

# EDMUND Network NEWS RICE



OCEANIA

## Cluster Leaders Announced

### **New South Wales & Australian Capital Territory**

Cluster A: Patrick White

Cluster B: Dan Stewart

Cluster C: Tim Barnes

### **New Zealand & Cook Islands**

John O'Shea

### **Papua New Guinea**

Gerry Buzolic

### **Queensland, Northern Territory, East Timor & The Philippines**

Cluster A: Tony Hempenstall

Cluster B: Ted Magee

### **South Australia**

John Webb

### **Victoria & Tasmania**

Cluster A: Frank Hennessy

Cluster B: Tim Moloney

Cluster C: Chris Meehl

### **Western Australia**

Pat Kelly

Brother Vince Duggan has announced the new Oceania Province Cluster Leader positions.

The appointments, accepted by twelve Brothers, take effect with the inauguration of the Oceania Province on 1 October.

These appointments have been made after consultation within the present Province and Region structures with all the Brothers of Oceania. Five members of the Oceania Leadership Team designate met in Brisbane two weeks ago to consider these appointments, and the two members who could not be present were later involved in a teleconference.

Brother Vince Duggan, Oceania Province Leader designate has stated that for some of the Brothers taking on these new positions will involve a considerable change in direction in their lives. There is of course a particular "leap of faith" involved for all Brothers, as they come to experience how the understanding of "cluster" and "cluster leader" will evolve in the years ahead. The Brothers' Constitutions tell that any position of leadership is "a special service of love", and also, that part of the relationship of Brothers with leaders is that "we pray with them for God's gift of wisdom, courage, compassion and gentleness". (Constitution 69)

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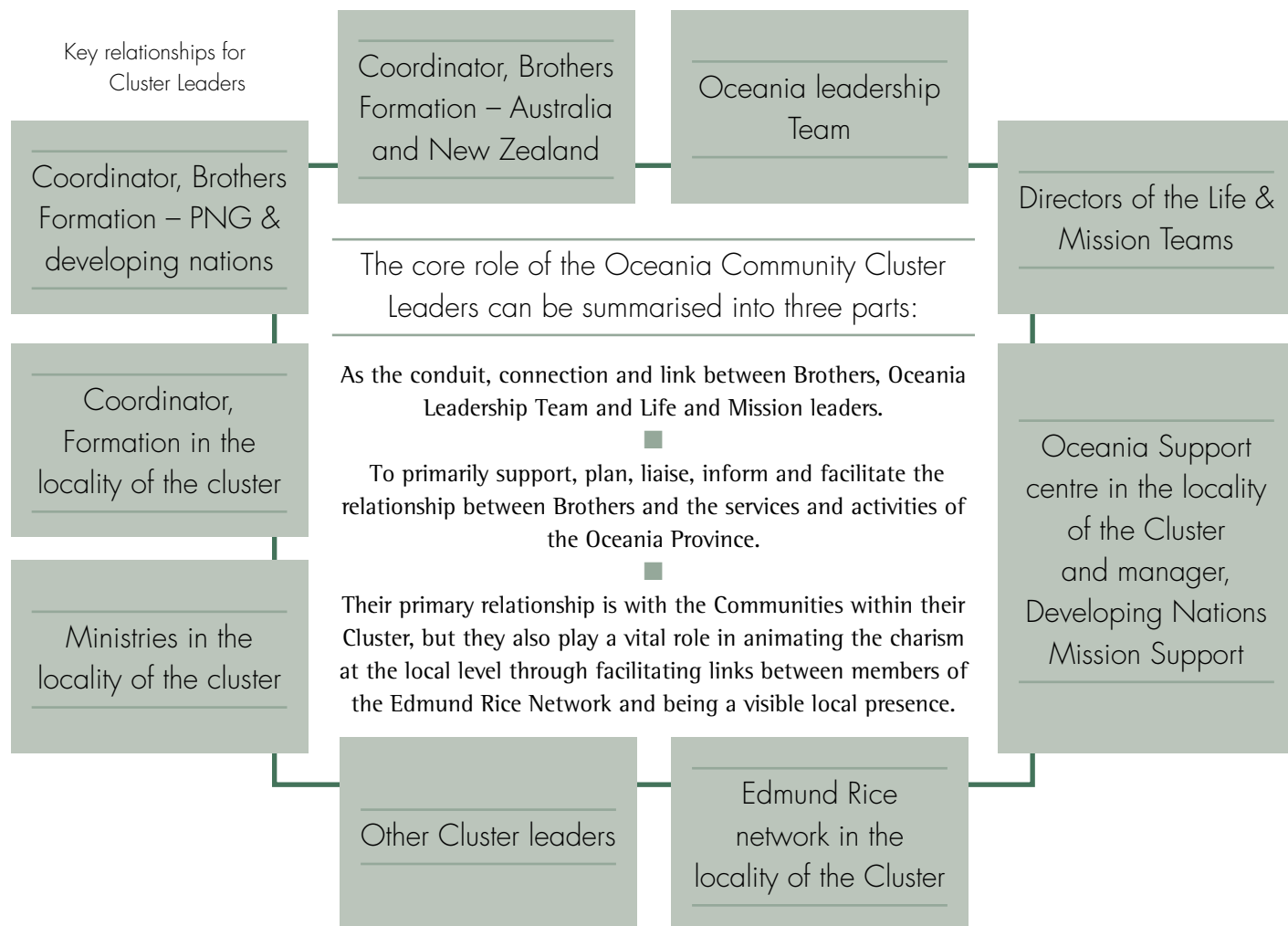
## Evolution and Structure of the Oceania Community Clusters

The evolution of the word 'cluster' to apply groupings of Christian Brothers communities throughout Oceania is intended to offer a new and fresh approach to empower Brothers in community and mission. Clusters consist of a number of communities.

As the structure of the Christian Brothers moves away from state or country administrations with the formation of Oceania, it frees Christian Brothers to be more closely connected to areas

of need. At local level they believe they will be in a better position to support and animate the life and mission of individual Brothers and the congregation of Christian Brothers throughout Oceania.

There will need to be some capacity for variation so that each cluster adapts to a local context and needs. A profile of each cluster is being developed and the role of cluster leader will be adapted to that profile. Over time, cluster leaders themselves, in collaboration with the Oceania Leadership team, will make further changes to match the needs of Brothers within a cluster. ■



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

**Edmund Rice Network News** is published for members of the Edmund Rice Network working in Holy Spirit Province Australia and to communicate news to other provinces of the Edmund Rice Network. We welcome feedback, articles, news and photographs for publication.

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# Brothers for Southern Leyte

The Communities of Maasin & Kabankalan are progressing forwards with needy people in focus.



For those with a little WWII history behind them, General MacArthur made his famous return to the Philippines landing on the Pacific shores of Leyte Island. The southern part of this island is the Province of Southern Leyte. The Diocese of Maasin covers this Province and reaches north a little into the Province of Leyte itself. Church and civil boundaries don't always agree. The main city in the Diocese is Maasin. The Bishop is Msg Presioso Cantillas.

The new community consists of Brothers Frank Perkins (NZ) Community Leader, Carl Sherrin (NSW) and Peter Thrupp (WA). Frank and Carl explored a little of their new environment in May and June. For Peter a new experience awaits him. The first task for these men will be to undertake a language learning program in Cebuano. They will do this at the Maryknoll Language School in the city of Davao. Davao is a large city and, although in Mindanao, is a long way from the troubled areas and considered safe. The language course begins on 3 September and will continue until mid March next year. After that the community will locate a place to live and begin the task of finding how best they can serve the educational effort of the Diocese. Some thought has already gone into this, but it is better to hasten slowly.

Meanwhile, in Kabankalan, Neil Langan has been busy promoting English in Kabankalan Catholic College and editing 'English' documents for the College and Diocese. Peter has been teaching Morality to Second Year College students, including seminarians from the nearby Philosophy College. If there are problems with the morality of our future priests, questions will be sheeted home to Peter!

There is much more that Peter does. Readers are referred to Peter's newsletters ('Hi 7' is the most recent).

Rod has been discovering the complexity of life as Diocesan Education Superintendent. But the exciting front has been John's exploration into the needs of children from this small city



Brothers Frank Perkins (NZ) Community Leader, Peter Thrupp (WA) and Carl Sherrin (NSW)

To indicate your interest in this programme contact Neil, John, Peter or Rod by email:

[neil.langan@yahoo.com.au](mailto:neil.langan@yahoo.com.au)

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who have slipped through the cracks in the education system. John has so far found about 150 school age children who have either dropped out of formal schooling or in a few cases have never started. Others, having completed basic education are sitting around unemployed. The most common reason for this sad state of affairs is poverty. John has the assistance of two local women, both unemployed trained teachers, Angie and Dina. The search for a way forward is continuing. Going beyond the immediate locale would quickly unearth more such needy children. John is discovering there are other agencies in the field and is keen to avoid overlap with their efforts. Thoughts towards solutions are slowly emerging and we look forward to bringing readers an update on this story later.

We Brothers are very grateful to our many supporters for their generous assistance, typified by the recent fund-raiser dinner dance on 30 June in Balcatta, Perth, organised by Philippines Edmund Rice Mission (PERM). Most of the money raised has gone into computers for the schools – 71 so far and a new order for 46 just placed. Salamat gid! May God bless you all. ■

Rod Ellyard

John, Angie (in blue) and Dina (in red) at a planning session



# Thanksgiving Celebration

It seems appropriate that the genesis for the recent Thanksgiving Celebration occurred while driving across the Nullabor Plain. That unique stretch of Australia so reminiscent of the isolation that must have greeted the Christian Brothers when first they arrived in Western Australia 113 years ago.

The Hon. Fred Chaney was being interviewed regarding the 'leaked' news that, across Australia, the Christian Brothers were handing over the administration of all their schools to a new lay administration and creating a single new Province... 'Oceania'. Encompassing Australia, New Zealand & Papua New Guinea, his words were strong, respectful and encouraging. Maureen Colgan, an Honorary 'Old Boy' of the Christian Brothers, heard Fred's interview and was inspired to recognise this work. Thus, an idea was born!

It took some persuading to convince the Brothers that a Thanksgiving celebration should take place. Slowly (very slowly) the idea took hold, a Committee was formed and Michael Perrott, prominent businessman, committed Catholic and Christian Brothers 'Old Boy' invited to be Chairman.

## Diversity at work

For the Organising Committee it was a revelation. Little did we know of the current works of the



Brothers, already quite diverse from their traditional role in schools. However, learn we did and remain amazed at the new directions the Brothers have taken.

From Edmund Rice Camps for Kids to the Works of the Social Justice Centre in Fremantle; from Wheelchairs for Kids to Eddy's Carpentry Workshop; the Mirrabooka Centre, a centre which helps so many; to the reflective Community at Manning; and then to the wonderful and ongoing works of CBERS, a centre that has helped so many regain their soul and life's purpose! And that in Western Australia alone!

It took some persuading to convince the Brothers that a Thanksgiving celebration should take place.

## OCEANIA

# Reflections

Some of the members of the new Oceania Leadership Team reflect on what this journey means to them.

## Deputy Province Leader

### Peter Dowling

“Moving into the Oceania Province is a step in faith for all of us. A creative God is inviting us into something more, to find new ways of living the gospel in today's world. The Oceania Province is a statement that we want to open our vision even more widely than previously. It is a statement that there are increasing opportunities for those inspired by Edmund Rice to respond with our shared resources in new ways. While the age of our Brothers is increasing, I am hopeful that there will be people who choose to live as Brothers into the future. I am very clear that there are many who are not Brothers but who will be taking strong leadership in the spirit of Edmund Rice, whether that be in Edmund Rice Education Australia or in other ministries, some yet to be developed. I find it a most stimulating time and feel great encouragement to use my gifts in whatever way I can to help this collective venture. At the same time, I'm finding that I need more time to sit quietly in a prayerful, reflective way, to really 'hear' what is going on around me.”





We learned of the works in Africa, India, the Philippines and other arenas into which our West Australian Brothers have taken themselves. Selfless, committed and in the footsteps of Edmund.

How much we have learned about this extraordinary man. Blessed he certainly is, a legacy so profound! I wonder if he ever dreamt his thoughts and actions would reach so many around the world. That the tentacles of his goodness, his kindness, his Vision would spread so far.

## Moving forward

Under extreme circumstances... tired, overworked and under resourced, mistakes were made; with students and others, hurt. That pain, in some cases, continues even today. However, it is the way the Brothers have endured these revelations and the manner in which they have addressed their past actions that makes them stand out above others. They have not run. They have not denied. They have not hidden. They have actioned their grief and sorrow in such a manner as to create a Congregation of humble, strong men, bent on empowering others.

Br. Kevin Ryan's words touched on this during his address. He highlighted the humanness of us all and spoke of the gift these hurt men had given to the Brothers in the form of their forgiveness. We all learned something of God's love that night and we thank the Brothers for their humility.

The Thanksgiving celebrations were just that. Thanksgiving for 113 years of selfless and committed dedication to Catholic Education, the spreading of God's word and the development of young Australian men.



We all learned something of God's love that night

Further details of this celebration and the corresponding SA Celebration, 'The Past Exciting the Future' will be shared in future communications to all in the Edmund Rice Network in South Australia and Western Australia.

It was a dignified celebration enjoyed by the 1450 people in attendance.

Touched by the colourful sight of the banners representing their respective schools, the insightful Thanksgiving Prayers and by Professor Craven's reflective words on their behalf, memories came flooding back. Men and women alike felt deep emotion and were not ashamed to show it. Letters, emails and phone calls are still arriving. Among them a warm, congratulatory note from His Excellency Dr. Ken Michael AC, Governor of Western Australia whose presence on that day added to our sense of pride.

Everyone left convinced that the commitment we celebrated will endure and carry the Christian Brothers to further great achievements through the Edmund Rice Education Australia network and the Province of Oceania.

May God continue to bless these men of Blessed Edmund. ■

Holy Spirit Province (WA)  
Celebration Organising Committee

## Br Dean McGlaughlin

“For me Oceania represents an opportunity for the Edmund Rice Network of committed Brothers and dedicated Others inspired by the life and Charism of Edmund to find new paths into the future together. Our greatest resource in Oceania is the people. It is in our hearts and minds that we will find the passion for new ministries, new ways of being in community, new ways of expressing our spirituality, new ways of understanding our role in Church and in the world. But it won't happen overnight and it isn't all pre-planned - it needs to evolve and grow, nurtured by all of us. Nor is the new Oceania an end in itself. It is just another authentic step on our journey, albeit an exciting one for which there has been much careful discernment and planning. As such I have a great sense of excitement and privilege in being part of the new Oceania Leadership Team.”



## Br Peter Harney

“My interest is in schools becoming ever more committed to the vision of Edmund Rice today, ministry to the unloved in our community and a spirituality of the heart, hands, feet and mind that supports this move to a new consciousness and way of living more authentically the way of Edmund.”



# Mini Camps in SA

Edmund Rice Camps SA Inc (ERC) is a not-for-profit volunteer based organisation providing camps, day activities, trainings and support services to the community of South Australia. In July mini camps were held for the first time.



ERC was founded in 1989, and became an incorporated body in June 1996. The organisation has a network of approximately 350 active volunteers. These volunteers give up their time to attend camps and other services with children, young people and/or families.

The aim behind this particular camp was for siblings who don't live with each other to spend time together. For some families this provided them with much needed respite

Essentially their services are about providing children with opportunities to reach their full potential. We do this by providing an environment that is inclusive, encourages participation, friendship and trust. The fostering of relationships is encouraged through our unique provision of one on one mentoring and care during the young person's time on camp.

## First Mini Camp

Recently ERC held their first mini camp on the first weekend of July. The aim behind this particular camp was for siblings who don't live with each other to spend time together. For some families this provided them with much needed respite, while for others (where siblings don't live together) it acted as an access visit without the children feeling like it was one!

The camp, held at Longwood Campsite in the Adelaide Hills, started on a Friday night and, due

to the winter weather, spent most of the time inside!

Thanks go to a great bunch of volunteer leaders and a coordinator, who had a box of tricks and a special blanket. Time flew by without any hiccups and before we knew it, Sunday lunchtime was upon us and time to leave. It was a truly fast weekend that left us all exhausted, but happy to see brothers and sisters together in a fun filled environment.

During July ERC also held other camps. A Family Camp had six families attending for the four days and three nights. This camp allowed for both children and adults to have their own time as well as some much needed together-time. At the end of July we had a second mini camp, held as a respite camp (with particular focus on families where Grandparents are the Carers for their Grandchildren) with children of all ages coming together to spend some time away. It turned out very similar to the first mini camp.

The pictures accompanying this article are of the "Blanket Game" and kept both young people and volunteers amused. For further information on this and other interesting games, or further information of upcoming camps and events, please contact us. We would be interested to hear from you! ■



## Edmund Rice Centre for Social Justice: Breaking News

The ERCSJ will co-sponsor the National Conference on Racism in a Global Context. Organised by the Australian Academy of Race Relations, the Conference will be held from Friday 9 November – Sunday 11 November 2007.

The venue is Murdoch University's main campus, in the southern Perth suburb of Murdoch. Other co-sponsors are the Federal Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, the WA Equal Opportunity Commission and the WA Office of Multicultural Interests.

ERCSJ Director David Freeman & Deputy Director Tracy Pollett will present papers on 10 November, and jointly deliver a third paper the same day (on the Centre's work with indigenous Australia).

The Centre's International Initiative for Indigenous Aspirations will be formally launched at the Conference, in a ceremony late on Day 2. Conference registration is open to the public, for full Conference or for single day attendance. ■

Full Conference details can be found at <http://ncrgc.murdoch.edu.au/>



### Social Justice and Spirituality Retreat

The Edmund Rice Centre for Social Justice, Fremantle has identified building the

skills, insights and resilience of SJ supporters as a major focus. One dimension of this is a rich inner life. We exist for people of all faiths and none. This event will appeal mainly (although not exclusively) to Christians. This 5-day non-residential retreat draws on the spirituality and lived experience of L'Arche ([www.larche.org.au](http://www.larche.org.au)) and the Gospels.

When: Saturday 8 - Wednesday 12 September, 2007

Times: 9:15 - 5:00 pm daily

There will be a Closing Dinner (catered in), yarns and music from 6 - 8:30pm on Wed 12 Sept.

Where: Edmund Rice Centre for Social Justice, 24 High Street, Fremantle

Full details can be found at ([www.larche.org.au](http://www.larche.org.au))

Would you like to find out more about the Edmund Rice Centre for Social Justice? Then come along to our free Information Evening on Monday August 20, 2007. Edmund Rice Centre for Social Justice, Fremantle 24 High Street, Fremantle, Western Australia, 6160 Fax: 08 9336 2146 Phone: 08 9432 2400 [erc@powerdsl.com.au](mailto:erc@powerdsl.com.au) [www.ercfremantle.org](http://www.ercfremantle.org)

## Province Programmes

### EIRWAYS – 3 days (2 & 1)

New Staff - Induction to ERNetwork

To provide an introduction to the life and vision of Edmund Rice and the significance of his charism within our contemporary world.

The programme encourages participants to consider their capacity to contribute to fostering the spirit of Edmund's vision. It will explore participants' understanding of the Sense of the Sacred in both their own lives and daily mission. The Gospel values of Liberation, Compassion and Justice are central values.

### Staff Renewal – 2 days

Longer serving staff (>6 years)

To provide an opportunity to look closely at issues of personal story and matters of faith, with an Edmund Rice focus. The programme is very much about one's journey in life, but also our journey in work and in ministry as part of the Edmund Rice network. Throughout the programme there will be a key emphasis on respect; for self, the vocation of teaching, the lives of those entrusted to our care, and the Gospel of Jesus in an ever changing world. Emphasis is placed on the role senior staff play in promoting the vision and mission of the ministry and in establishing the culture within the staff environment. The aim is to renew staff in a process of encouragement, reflection and challenge.

### Retreat – 2 days/1 night

Open to all ER ministry staff and ERNetwork

This is designed to provide a retreat experience for the individual. Set up as a small group-based experience of spirituality it provides opportunity, space and time to recognize God's presence in life and explore response to this presence.

A relaxed opportunity for reflection in scenic surroundings where individuals can deepen their own spirituality, seek balance between work and personal life and explore their beliefs and values.

### God in the Now Retreat – 4 weeks

Open to all ER ministry staff and ERNetwork

This is a month-long part-time retreat with opportunities for communities to deepen their experience of the Mystery we call God – ever present in the 'now' of our environments and movements of life and work. Participants continue life and work while engaging in group sessions (4 hrs per week) and individual spiritual practices, accompanied by a member of the Renewal Team.

Is it possible to work and pray in today's world? Let's try it! Are there ways of being and living that enable persons and communities to pray always? We will consider these and other questions.

### Edmund Rice Volunteers

8 – 12months, by arrangement

Open to all staff within Edmund Rice Ministries and members of the Edmund Rice Network.

The Edmund Rice Volunteer programme offers an experience for a volunteer to live and work with another Edmund Rice inspired community or ministry in a developing community. This represents an opportunity to enter into a spirit of partnership over a long term (usually 8-12 months) with a local community, living, working with and learning from them.

Like Edmund, his followers today are focused upon educational enterprises that are particularly directed towards the empowerment of youth, thereby contributing to the establishment of a more just and loving world. If you've ever wanted a dynamic way to contribute to the building of a more just world and are open to an experience of personal challenge & growth, then this could be an opportunity for you. ■

For more detailed information on any of the above programmes please visit: <http://www.edmundrice.org/content/jump27.html>



# Life & Mission Team Directors

The Christian Brothers are now journeying towards the inauguration of the new Oceania Province and those who have been called to significant leadership positions within the Province can be appointed. Congratulations to:

Director, Edmund Rice Oceania Support & Administration Services.

**Max Montisci** is a former student of CBC Fremantle, holds the position of Chief Financial Officer at Holy Spirit Province Australia. He has held several senior management positions over the past twenty years within the health, aged care, university and charitable/not for profit sectors. Max holds a degree in business (accounting) and post graduate qualifications in management. He is also a member of CPA Australia, Australian Institute of Management and the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Director, Edmund Rice Oceania Networking & Development

**Rob Aron** is a Melbourne-born Christian Brother who attended CBC St. Kilda before joining the Congregation in 1968. With a Bachelor of Arts and a Masters of Science (Pastoral Counselling), Rob spent 20 years teaching secondary school in Victoria and Tasmania before beginning a 'second life' in Africa where, with others, he started the Christian Brother formation programme in Arusha, Tanzania. He stayed for eight years before taking over the managerial role of the Ruben Centre in Nairobi, Kenya. Two years later he became part of the pioneering group of Christian Brothers working in Tamale, Northern Ghana. Finishing a three year contract, Rob was seconded by the Conference of Major Superiors of Religious Congregations in Ghana to take on his current role as Director of the Institute for Continuing Formation in south west Ghana. The Institute conducts formation and renewal/sabbatical programmes for Priests. Rob celebrates 40 years as a Christian Brother in February 2008.

Director, Edmund Rice Oceania Ministries

**Paul Ryan** is Director of Province Ministries in the Holy Spirit Province and has been since April 2006. Prior to that Paul was a Research Fellow at the Department of General Practice at Monash University with a research focus on the treatment of depression by general practitioners. For a number of years Paul was a Catholic Priest in the Ballarat Diocese working in rural and regional communities. He has degrees in education, theology, and psychology and is currently completing a PhD in clinical psychology. Paul was born and raised in Ballarat and attended teacher's college at Aquinas College (ACU). Paul is married to Bernadette who has a background in social welfare, counselling, and pastoral planning and is the volunteer coordinator at a community agency in Adelaide.

Executive Officer

**Anne Pinzon** is a relatively new member of the Edmund Rice family having joined the Holy Spirit Province in February 2007 following five years working with MercyCare Ltd in Western Australia. She was raised and educated in Ireland and has a Bachelor of Arts from Trinity College, Dublin, a Diploma in Bilingual Executive Assistant Studies from Leeds Polytechnic, a Diploma in Teaching English as a Foreign Language, a Bachelor of Legal Studies from Murdoch University, and is currently undertaking a Graduate Diploma in Applied Corporate Governance through the Institute of Chartered Secretaries Australia.

Director, Edmund Rice Oceania Formation

**Peter Nicholson** has been the National (Australian) Director of Edmund Rice Formation since 2000. He has significant experience in adult education and formation, including establishing the Catholic Pastoral Formation Centre for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. For some years he managed a number of programs for homeless people at Sacred Heart Mission, St Kilda, where he still has involvement, including as a member of the Board of Governance. In 2002 he attended the last Congregational Chapter in Rome, as a member of the Edmund Rice Network. He is married to Monica and enjoys cooking, reading and music - but mostly travel.