

Congregation Logo

A Congregation Logo only becomes known and recognized if it is prominently used and promoted across Provinces and across the Congregation.

Every encouragement is given to availing of the Logo on documents, buildings, websites, posters, correspondence, shirt pockets, lapels, vehicles, etc.

As has been pointed out on previous occasions, Provinces may, over time, produce the Logo in different materials and in different colours. The essential aspect of the Logo is the shape (as shown) which ought to be faithfully retained in all reproductions.

An interpretation of the Logo is provided but it is open to further interpretations as we continue to reflect on the identity of the Christian Brothers at this time.

Logo Interpretation

The central symbol of Christianity, i.e. the cross, is also central to the expression of the identity as Christian Brothers. The shape of the cross takes its origin from Celtic spirituality, which is also at the root of Christian Brothers' Congregation spirituality. Symbols of the Trinity are found within the central circle, the cross, and the free flowing movement of the branch. The significance and the insights of Edmund Rice are highlighted in the stylized E which is incorporated in the logo.



A logo is always open to exploration and insight. What meaning do you see in the symbols of the logo?

As disciples of Christ, Christian Brothers are continually called to let go and leave behind all that prevents them from living faithfully the values of the Gospel, and from promoting the Kingdom of God. This call and response is shown symbolically by the movement of the circle away from its regular pattern.

The call to internationality, which flows from the Founder's time and continues on to this day, is not just in geography but also in moving, as flexible and mobile disciples, to meet the needs of the times. The new leaves and shoots express a continually renewing spiritual journey, offering new life to the Congregation and bringing hope to the Brothers and the world. Yet even the new leaves continue to express growth through fragility, by their links to the cross and in the risks of branching out. ■

Reflect on the logo and take inspiration from what it tells about the Christian Brothers' story. Share any other meanings of the logo with one another.

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New Look, New Team

2007 sees a new look with new faces behind the scenes.

Anne Pinzon has commenced the role of liaison and contact point at Westcourt, Kim Bale gathers articles and images, and designs the new look pages and Phil Bayne is bringing his own style of editing.

Phil is currently writer and editor with the Catholic Education Office whilst Kim teaches at Edith Cowan University and is part-time publisher/designer.

The web version of this newsletter can be found on <http://www.westcourt.wa.edu.au/home/ernnews>

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THE PHILIPPINES PROJECT

New Faces, More News...

Small steps like these are hopeful signs for a better future.

A second community is to be established in the Philippines. Those involved are Brothers Frank Perkins of New Zealand, Carl Sherrin of Sydney and Peter Thrupp of Perth.

Peter is well known to many in Holy Spirit Province. For the past decade he has been working for kids at risk through Eddy's Carpentry Shop in Wangara and through his work in computing at the Edmund Rice Centre, Mirrabooka. He will find those skills very useful in Maasin.

Frank completed a five year stint as Principal at Raratonga in the Cook Islands at the end of 2005. He has recently been involved at Committee level in the restructuring process of Oceania. He will lead the new community.

Carl has had long experience in leading schools, particularly in the country circuit of NSW. He is currently living in the Balmain Community in a support role to the Leadership Team of St. Mary's Province.

Carl and Frank will visit the Philippines in May and June to gain a first hand understanding of the situation. In September, joined by Peter, they will begin six months of language study in Davao in the Cebuano language. At a date yet to be determined they will establish their community in Maasin in Southern Leyte. Maasin is due east



Peter Thrupp of WA



of Kabankalan and most of a day's journey away. Both form part of the Central Visayas Region of the Philippines.

The newly established organic farm (above) in the mountains of Oringao parish.

Update on Kabankalan

Meanwhile, in Kabankalan, Br. Moy Hitchen joined Neil and Rod on a visit to a cooperative farm established by Fr. Niall O'Brien in 1973 as an effort to model an alternative to destructive social farming structures commonly employed. Niall died in 2004 but this farm, involving eleven families on forty-two hectares, continues today.

The photo below shows Moy and Neil with part of the Francisco family. They are working very hard at regenerating the soil which has been over-cropped in the past. Moy was over-joyed with the mini-forest and bio-diversity displayed.

We also visited an organic farm established in the mountains of Fr. Brian Gore's former Parish of Oringao. On the ground, we could see wonderful progress in the twelve months it has been established. Regeneration of native trees will protect essential spring water. Cooperation with local farmers is a key to the vision. Networks have been established with over sixty organisations in Negros to advance the concept of Organic Farming. ■

Rod Ellyard



To indicate your interest in this program the most effective way of reaching Neil, John, Peter and Rod is by email.

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Moy and Neil (left) with part of the Francisco family, one of eleven families involved in the cooperative farm. The older generation have stepped aside. This elderly couple were simply delightful to meet.

Oceania Province

In late March the Christian Brothers announced the establishment of a single Province of Oceania, incorporating the former state administrations and structures in Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

Brother Vince Duggan was appointed Province Leader by the Congregation Leader of the Christian Brothers in Rome.

Assisting Br Vince in his role are the Leadership Team; Peter Dowling (Deputy Province Leader), Peter Harney, Joe Lauren, Julian McDonald, Dean McGlaughlin and Paul Robertson.

The new structure is intended to achieve more efficient administration and make it easier to expand the work of the Christian Brothers.

The Oceania province headquarters will be located in Brisbane with regional offices in other major cities in Australia, as well as in New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

Brother Vince said Christian Brothers throughout the region had sought a new structure which affirmed an educational tradition which could grow separately while marshalling resources in an effective way to allow for expansion of work in social justice and other areas.

A feature of the new organisational structure is separate governance and administration of the Christian Brothers' schools, under the banner of Edmund Rice Education Australia.

While Christian Brothers are involved at a governance level for schools and have established a common charter of values for Edmund Rice Education, the leadership of the schools will largely be in the hands of lay people.

The common national identity of these schools, providing Catholic education in the Edmund Rice tradition, is expected to attract increased interest from parents and students, resulting in schools that are ever more attentive to the needs of students and the less fortunate in our society.

The Christian Brothers consider the advantage of this separate educational structure is greater freedom to foster and promote activities in social justice and community based services.

The Christian Brothers in Oceania have more than 60 separate ministries. Examples of this work, now to be centrally coordinated, are:

- Edmund Rice Centres for Justice in Sydney and

Fremantle, working with refugees, Indigenous people and in the area of reconciliation

- Edmund Rice Camps, provide holiday opportunities for children from deprived areas
- Educational work with Indigenous people, assisting them with computer literacy and in recovering Indigenous languages
- Training volunteers for Brothers' ministries at home and overseas
- Prison ministry
- Working with local communities in the Philippines, especially in education
- Working in education and health in Papua New Guinea, including a special school for the sight impaired
- Specialized schools for students not able to manage mainstream schooling

The process for the Christian Brothers to develop their new structure has been gradual, allowing for wide consultation. A guiding light for their deliberations has been the inspiration of Edmund Rice and his vision, involving Christianity in action and work with those at the margins of society.

Nearly all the Christian Brothers of Oceania gathered in Brisbane a year ago as a significant step towards the formation of the single Province of Oceania.

The guidelines, established by the Christian Brothers, among others, the need to reshape their organisation so as to sustain and creatively expand their ministries into the future, find new ways of addressing emerging needs, promote their passion for justice and respect and cherish the earth on which we live.

The Christian Brothers also feel that, as they reach out to lay people to share their vision, they are encouraging a new and mutually enriching partnership.

The new structure will come into operation on October 1, 2007.

The Christian Brothers began in Ireland in 1802, with the Blessed Edmund Rice as founder. There have been Christian Brothers in Australia since 1842 (for three years initially and continuously since 1868), in New Zealand since 1876 and in Papua New Guineas since 1950.

In Australia, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand, the Christian Brothers have been known principally for their work in schools but in more recent decades they have also expanded their work in adult education, social justice activities with refugees, asylum seekers, indigenous people and disadvantaged youth.

The Christian Brothers are present in 27 countries worldwide. The Oceania province, including its outreaches in the Philippines and Africa, consists of some 450 Brothers and more than 4000 employees and volunteers. ■

This social justice focus is on the poor and marginalized, with special emphasis on the young. The Christian Brothers increasingly work collaboratively with other people in the Edmund Rice network to meet the demand for this type of service.

Brother Vince Duggan

Shaping Our Future

Taken from the latest Christian Brothers Oceania Newsletters.

Dear Brothers and all members of the Edmund Rice Network in Oceania.

This will be the last Shaping Our Future Committee Oceania newsletter. The Committee has just completed its last four day meeting at Hanmer Springs, two hours out of Christchurch.

We first gathered as a Committee in May 2003 and with grateful hearts we gathered to finalise our work and review our life together as a Committee. The tasks that were completed will ensure that the work of implementing the Model for the Future can continue.

Organizational Structure for Oceania Province

The Committee considered proposals in relation to the organizational structure for the Oceania Model and these were further refined and presented to the Inter-Province Leadership Committee. The new structure will allow the 'Model for the Future' of the Oceania Province to become operational by October 1, 2007.

Implementation Group

The Implementation Group, appointed by the Inter-Province Leadership Committee will work under the guidance of the Oceania Leadership Team: Br Kevin Ryan (Convenor), Sr Marg Endicott, Br Peter Dowling (OLT Designate), Dr Debra Rosser, Br Joe Lauren (OLT Designate Member) and Br Steve McLoughlin.

On May 24 a more detailed Organisational Structure will be released along with information about the timing of advertisements for the Directors of Life and Mission Teams and guidelines for the appointment of staff for the Oceania Province.

The continuing work of the Implementation Group will be guided by an Implementation Plan, a simplified version will be placed on the Shaping Our Future and other websites. A significant part of the work will be to prepare for a Forum gathering in November this year. This gathering will involve the Oceania Leadership Team, the Oceania Community Cluster Leaders and the four Directors of Life and Mission Teams. The Implementation Group will keep you informed as this and other aspects of its work evolves.

The Shaping Our Future Committee Oceania will produce an extended and formal report of its work

for the Inter-Province Leadership Committee by whom it was established and from whom it received its mandate.

Clusters for Communities of Brothers and Cluster Leaders

Each of the Provinces and Regions across Oceania has already explored or is currently exploring how the communities of Oceania will be grouped together in clusters. The final decisions on this will be announced soon as will the process which will be used to appoint the Brothers who will lead the clusters around Oceania.

The Brothers taking up the challenge of Cluster Leader will be carrying out a critical role for the Congregation in Oceania. They will need to have the ability to call the Brothers of the Cluster together to make important decisions about the future of the Cluster, network with other members of the Edmund Rice Network (ERN) and collaborate with the staff of the Life and Mission Teams who deal with Ministries, Formation, Administrative and Support Services and the Development of the ERN.

Province Celebrations

Over the coming months each of the Provinces and Regions will hold gatherings of reflection and celebration to bring the current organisational structure to a conclusion and to prepare for the future. Some of these involve the Brothers only and some will have wider involvement. The basic details for each comprise:

- 23–30 June: Edmund Rice Region: Region Gathering at Kefamo.
- 1–4 July: St Joseph's Province Gathering.
- 2–5 July: St Francis Xavier Province Gathering.
- 2–6 July: St Patrick's Province Brothers' Assembly at Edmund Rice Centre, Amberley.
- 6–14 July: Holy Spirit Province Retreat & Chapter Processing.
- 9–12 July: St Mary's Province Gathering.
- 26 August: Holy Spirit Province Public Celebration – WA.
- 3 September: Holy Spirit Province Public Celebration – SA.
- 7 September: St Francis Xavier Province Centre celebrations.
- 8 September: St Mary's Province Dinner.

For more information:

www.cfcoceania.org.au

www.edmundrice.org.au

Shaping Our Future
Committee Oceania

Brothers

Kevin Ryan (Chair),
Vince Duggan,
Peter Dowling,
Luke Quinn,
Joe Lauren,
Laurie Needham

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Closing Reflections

Throughout the final Shaping Our Future Committee Oceania meeting there were periods of deep prayer and reflection involving the six Shaping Our Future Committee members, Br John Corbett our Executive Officer, Br Dean McGlaughlin our facilitator, Sr Margaret Endicott the Chair of the Model and Transitions Team and Dr Debra Rosser the Chair of the Organisation and Resources Team. We reflected on our journey together, the experienced struggles and pain as well as the sense of unity, joy and experience of being guided by the Spirit. Our reflections were deepened by being on the magnificent South Island of New Zealand, full of the beautiful colours of dropping autumn leaves, reminding us all to let go and move on.

During the time of reflection we experienced gratefulness for the involvement of the Brothers, and others in the Edmund Rice Network, in the Shaping Our Future process. This has been a journey of Heart Centred Spirituality, and God is present to us in the joy, sense of community and in the success. God is also present to us, challenging and stretching us in our feelings of pain and discomfort. No matter how you have experienced the Shaping Our Future journey we THANK you for your whole-hearted involvement.

We firmly believe that these changes will release new energy among the Brothers and the total Edmund Rice Network across Oceania, with the energy finding expression in deeper reflection, prayer and mutual care among our communities as they strive to respond to the needs of people most at risk in our countries, and to the need for healing our environment.

The new energy in the Edmund Rice Network will ensure that people will be called into the Brothers' way of life. And the charism, that special gift of Edmund, as expressed in the lives of all in the Edmund Rice Network, can continue to bring the justice, mercy and love of God to many in Oceania.

We are soon to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit to each of us and to our world, so let us pray this prayer for ourselves and for each other and for the emerging Edmund Rice charismatic movement across Oceania. ■

*Spirit God, Fire of Transformation,
Your gifts continue to change us,
To bring us into the best of who we are, Until
we are fully our true selves and one with you*

News from around the Province

Province Indigenous Forum

The Province Indigenous Forum for 2007 will be held on Monday May 28 at Aquinas College in Perth.

The day will be a time to reflect on 50 years of Celebrating NAIDOC; the 40th Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum and the 10th Anniversary of the tabling of the "Bringing Them Home Report" in Federal Parliament.

The focus of the day is to provide a space for us to engage in Storytelling and Reflection but more specifically to honor the significance of the 1967 Referendum. Focusing around the stories and lives of people affected by the referendum, how previous and subsequent legislation have shaped their story, participants will have the opportunity to listen, reflect, develop networks and take back to their ministries shared experiences and information. ■

Additional information can be found on www.reconciliation.org

Celebrations of the transition to the Oceania Province

The Province Celebrations to take place in the latter part of 2007 will celebrate the transition of the Holy Spirit Province to the Oceania Province and also the movement of Schools to the EREA. The celebration in WA will be on Sunday August 26 at the Burswood complex and all persons who have been connected to the Holy Spirit Province through the schools, ministries and Edmund Rice Network will be invited to attend. The celebration in SA will be held on September 3 at Adelaide Convention Centre. ■

Perth and Poverty Immersion, July 2–July 6

As well as the learning to be gained from participation, the CEO has awarded accreditation, namely 24 hours of Professional Development.

This Immersion provides an opportunity to see the almost invisible layers of life in Perth. Two days of theory, two days on the street, will be followed by one day to debrief. Theory will focus around policy and political decisions, causal factors and life in a community agency, working with the homeless and those living in poverty.

This opportunity is also offered to 16 and 17 year olds. ■

Contact the Perth office for an application form.

Kimberley Immersion, July 7–July 22

For those interested in a deeper level of understanding of the Aboriginal community, this is an opportunity not to be missed. Live on traditional land, assist with the rehabilitation. Learn from one of the custodians of the land the old ways, traditional means of living with the land and its diverse wildlife. Learn of the dream time and be a part of the wisdom of the ancients. Join us, as we also volunteer at local community agencies, providing support and assistance directly to the community. In the evenings, share with local artists, stories and talents. ■

Contact the Perth office for an application form.

COMING SOON

Catalogue of Events & Workshops

The Edmund Rice Centre for Social Justice will soon be publishing a catalogue of upcoming events, workshops and seminars to enhance your understanding, provide depth of learning and offer insight and wisdom to your experiences. ■

For additional information
www.ercfremantle.org.au
Telephone: 08 9432 2400 or
email ercadmin@powerdsl.com.au
or ercdeputy@powerdsl.com.au

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and establishing flexible learning principles. This is usually a time of remediation and ensures that each student is enrolled in appropriate learning activities. While they are engaged in this phase of learning, we place paramount importance on encouraging appropriate social behaviour.

This early stage is the most difficult because the student's personal challenges need to be recognized and a behaviour management and education plan agreed. Once the issues that create barriers to education are "managed", if not removed, the young person can more fully commit to learning, attendance and age appropriate activities.

The second group of kids have achieved a level of participation and academic standing allowing them to migrate to a more adult oriented education model. This part of the program is possible through the partnership with the Dept. of Education's Open Access College. The College makes their curriculum available to our kids and they choose 4 courses from years 10-12 in SA's Certificate of Education (SACE) program. Results from the first term of 07 show that all 15 enrolled students passed with 13 receiving straight As.

Within two Terms of FAME, our students are socializing well and are learning to manage periodic episodes of dysfunction. The Four Principles of FAME help them to work through their difficulties allowing them to continue their Individual Learning Plans.

While the positive changes in student lives are nothing less than astonishing – the work is not for the faint hearted. Often much angst is caused when children unveil the nature of their circumstance. Their burdens can create enormous challenges for anyone who truly seeks to walk with disadvantaged. No matter the gravity, we treat every problem as just another challenge that needs to be met. Preserving the dignity of each young person, this allows us to focus intensely on the problem. "Positive Problem Solving", does not assess blame, merely seeks equitable solutions. Often misunderstood by the parent or carer, as one boy pointed out to his father, "we don't have to bash anybody to get it fixed" – out of the mouths of babes!

In the coming 12-18 months there will be opportunities to expand student numbers at the Noarlunga Campus as well as to establish new campuses in the southern and northern suburbs. Discussions have commenced with the SA Government regarding buildings in these areas. The long term plan is to allow rotation of Teachers and Teaching Students through the FAME campuses to ensure that all of us are providing the best curriculum in the best format possible. ■

SERVICE COMMONS

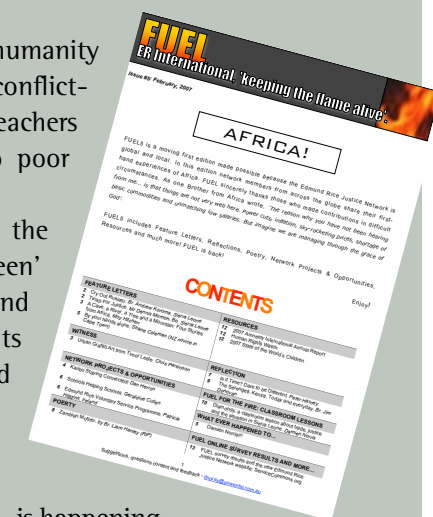
FUEL

Across the globe individuals, groups and organisations within the Edmund Rice justice network are working to create a better world.

Some are helping restore the humanity of children forced to fight in conflict-riddled Sierra Leone. Others are teachers in India opening their doors to poor families.

There are people assisting the Edmund Rice network to 'go green' and there are individuals and organisations taking human rights issues to the door of the United Nations. All this and much more

The stories, passion and activities of those within the network are profound



is happening within the global Edmund Rice justice network.

Currently the Congregational Renewal Team (CRT) is travelling the globe dedicating time to re-opening hearts and minds to what it means to be Brother and what it means to be part of the Edmund Rice family in the twenty first century. As I write yet another gathering is under way in Vancouver, Canada: Mitakuye Oyasin. Here, Sufis, Buddhists, representatives from First Nation peoples, specialists in Jewish mysticism, Christian and Catholic authors along with hundreds of participants are gathering to discuss 'connected spirituality'.

Mitakuye Oyasin is a sacred expression of a North American indigenous community, the Lakota. It sums up their relationship with their God and all creation and speaks of their understanding of community. At heart, community is understood and lived as a web of right relationships which unites all people, religions, creatures and things in the Great Spirit-God.

Many of those individuals who have attended CRT justice symposiums and conferences are being connected by an electronic publication called FUEL, an international electronic publication and ServiceCommons (www.servicecommons.org), a web-based justice portal that is used by the ER network as a hub for sharing information, sourcing services, resources, publishing events, support, inspiration and much more. ■ Damien Norris

To sign up to ServiceCommons and find out more about FUEL, go to www.servicecommons.org and click 'Join' or write to Damien Norris, dnorris@powersl.com.au



FAME

Flexible Accredited Meaningful Education

Gerry Follows reflects on the work helping our young people to re-engage into mainstream life.

FAME is the rebirth of the same program run by the Christian Brothers Holy Spirit Province in the southern suburbs of Adelaide. The original program ran for about 10 years from a house in Noarlunga, with an average of 8-10 young people enrolled. A major review of the program decided that a larger program with equal emphasis on social support and education should be implemented.

The new FAME was launched on 15 May, 2005, with funding supplied by the Christian Brothers. Since then funding has been negotiated with SA Dept. of Education and the Catholic Education Office. Additional curriculum and teaching support is provided by SA's Open Access College.

Housed in a school facility owned by the Assemblies of God, Southern Life Centre, FAME has three large classrooms, a huge hall-style common area and a commercial sized kitchen.

The students that enroll are 13-17 years old and have disengaged from mainstream education for periods of up to two years. Their common traits are:

- Exclusion or disengagement as a result of chaotic family environments
- Often lacking of sustainable home

- Education levels usually behind their peers
- Lack trust in "school" programs and staff
- Families or themselves often with significant mental health and legal histories, compounded by socio-economic deprivation.
- As young kids they face relentless problems of an adult nature

Thus, the first challenge is to teach them how to trust – Achieved through teaching and demonstrating the Four Principles of FAME:

HONESTY, RESPECT, PARTICIPATION, SAFE/LEGAL BEHAVIOUR

This framework moves beyond rules and retribution and demonstrates how staff and students can work toward shared goals within an environment of mutual security. In our experience there is no area of student (or staff) behaviour not governed by the application of these principles. This approach demonstrates the integrity of the program and the commitment of our staff to assist students to overcome social, economic and educational disadvantage. At all stages the students are encouraged to take the lead in making appropriate decisions about their education and well being. These decisions are supported by all staff of FAME and the Senior Educator and Social Worker ensure that external agencies understand and support the emerging individual plans. Although the Four Principles do not have associated penalties, anyone who demonstrates that they cannot commit to them will be asked to take time away. At this time they are asked to consider if FAME is the right program for them and if so, what they need to change in order to follow all Four Principles. FAME's retention rate is above 90%.

Currently 30 young people are enrolled in FAME, with roughly half attending the first stage of the program, focusing on improved behaviour

(above) A science experiment and (below) a group discussion

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