.com or call 9349 9660

NOVEMBER 1ST 2013

LOVE IN ACTION WORKSHOP For EREA & Associate Schools

With this Workshop it is hoped that a new network of Edmund Rice Schools and Associate Schools will be formed in WA. The advantage of such a network is that all schools could draw upon the current strengths and experiences available, share ideas and resources, and develop relationships between Schools with a connection to the Christian Brothers and the charism of Edmund Rice.

Details of the Workshop can be found at:

<http://www.christianservicelearning.com/upcoming-events.html>

Venue: Aquinas College Facilitator: John Richards - John.Richards@aquinas.wa.edu.au

CENTERING PRAYER



ALL WELCOME



Edmund Rice Network WA

CENTERING PRAYER MEETINGS

7.30 – 8.30 pm Every Monday

*Chapel: Westcourt Support Centre
53 Redmond Street
SALTER POINT WA*

*All are welcome to stay
for a drink and nibbles
after the prayer*

Facilitator: Br Terry Cant - tezzcant@gmail.com

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION / COMPANIONING : ERN WA

In recent years there has been an 'explosion' in the number of people seeking out a spiritual director to help them on their spiritual journey. People of all faith backgrounds and no faith affiliation use a spiritual director, (sometimes called spiritual companion) to assist them in reflecting on their life's experience. In doing so, each comes to a deeper understanding of God's presence and grace in one's life.

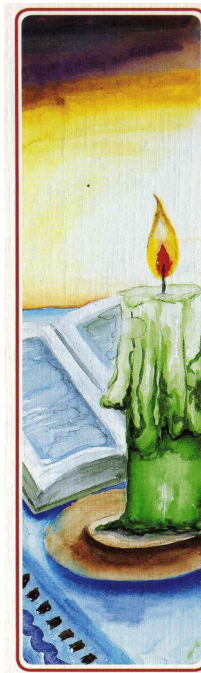
Spiritual Direction is not about being 'directed' or 'advice'. It is more about entering into one's own experience of life and God and discovering for oneself the presence of God in daily life. God seeks you where you are. The spiritual director is there to journey with you as you deepen your relationship with God. This journey takes place in a confidential context.

You might come to Spiritual Direction for a variety of reasons, including to

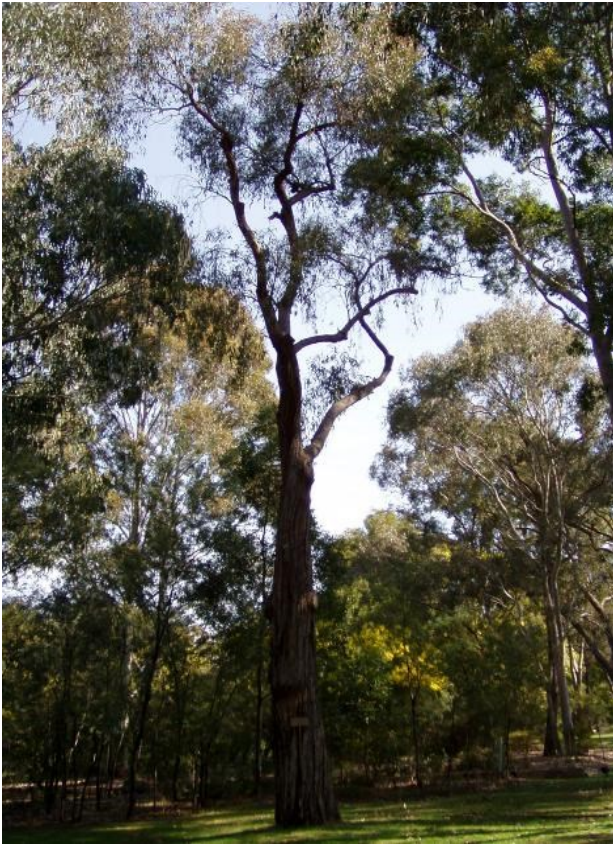
- * Identify and trust your own experience of God.
- * Integrate spirituality into your daily life.
- * Discern and make difficult decisions.
- * Share your hopes, struggles and losses.
- * Develop a sensitivity for justice and concern for the poor.
- * Live the essence of your spiritual affiliation with integrity.

In seeking out a spiritual director it is important to meet and see if there is a comfortable presence for you. **Brothers Terry Casey and Terry Cant** are both trained Spiritual Directors and can be contacted through Christian Brothers' Administration Support Centre, Salter Point. Please phone and leave a message with Karen Armenti 9365 2859 or contact Br. Terry Cant (0458-649-986) OR Br Terry Casey (9365 2869).

Other Spiritual Directors can be contacted through the Maranatha Centre for Adult Faith Formation on 08-9241 5221.



HARMONY WEEKEND OCTOBER 25-27 2013



WELCOME

WE INVITE YOU
TO RELAX AND ENJOY:
THE BEAUTIFUL BUSH SETTING,
SUNRISE, SUNSET, BIRDSONG,
THE STILLNESS,
CONNECTION TO EARTH,
AIR, FIRE, WATER
AND EACH OTHER



Edmund Rice

Network

Harmony Weekend Camp

Friday 25th—Sunday 27th October 2013

CAMP KELLY

DWELLINGUP

COST: \$20 PER FAMILY

OR \$5 PER PERSON

Story Sharing

Music & Games

Aussie BBQ

Welcome to Country and Bush Walk

Multi Faith Service

Multicultural Dinner

Children's Games & Activities

Contact: **Jill Parker - ERN**
jcparker@edmundrice.org
or
Chris Ward - ERCM
Christina@ercm.org.au

Thank you to everyone who sent information in for this issue. Blessings, Jill

The position of Edmund Rice Networking (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

