



A small selection of inspiration from Brothers who have had influence on the education system in Australia.

Thank you to the Christian Brothers who provided the following information.



What makes an Edmund Rice school?

*“it involves compassion and
outreach to others who are not
as fortunate”*

Br. Laurie Collins

Birthplace:

Melbourne.

Years as a Christian Brother: 50.

Family:

Father - Laurie who was a teacher of Maths and Principal of Melbourne High and Moreland High. Mother – Nell, Brother – Paul and Sister - Marie.

Education:

St Joseph's College Warrnambool

St Bernard's College Essendon

CB Teachers College Box Hill - TPTC

Melbourne University – B.Sc.

Latrobe University – BEd

Boston College

–Master of Arts(Pastoral Ministry)

Tangaza College Nairobi

– studies in African culture.

Well known students that I have taught:

Prof. Greg Craven, Senator Chris Ellison, Terry Alderman, Gary Honey, Anthony McDonald, Luke Mangan and Br Gerard Ellul.

Highlight of my education career:

Principal of 5 schools – St Leo’s Box Hill, Parade Bundoora, St Patrick’s Ballarat, SJCM, Embulbul.

Parade – development of former Juniorate as Senior School and building Waterford Campus.

St Pat’s – celebration of centenary.

However, the most satisfying (and most difficult) was the establishment of the education centre at Embulbul.

Interesting stories:

Announcing the election of Barrack Obama to a wildly enthusiastic assembly at Embulbul.

What was your first school placement like?

Teaching a Grade 5 class in Perth of 50 students.

They were talented and very cooperative group.

What makes an Edmund Rice school?

A full answer would require more space and time than I have available; certainly it involves compassion and outreach to others who are not as fortunate.

Schools that I have been involved with:

Trinity College Perth; St Mary’s West Melbourne; Trinity College Brunswick; St Joseph’s Technical School South Melbourne; St Virgil’s College Hobart; Parade College Bundoora; St Kevin’s College Toorak; St Leo’s College Box Hill; Catholic Memorial HS West Roxbury Boston; CBC St Kilda; St Patrick’s College Ballarat; Iona College New York; St Joseph’s College Melbourne; Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre Embulbul Kenya and Kabankalan Catholic College Philippines.

Interests and hobbies:

Travel, Golf, sports, Film, Literature, Science and Theology.



*I don't like to single out any of my former students. Those who attain sporting success become well known, but others who might make significant and more lasting contributions to the community take longer to be recognised –
if they are ever widely recognised at all.*

Br. Brian Bond

Years as a Christian Brother: 45.

Birthplace: Geelong, Victoria.

Family: 5th in a family of three boys and three girls.

Education:

Primary: St Margaret's, East Geelong and Our Lady's Manifold Heights.

Secondary: St Mary's Geelong and St Josephs College, Geelong.

Tertiary: Christian Brothers Teachers College Box Hill and University of Melbourne, Yarra Theological Union.

Interests/Hobbies:

Sport, (especially AFL)

Genealogy

Travel

Reading

Well known students I have taught:

I don't like to single out any of my former students. Those who attain sporting success become well known, but others who might make significant and more lasting contributions to the community take longer to be recognised – if they are ever widely recognised at all.

Highlight of education career:

In replying to this survey I would have to say being Principal of Parade! Actually I have enjoyed all the schools in which I have taught and the different roles I have been asked to perform: Principal, Deputy Principal, Class teacher, Sportsmaster, Sports Coach...

Interesting stories:

The choice I made many years ago to 'travel a road less travelled' has meant my life has taken many unexpected turns, been full of rich and interesting experiences and enabled me to meet and interact with many wonderful people in many different parts of the world. Of course there have been difficult times but overall I am profoundly grateful for the opportunities I have been given and feel that my life has been a privileged one.

What do you think is the future of education?

I hope that all children everywhere may eventually enjoy their right to a quality education.

What makes an Edmund Rice school?

I think the Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) Charter describes this very well. Key elements include ensuring Je-

sus' message of compassion, justice and peace is taught and is a lived reality in the school community; providing quality teaching and learning experiences to enable students to contribute to the building of a better world for all and being a welcoming and inclusive community.

What was your first school placement like?

Aquinas College Ringwood (1970) was at that time a Boys only Regional school. I taught mainly at Year 8 level and enjoyed it immensely.

Schools involved with:

Aquinas College Ringwood (1970), St Marys Regional School West Melbourne (1971-72), St Josephs Abbotsford (1973-5), St Virgil's Hobart (1976), St Patricks Ballarat (1978-82), St Bernard's Essendon (1983-88), Parade College (1989-94), Guilford Young College Hobart (1996), Chanel College Geelong (1997-99). I also served on the Board of St Kevin's College, Toorak for a number of years.

I am currently the Executive Director of Edmund Rice International and working in Geneva Switzerland. ERI is a faith-based non-governmental organisation (NGO) committed to working for children and young people who are marginalised because of poverty, lack of access to education, legal status, environmental degradation, or involvement in armed conflict.

ERI works at the international level to promote and protect the rights of children and young people particularly in regard to education.

Br. Andrew Simpson

Years as a Christian Brother: 48 – entered in 1964.

Birthplace: Burwood in Sydney.

Family:

Originally from the Tweed River in Northern NSW and later moved back to the area. Parents had 7 boys and 2 girls. Parents deceased but remainder of family alive and in good health – with many nephews, nieces and grand nephews/nieces.

Education:

1. Christian Brothers Burwood (Sydney).
2. Christian Brothers Juniorate.
3. Teacher Education at Mt St Mary College in Strathfield.
4. BA and MA in Education at Macquarie University on part-time basis whilst teaching in schools.

Interests/Hobbies:

Closely involved with Rugby League refereeing for over 40 years – both in Sydney and in PNG. Involved in rugby league development in PNG - awarded the MBE for involvement in both education and rugby league in PNG.

Well known students - taught:

Every Student.



***What makes an
Edmund Rice school?***

‘A school where all the students matter – they are valued and cared for with Christian values’

‘Built on social justice and the gospel values’

Currently three ex-students in Australian Parliament.

Many ex-students in significant positions in education in Australia and PNG.

Highlight of education career:

1. Moving from primary teaching in 1978 into teacher education.
2. Coming to PNG in 1987.
3. Being involved in education, particularly in PNG. Apart from the leadership of institutions, I have also been Chairperson of the National Catholic Education Board in PNG since 2000.

Interesting stories:

Many interesting stories in rugby league as I have been involved in all levels of refereeing

1. Going into rugby league records about 1980 when the back-chatting rule was introduced – became first referee to implement the penalty rule but did so in a deaf team for back-chatting.
2. Refereeing a Sydney team of motor bike gang members immediately before the Fathers Day Bike Shootout in Milperra in about September 1983.
3. Being appointed a selector for the PNG national rugby league side (the Kumuls) in 1990 and PNG defeating the English RL side in the first test team that I helped to select.

What do you think is the future of education?

Education is the key to development and growth. In developed countries people take education for granted and do not appreciate what it offers. In a country like PNG which is a developing country education is highly prized and good education is the key to growth and development. My present role in the Catholic University in PNG is vital – we have real problems of government and corruption and our students will be the future leaders who will turn around this corruption

What makes an Edmund Rice school?

A school where all the students matter – they are valued and cared for with Christian values. Built on social justice and the Gospel values.

What was your first school placement like?

I commenced teaching in Young in south-west NSW in 1969. It was a beautiful town and the small-town atmosphere was good. There was a good community feeling in the school.

Schools involved with:

1969-70 CBC Young, 1971-74 CBC St Mary's Cathedral, 1975-78 CBC, 1979-86 Mt St Mary College of Education – teacher education, 1987-90 St Paul's Teachers College Vunakanau (Rabaul) PNG – teacher education and Principal, 1991-95 St Benedict's Teachers College Wewak PNG – teacher education and Principal, 1996-2002 Goroka PNG – leadership of the Brothers in PNG, 2003- onwards Divine Word University Madang PNG – Vice President.

Life has been challenging and exciting as a Christian Brother. I have had opportunities and involvement, leading to growth and the use of my gifts, that I would never have expected. It is a matter of being ready to move where required.

Edmund Rice - QUIZ 2

Question 1 of 5

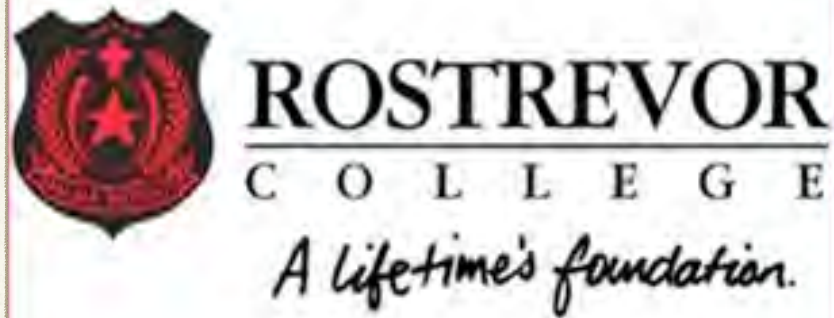
Edmund's mother

- ☒ **A.** Margaret Rice
- ☐ **B.** Stephanie Rice
- ☐ **C.** Maureen Rice
- ☐ **D.** Nano Nagle



Check Answer





I am currently the Assistant Principal Religious - Identity and Mission at Rostrevor and still enjoying my work.

Years as a Christian Brother: 43.

Birthplace: Adelaide.

Education:

Rostrevor College, Adelaide University, Boston College (Master of Arts degree).

Br. John Ahern

Family: I am the oldest of six children- 5 brothers, one sister.

Interests/Hobbies: Following the Adelaide Crows, cricket, athletics and reading good books.

Well known students - taught: Luke Darcy, Ben Hart, Anthony Byrne (member of the House of Representatives).

Highlight of education career: Being the Foundation Principal of John Paul College, Kalgoorlie in WA.

What do you think is the future of education: Very sound. Values and formation of pupils is just as important as academics.

What makes an Edmund Rice school?

Commitment to following Jesus through Edmund's insights.

What was your first school placement like?

Scary then great fun teaching 47 boys in a Grade Six class in WA.

Schools involved with:

CBC Kalgoorlie, CBC Adelaide, St Marks College, Perth, John Paul College, Kalgoorlie, Rostrevor College, Adelaide.



Patrick has always had the ability to move easily from a very professional approach to leading or facilitating others to being one with the Brothers he lives with in community.

Br. Patrick White

Patrick was born in Bundaberg Qld on the 18th March 1935. He was the third of five children born to James who hailed from Ireland and Ellen from Bundaberg. The eldest, Tony, who joined the Christian Brothers before him, followed by Michael, Patrick, John and Mary.

Patrick came to the Brothers' training college at Strathfield – now a campus of the ACU – in January 18, 1951. There he completed his secondary studies with the Leaving Certificate prior to his novitiate at Minto followed by his teacher training at Strathfield.

Catholic Schools were bursting at the seams – as full as an egg – as the saying went and almost entirely staffed by Religious. Patrick with his bag of teaching strategies was promptly sent to Rockhampton for his first year in 1956 where he taught a combined Yrs 3/4 (88 students). The following year at Toowoomba his fifth grade numbered 100! One learned to cope or perished. A year at Maryborough was followed by two years at Ingham before 1961 saw him at Waverley College, then a large primary/secondary school with a significant boarding component. He spent nine years there. He was now teaching secondary and being a strong and innovative teacher his educational leadership

and skills in planning and developing courses and resources significantly helped the staff at Waverley embrace the challenges of the new Wyndham Scheme with its new secondary curriculum being introduced from 1962. Whether coaching sports, organizing debating or cadets or conducting choirs and concert items, his enthusiasm and competence shone through.

His leadership was recognized by his being given Deputy Principal positions first at St Pius X Chatswood and then St Edmund's Canberra before he was appointed Principal at Chatswood. His leadership promoted strong unity among staff and made good use of the gifts of some very enthusiastic and talented staff while promoting a sense of pride among his students.

Though somewhat played out by the time he went back to Waverley in 1979 he assumed responsibility as Head of the English Dept. It was to be his last year in the classroom.

Having explored various options Patrick embarked on a career-changing course when he went to Loyola University, Chicago, in 1980. He was moving from education to psychology and he was to rediscover the energy, confidence and initiative he had shown as an educator. At Loyola he completed a Master in Pastoral Science and in 1983 began work as a counselor in Chicago while also studying for and attaining his Doctorate.

He supported himself and his studies through work at Cook County hospital working with victims of AIDS, burns, cancer and other areas requiring extensive therapeutic intervention

such as victims of domestic violence and incest. He did not return to Australia until 1987 having passed up some tempting invitations to continue working in the States.

Once in Australia he set up Pastoral Care services. His work has supported various Christian Brothers' ministries – for example in stress management, assertiveness training, conflict resolution and facilitating support for individual/group needs. He has also travelled widely throughout Australia, PNG and NZ working with religious congregations and groups of the clergy including Bishops as they grappled with renewal issues. He has facilitated Chapters for his Brothers in Qld, NZ and Papua New Guinea and for other religious congregations. In San Francisco in 1995 he added studies in spiritual direction to his qualifications and while finding time for individual clients he exercised leadership of the community of ageing Brothers living at Waverley from 1999 to 2008.

Patrick has always had the ability to move easily from a very professional approach to leading or facilitating others to being one with the Brothers he lives with in community.

Currently as a Cluster leader of a group of over forty Brothers in the New South Wales region of the Oceania Province - this trait is most apparent. It is a role that calls for one to support, encourage, challenge and communicate with Brothers and Patrick's experiences over many years in various roles has been well prepared to be outstanding in this role.



Brendan has ben a gift to many through his many gifts which include an unassuming and gentle approach in his teaching, his joy in community living, his deep Faith and faithfulness to his religious life & his great generosity in his service of others.

Br. Brendan Versace

Brothers who have lived or worked with Brendan would testify to his ability to fix most things mechanical, often with considerable ingenuity or creativity. If a problem requires a part he can adapt or fashion one and a standing joke is that it often only required a bit of fencing wire! Brendan's childhood provided that foundation for his skills.

In 1935 at Miles (Qld.) Brendan (Leonard, as he was then) was born the fifth of six children to Domenico Pietro Versace and Eileen Bourne thus sharing in Italian/Irish heritage perhaps reflected in the family's prowess in music and dancing. Before he was ten he had his chores in his father's timber industry learning about things mechanical even driving an old chev truck on the property. His dad built the first school he attended at Garulmundi, a 16 by 10 feet slab hut with corrugated iron roof and sawdust floor. When the family moved to Miles Brendan attended the Sisters of St Joseph primary prior to his going to Nudgee where he excelled in study and sports especially rugby and tennis.

His father asked him why he chose the Brothers' way of life rather than the priesthood. Brendan recalls telling him that one thing that attracted him to the life of the Brothers was the way

they looked after the old Brothers in their midst (as seen at Nudgee) and he didn't want to live alone as priests did, the community style of life impressed him.

He bade farewell to Miles in 1951 – he wasn't to return for 30 years. He gained honours in Physics and Chemistry in the Leaving Certificate at the Juniorate earning a Commonwealth Scholarship. After his novitiate and teacher training he was chosen to pursue a Bachelor of Agriculture at Sydney University with a Dip Ed. He specialized in Biology and Geology in which he earned high distinctions.

Beginning in 1959, Brendan put his knowledge to good use during 14 years at Inveralochy Agricultural College outside Goulburn. He taught Science and Agriculture in all secondary classes and assisted in the management of the attached station with 11,000 sheep and 500 cattle directing senior students in their farming experiences. Sadly, during his last three years there as Principal he had to close the College at the behest of the Bishop because it was no longer financially viable.

Brendan regards his happiest and most satisfying years of teaching (1973-82) to be at Tamworth's McCarthy Senior High (Years 11/12 co-ed) where apart from teaching agriculture, biology and religion he carved out playing fields, created a drainage system, produced college Annuals - taking and developing most of the photographs himself - and taught the students ballroom dancing. He also took on the duties of community leader for nine years.

He spent 1983 at Marsfield completing a Diploma in Religious Education before being appointed Principal of a co-educational junior secondary school at Young.

A very different teaching experience awaited him in 1988 in Papua New Guinea when he went to Ponini Agricultural College. The lingua franca was Pidgin although teaching was in English, the students were keen to learn but prone to occasional strikes! The tropical humid heat was burdensome, the work demanding and abundant mosquitoes brought dangerous malaria which hit Brendan hard.

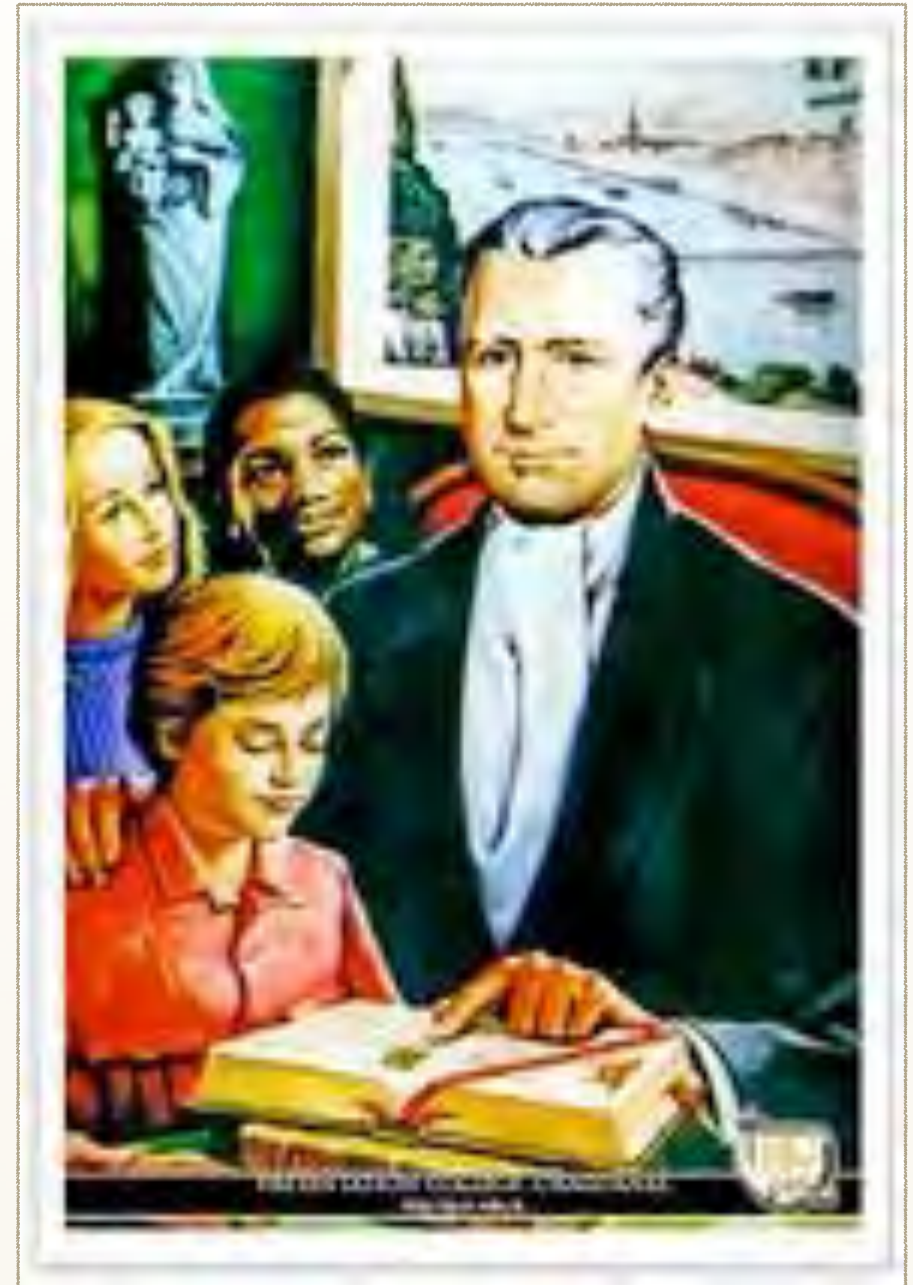
However some humans proved more dangerous when his life was threatened one evening by a gang of thieves armed with axes and machetes whom Brendan and Laurie Faux fought off with machetes and hand to hand combat in their house. They sustained knife wounds before the students responded to the alarm and routed them.

By 1995, he had earned a sabbatical with a six months renewal course called "Crossroads" at Baulkham Hills. The rest of the year he spent in remote Turkey Creek in the Kimberley's there he assisted another Brother, Nick Billich, in building a retreat/conference centre. He also worked at different times with maintenance and construction tasks at Bourke, Walgett & Wilcannia.

From 1996 to the present Brendan has lived and worked at Mulgoa. There he's managed a farm (cattle and sheep); built an irrigation system; learned how to use a bulldozer and effect erosion control; led the recovery after the destruction of the 2001 bushfire which destroyed fences, some sheds and ma-

chinery; and of course attended to many and varied maintenance tasks.

Brendan has been a gift to many through his many gifts which include an unassuming and gentle approach in his teaching, his joy in community living, his deep Faith and faithfulness to his religious life and his great generosity in his service of others. He has mastered many dances in his time, ballroom, rock and roll, line dancing and one cannot help but view his mastery of the dance as symbolizing his graceful mastery of varied life experiences and challenges in ministry. He still arranges dances for senior citizens. Long may he dance through life's challenges with the joy and equanimity appropriate to a man of constancy and generosity in all he does.



Edmund Rice - QUIZ 3

Question 1 of 3

The saint whose name Edmund chose for his religious name.

- ☐ **A.** Patrick
- ☐ **B.** Edmund
- ☒ **C.** Ignatius of Loyola
- ☐ **D.** Ambrose



Check Answer





Bernie was always game for something new.

Br. Bernie MacGill

Bernie's father hailed from Belfast and his mother from NSW and he remembers how the family moved a lot when he was a child before settling in Morisset where he used walk some distance on paths bounded by Lake Macquarie firstly to a one teacher school and later a three teacher school. He credits his Grandmother and two uncles for his being able to go to St. Patrick's Strathfield in 1939 and 1940. There he recalls the positive influence on him of several Brothers, Athanasius McGlade being the only surviving one. He went on to enjoy the various experiences that saw him, during the war years, completing his Leaving Certificate at St Enda's at Mt. St Mary Strathfield and his novitiate year under Patrick Harty at Minto however he regrets that his year of teacher training was a somewhat disrupted one.

His first teaching appointment was to Burwood in 1946 where he appreciated having the support and encouragement of a wonderful teacher in Br John Carter. For the rest of the forties he was stationed in Victorian schools at Warrnambool and Moonee Ponds before going to Geelong first to St Mary's and then to St Joseph's - a boarding school which he enjoyed.

Anyone who has worked or lived with Bernie will attest to his affability, kindness, keen intellect and love of learning (especially in English and the humanities) and his support for others with

his ready involvement in community and school activities. He ruefully acknowledges that his classroom management at times had deficiencies. It is an unfortunate fact that young boys or youths then and now have a tendency to seize upon opportunities to turn some teachers' virtues such as kindness, trust and love of learning against them, especially if such a teacher is working alongside others more adept at teacher by the maxim that fear is the beginning of wisdom. However, it is undisputed that among so many ex-students he is much respected for the teacher he was.

Bernie speaks well of almost every place he taught, Gosford for its beauty and a wonderful sense of community and friendly spirit in the school, Goulburn, where he had numerous hockey teams to keep him busy, Albury where he spent two of his happiest years under George Dynan's leadership. His years at CBHS Lewisham (1961-64) saw him among a community of twenty Brothers with the excitement and changes of the Wyndham Scheme being introduced – Bernie with typical generosity took several of what were then what he calls 'messy' subjects – physical education, craft and music. In Canberra, in 1965, he had an opportunity to complete his degree before going to Penrith from 1966 to 1970, a school full of growth and exciting developments. Young, enthusiastic and energetic families were a feature of Sutherland in the early seventies, a happy place despite the privations of a difficult site.

Bernie added roles of community leader (Superior) to his teaching at Wollongong 1973-5 and St Leo's Wahroonga

1976-8 where he also completed his Diploma in Religious Studies. After a year at Waverley, Bernie became involved in tertiary education at Mt St Mary's teachers' College where for four engrossing years he taught Ancient and Medieval History and English method. Six months at Kempsey in 1984 preceded a big change in his life.

From 1985 to 1989 Bernie was stationed at Mongop in Papua New Guinea. This was a boarding school for 500 boys and girls administered by Christian Brothers and Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. It was remote (90 miles for nearest telephone and communication relied on radio) the climate, very humid. Bernie taught singing, religious education and English.

He returned from Mongop in 1990 and worked with Steve Morelli at Sherwood, outside Kempsey, who was working with the aboriginal people on their local Gumbangirr language but the following year saw him back in Papua New Guinea teaching at Fatima High School in Banz. He retired from classroom teaching at Young in 1993 and was archivist at Sutherland.

Bernie was always game for something new and it was no surprise to see him go to China from February 1997 to July 1998 teaching English to young adults before returning to Wollongong to take on Special Education.

After a sabbatical at Fassifern, Bernie joined the Waverley community from 2001 to 2006. And then spent two years in Gerringong before returning to Charngfield.



Since 2007, Eric has retired from full-time teaching but has continued to maintain and interest and offer various forms of support for school-related tasks such as tutoring, mail processing and book-hire.

Br. Eric Hyde

John (Eric) born on December 4th in 1934 was one of four children born to William and Elsie Hyde in Rose Bay, NSW, the others being William, Denis and Maureen. However, Eric spent most of his early life at Enfield attending St. Patrick's Strathfield before moving to the Juniorate (St Enda's, Strathfield) in 1951 for his Leaving Certificate year.

Having completed his training he was posted first of all to Townsville in 1954 for two years then Ingham for three, all the time teaching primary classes. In those days most Brothers were trained as primary teachers and most began by teaching primary classes. After returning to NSW and teaching at Tamworth for a year Eric was transferred to Wollongong where he first taught secondary classes for two years.

He had a chance to further his experience of secondary teaching and hone his administrative skills at Manly where he taught for eleven happy years, some of them as Deputy Principal to an outstanding teacher and administrator, Br Adrian Taylor.

He had but one year as a Deputy Principal at St Dominic's Penrith before he was appointed in 1974 Principal at the newly formed Coeducational, Trinity High School in Wagga Wagga. It was an historical appointment because Eric was the first Chris-

tian Brother to be principal of a Co-ed school. Eric's love for teaching and learning, gentle but firm leadership, close administrative skills, his vision for the school, his appreciation of the gifts of colleagues and ability to foster teamwork made for success.

He and his Brothers working closely with the Presentation sisters fostered a spirit in the college that truly represented the many common values of a Catholic education pioneered by their Irish founders in Blessed Edmund Rice and Nano Nagle. They were eleven years (1974 to 1984) he greatly valued for the experiences and lessons learned and the friendships formed.

He was only one and a half years at St Pius X Chatswood as Deputy Principal before he accepted the invitation to go to Rome for the International Tertianship in mid 1986. Eric remembers these seven unforgettable months as an exhilarating experience.

He needed his renewed energies and insights from his studies and reflections because a challenging role he'd agreed to take on when he returned. Given his experience in leadership in a coeducational school Eric was asked to become principal of the Years 11 and 12 McCarthy College run by the CEO at Emu Plains. He faced numerous challenges during his six years in this role.

The College was only in its second year of its establishment and so he had to cope with constant planning, building and construction to accommodate increasing enrolments while promoting the concept of a senior high school hitherto un-

known in outer Western Sydney and building up the character and reputation of the College.

After this he had the benefit of a spirituality course at St Joseph's Baulkham Hills along with 28 others from different countries and congregations.

In 1994, Eric was appointed to St Mary's Cathedral college in the heart of Sydney and has served there for the last seventeen years. Most of them have seen him engaged in full-time teaching. He has a passion for the humanities particularly English and History for which he has the reputation of a close and very effective educator. He has also exercised the role of leader of the small community of Brothers there since 2002.

Since 2007, Eric has retired from full-time teaching but has continued to maintain and interest and offer various forms of support for school-related tasks such as tutoring, mail processing and book-hire.



Br. Gary Ferguson



In the early sixties Gary's Faith and desire to serve the Church directed his thinking towards Religious life and a conversation with a priest helped with this discernment.

Gary was born in 1941 at Surat, a town south west of Roma, Queensland, to Veda May and Colin Peter Ferguson. He was the sixth of their 9 children. His father was a shearing contractor who eventually purchased a supermarket. Gary was schooled first at Surat Public and completed his scholarship exam from St Mary's, Toowoomba.

On leaving school in 1956, Gary trained as a chef and worked first in a café in Surat and then as a shearer's cook which occasioned a lot of travel and working in basic conditions. It was seasonal work so he took on other work such as managing his father's business.

In the early sixties Gary's Faith and desire to serve the Church directed his thinking towards Religious life and a conversation with a priest helped with this discernment.

He wrote to the postulators of various Orders indicating his interest in some non-teaching ministries. Br Ephren Cryan replied and visited him. As a result in January 1962, Gary arrived at Strathfield and joined his group heading for Minto for their Postulancy & Novitiate year. After making first vows in 1963 a second novitiate year at Mulgoa followed and then a year in the scholasticate – he did selected courses but instead of the teacher

training component he sampled various tasks undertaken at Mt St Mary's Strathfield which in those times housed not only the local Brothers' community but also the Provincial Council, the Juniorate students and the Brothers attending university or teacher training (the Scholasticate).

Gary stayed on at Strathfield for two years and joined two other lay Brothers in the kitchen. During the following two years at Minto he was responsible for catering for the novices and Brothers' community. At the end of that time Gary made Final Profession of vows, Christmas day 1968.

He returned to Strathfield in 1969 where he was to remain for the next 21 years as an indispensable part of many changes to that place occurring over that time. He was the first to hire employees to the Strathfield kitchen which formerly had been staffed by Brothers. Gary became responsible not only for catering for all the groups there but also jubilee celebrations, profession ceremonies and other liturgies.

As Mt. St. Mary gradually expanded as part of the Catholic Teachers' College, accepting lay students in increasing numbers, Gary had to open and manage a canteen to cater for students' needs. In addition he was bursar of the community and in that capacity was one of the first Brothers to computerise managing accounts and wages – Br Brendan Duggan wrote a computer programme for him to do this. Maintenance was another area that involved him as well as changeover of cars and so on.

Pursuing his interest in cricket Gary became an accomplished cricket umpire and for some years umpired grade games around Sydney.

In 1980, Gary's undertook some spiritual renewal through the Kairos programme and he relates how this changed his spirituality. Continuing at Strathfield he became a member of the St Vincent de Paul Society involved with ministering to the homeless through Night Patrol; he was on the founding committee of Ozanam Youth Lodge; a member of the NSW State Homeless Committee and various other initiatives assisting homeless youth.

By the end of 1989 he accepted an invitation from the very pastorally-minded Bishop Bede Heather to take up prison chaplaincy. This was a ministry in which Blessed Edmund himself had been much involved. Gary lived at communities at Castle Hill and Penrith while ministering to inmates of Parramatta gaol and after 1997 he lived with Br Pat Lynch, also a prison chaplain, at Parklea caravan Park while being full-time Catholic chaplain for young offenders and their families.

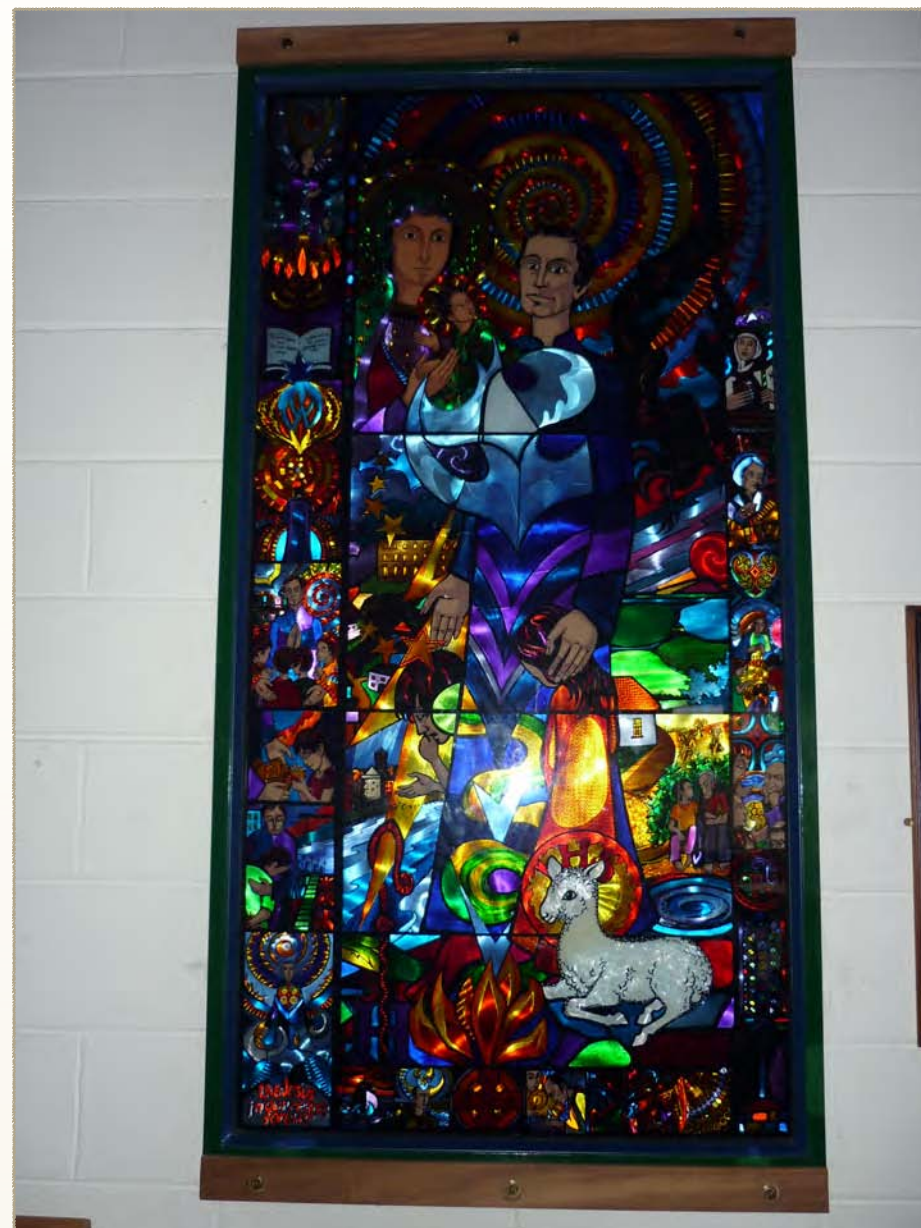
He attended to prisoners' spiritual needs, offered counselling, arranged many funerals for prisoners who died in prison or took their own lives, consoled their families and visited prisoners in hospital. In 1998, he received a Commissioner's Commendation for his "outstanding dedication to duty at the metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre in providing compassion and assistance to bereaved families of inmates who have committed or attempted suicide."

In 1999, he had a well earned sabbatical at Sangre De Cristo in New Mexico and completed the Human Development and Personal Spirituality Programme. He was interested in taking up an offer to work in New York with homeless youth but was needed back in Sydney where a similar ministry engaged him - The Brothers' refuge at Bidwell and Eddy's Place in Wollongong.

While continuing to work in this ministry he was asked in 2004 to take over as manager of "Billow View" at Gerrin-gong which was being used more and more as a retreat centre for various small groups. Gary had a hand in two major renovations of this place.

2010 saw him appointed manager of "Winbourne" at Mulgoa, The Christian Brothers Retreat and Conference Centre. There he has been assiduous in maintaining its beautiful setting for the great range of adult and students groups, many of whom come for spiritual development through retreats. He is always looking for new ways to enhance its facilities.

Gary's fifty years have been preoccupied with the service of others, a service given with dedication, cheerfulness and compassion. He brings his deep, practical spirituality and care for others to community life. His Brothers appreciate his sense of humour, zest for life and almost weekly demonstration of his culinary skills.



Br. John Henry Thornber



While residing in recent years at St Pius X Chatswood, where he is community leader, he is close to completing his doctoral studies.

John Henry was born in Brisbane, the eldest of three sons born to Henry and Jean. David died when very young but John Henry has always enjoyed a close friendship with his brother Michael who for a time also served with the Congregation.

John Henry was educated at Sts. Peter and Paul Primary, Bulimba and St James School prior to his going to the Juniorate at Strathfield. Enjoying school, he appreciated the accomplished teaching of some great scholars in Brothers Baptist Healy, Mark Dynes, Gordon Kerr, Adrian Taylor and Barney Garvan. His novitiate in 1964 occurred during Vatican II and Mark Dynes introduced him to the revolution in Scriptural scholarship. His love of learning was surely inspired by such men.

His first mission was to Waverley College junior school in 1967 before going to St Pius X Chatswood in 1969, where he taught secondary classes. During his six years there he delighted in taking a group from Year 7 through to their Senior year. His Bachelor of Commerce degree majoring in accountancy led him into such subjects as Economics and Commerce and of course he also taught Religious Education. The combination provoked a

suggestion from some wit that he was trying to reconcile God and Mammon.

He brought a thoughtful approach to his coaching of such sports as rugby, cricket and athletics at St Pius while also being sports-master. There was virtually no time out from teaching for a sports-master in those days so it was a heavy load.

He was back at Waverley in 1975 and again in the role of sports-master with a huge programme of Saturday sport to administer. He was also busy teaching senior classes and coordinating Year 11. He was never burdened with too much spare time because he worked on completing his Masters in Education!

In 1980 he began his first of three appointments to the role of Principal at St Dominic's Penrith. All of his three appointments as Principal involved considerable challenges because all schools were in transition stages.

He found St. Dominic's crowded and the facilities for music, art and manual arts deficient, the primary was also being phased out so it became a high school only and shortly before his time it had accepted girls, temporarily, in order to ease the strains of Catholic education in the region. He outlined the first stage of a multi-stage plan and completed stage 1 with facilities for technical subjects and art and music. However, funding it was difficult because an application to the Australian Schools Commission in 1981 was not granted and it necessitated a loan. Stage 2 was in planning when his tenure was cut short as he was asked to go to Albury late in 1982.

His first task there was to close the Brothers' secondary school, St Thomas Aquinas in the third term of that year and then, at the beginning of 1983 he commenced his time as the founding principal of the new co-ed Xavier High, an amalgamation of the former Christian Brothers' secondary boys' school with the Mercy Sisters secondary school for girls. This new school operated on two campuses. For seven years he was preoccupied in dealing with the multiple and complex logistical challenges such an amalgamation presented, not the least of which was forging a new culture.

Fresh from this daunting experience he was appointed to St Patrick's Goulburn in 1991 with a view to his assuming the Presidency (the rather lofty, traditional term the College used for its Principal) the following year. However, Br Brian Moylan's ill health meant that John Henry had to take the reins in term 2 of 1991. Goulburn had been through a turbulent period before Brian Moylan's calming influence but there persisted a climate of uncertainty and resistance to changes that were needed. Moreover, while new building and resource developments were required money was becoming scarce; the previous year had shown a deficit. A rural recession and the development of Catholic schools in rural areas and declining birth rates meant that traditional feeder areas for boarders were declining.

John Henry worked hard in a friendly and collaborative way at the task of trying to assist staff to see greater possibilities in their roles as part of his drawing up a whole school development plan.

In 1996, the Director of the Catholic Education Office of the Armidale Diocese asked the provincial for John Henry's assistance as Secondary school consultant. Among his varied duties John Henry played a leading role in ensuring that the Diocese was accorded category 11 for government funding.

During this time he began a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from the Sydney College of Divinity which he completed in 2002.

In 1998, he became involved with province administration work, particularly the development of governance formation for ministry boards and also developing OH&S awareness throughout the province. He was also a member of the inter-province National Planning Committee for school governance, helping prepare the way for the establishment of Edmund Rice Education Australia.

While residing in recent years at St Pius X Chatswood, where he is community leader, he is close to completing his doctoral studies.

He wishes to record his gratitude for the journeying and searching in his life and the accompanying nurturing of brothers, family and friends along the way.





For sixty years Max has experienced the ups and downs of the teaching profession in those years when classes were often crowded and workloads very heavy; he has reinvented himself through studies and accepted the challenges of new ministries such as Adult education at parish level. Through it all he has been a deeply spiritual Religious, grateful to God for the privilege of serving his Church in so many ways.

Br. Max Flannery

Max's father grew up in Mudgee, NSW, in the 1920's and boarded at St Stanislaus College. Eventually the family moved to Sydney and his father became a pharmacist marrying Max's mother (nee Rita Patricia O'Driscoll) who grew up in Dublin, Ireland. In 1927 they settled down in Randwick.

Max was born in 1934 in the middle of the Great Depression and remembers his father recalling the privations of that period while being appreciative of the fact that he had employment. His parents he remembers as loving, generous, compassionate and caring people who had a lively Faith expressed through attendance at Mass and daily morning and evening prayers. Max notes that they instilled in his brother, Paul, and himself virtues they modelled such as courtesy, thoughtfulness and sensitivity towards others.

Max attended the local Randwick convent school 1939-41 and then Waverley College from 1942 to 1951 being taught by thirteen different brothers during his years there. He noted that the Brothers were friendly but in a certain distant way as was traditional at that time but he saw how among themselves there was a more overt friendliness and happiness.

Max loved cricket – not just playing backyard and park cricket - but also trips to the SCG for State and Test cricket and treasures seeing Bradman's one hundredth century. His later teaching years reflected his interest in sports.

Max ruefully reflects that at school some Brothers' expectation of him were in the shadow of the high academic performance of his brother, three years ahead of him. For all that his association with them was positive and his youthful idealism directed him towards answering a perceived call from God to join them in handing on the Faith through education. After completing the leaving Certificate in 1951 he then attended the Juniorate at Strathfield and then Novitiate at Minto followed by his Scholasticate year.

His first six months of teaching was at Cathedral College, Sydney in 1955 before he was sent to Albion, Qld. then from 1958 for two years at St Laurence's Brisbane followed by a stay of eight and a half years at St Mary's Toowoomba. There he taught junior secondary & made a significant contribution in coaching sport especially rugby league and athletics.

Four years in Goulburn commenced in 1968 followed by brief stays at Chatswood and Burwood before, in 1974, he began four years at CBHS Lewisham, where he was school bursar. Max enjoyed aspects of his teaching career and supported it with sound preparation and tertiary studies but acknowledges that he found irksome the on-going efforts, in often very large classes, to entice some very reluctant students

to value their education or not impede others' efforts to learn.

In 1978 Max was appointed the manager of the house at Marsfield, formerly a university college for the Brothers and by then a conference centre for adult education. Working with adults suited him and Max's courtesy to all comers and his hospitality and concern for their needs served them and the centre well for ten years, the last four of which Max was also leader of the community there.

In 1988 Max embarked on a study for his Bachelor of Theology which preoccupied him for three years while he stayed at Chatswood. At that time Max continued his long involvement in refereeing rugby and the community enjoyed his tales of adventures in the wilds of suburbia – while it is true some players were known to be critical of his adjudication at times it must be said there was no one who knew the laws of the game as well as he did!

After leaving Chatswood Max worked for a time with adult groups in parishes.

In 1995 he was asked to companion and assist Phil Redding who was the Regional Director of PNG operating out of Goroka. He valued his two years experiencing the culture of PNG before returning to Sydney in 1997.

Max had regretted the gradual movement of Brothers from rural communities such as Tamworth largely because of declining numbers of Brothers and other factors so he willingly accepted a call from the Provincial to join Brian Moylan in

establishing again the presence of a small Brothers' community in Tamworth. There Max joined St Vincent de Paul activities and worked with adult groups facilitating Biblical study, prayer and reflection. After Brian left Br. Ralph Garry joined him and only when Ralph's health declined was the community closed down and Max, after nine years there returned to Sydney. He joined Sutherland community and pursued similar work in the parish there for two years

In 2008 he responded to a request from the Provincial, Br Laurence Needham, to set up a community in Wagga Wagga, where, like Tamworth, we once had school links. Once again he is engaged with Parish Ministry.

For sixty years Max has experienced the ups and downs of the teaching profession in those years when classes were often crowded and workloads very heavy; he has reinvented himself through studies and accepted the challenges of new ministries such as Adult education at parish level. Through it all he has been a deeply spiritual Religious, grateful to God for the privilege of serving his Church in so many ways.



Br. Philip Redding



Phil's dedication & leadership were recognised by his being elected to several provincial Chapters and two General Chapters at Rome and Johannesburg.

Philip grew up in Hornsby the fifth child born to Philip and Eileen Redding. Family life with his five sisters (a younger sister was born after him) was happy and his mother ensured the Faith was handed on with the family Rosary a regular fixture. Educated first by the Sisters of Mercy at Waitara, Phil then attended St Patrick's Strathfield from fifth grade until attending the Juniorate at Mt St Mary's in 1952, completing his Leaving Certificate before entering the novitiate at Minto in 1954.

Phil began his teaching at St Edward's Gosford in 1956. His first class was a double one with 85 pupils. Characteristically Phil adapted various systems to make it work.

For the next few years he taught at Balmain, Rozelle, and Newtown teaching by day and studying nights to gain a Manual Arts Diploma. In 1964, in charge of the small school at Newtown he took on many new roles; they were happy years. Then as head of St Thomas' Lewisham he taught Woodwork, Technical Drawing and Metalwork and began the study of Earth Sciences at Macquarie University. He was given some relief in his crushing workload when allowed a year of full-time study to complete his science degree from Marsfield in 1974. Following this, for three

months, he had the privilege to assist two of his sisters nursing his dying father at his home.

Phil was next asked to be Community Superior at St Patrick's Goulburn where the legendary Daniel Marzarini was Headmaster. Bestowing a title of Superior on someone sharing leadership with Dan was probably rather optimistic. However, for six years Phil served his community of Brothers while looking after boarders and teaching senior science. Many aspects of College Life pleased him not the least the insights he gained into farming life when making traditional visits to students and their parents in their homes during holiday periods.

In 1984, a new phase of eighteen years of Phil's life opened up when he accepted an invitation to teach maths and science at Fatima College in Banz in Papua New Guinea. Students, who came from far and wide didn't need to be told education was the key to opportunities in life. Phil threw himself into the work and was soon writing programmes for their few Apple computers.

In the middle of 1984, he moved to Goroka Teachers' College where he lectured as Head of the Industrial Arts Programme and looked after the young Brothers in training. Work enveloped him because the resources for Industrial Arts required much improvement which he effected.

Phil's dedication and leadership were recognised by his being elected to several provincial Chapters and two General Chapters at Rome and Johannesburg.

Such was the respect in which he was held that he was appointed firstly to the Brothers Regional Council, administering to the needs of the Brothers in PNG then in 1990 elected as Regional Superior of PNG based in Goroka, an onerous and lonely though privileged role.

He travelled to some very remote places visiting the communities encouraging his confreres especially in such works as Callan services while attending to all manner of correspondence and problem solving.

In 1996, Phil resigned his post of Regional Superior, but remained on the regional Council while residing at Vuvu until he volunteered, in 1997, to be Deputy, assisting three Marist Brothers who were running a school in war-torn Bougainville at Asitavi. His adventures managing a school with some very damaged students in a war zone could fill a book, it was not for the faint hearted and since food was not all that plentiful it was no surprise he'd lost 20 kilos when he left there at the end of that year.

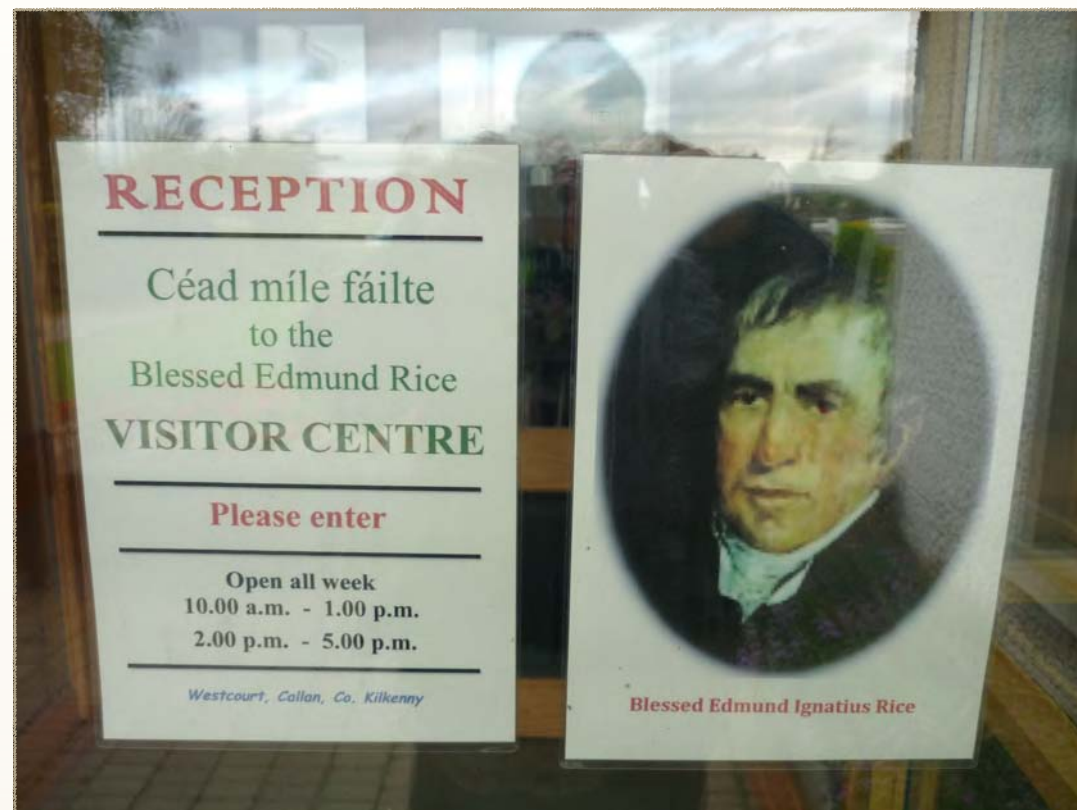
Over these hectic years Phil had some time for spiritual renewal at Baulkam Hills which allowed him time to reflect on his life to that point. This was followed by The Heart of Life Course in Spiritual Direction which was very demanding but fruitful and relevant to his leadership role in PNG.

Another highlight for him was his journey to Rome for a General Chapter which allowed him to soak in the wonders of Rome and Assisi. On his return to Balmain at the end of 1997 he had more time for renewal before stepping once more into the breach.

That began in July 1998 at Wollongong helping at a special school for troubled youth unable to cope in mainstream schools. He found this a different kind of war zone! Coming from a culture where the young thirsted for knowledge this was a culture shock. However, his teaching of manual arts brought the best out of most of them.

Elected to the Provincial Council in 2002, Phil, for the next six years, visited numerous communities, attending to the needs of the elderly and infirm Brothers; supporting Brothers studies and renewal courses; while also being Business Manager of the office at Balmain.

Following a few months at Young and since April 2009 his experience, wisdom and leadership has been put to good use as community leader for an ageing Community at Our Lady's Mount, Waverley and at the same time he has maintained his association with the work of the Mary MacKillop Men's Shed at Lewisham. He continues to serve others through the exercise of his many talents.





Bill, with his gregarious personality, friendliness and sense of hospitality have enabled him to be at ease in society and professional circles. He has always been someone who enjoys the big occasion.

Br. William Greening

William was born in June 1927 the youngest of four sons to Albert John Greening and Iona Gabriel (nee Hall) at Newcastle, NSW. His early education was with the Sisters of St Joseph at Granville in Sydney and then at CBC Burwood where he completed his Intermediate Certificate in 1941. He was briefly at CBC Lewisham before entering the Juniorate at Strathfield in 1942 where he completed his Leaving Certificate.

He received the Habit on February 11th in 1944 and began his novitiate year.

Such was the promise he showed he was sent to teach at Christian Brothers Yarraville while still in his Scholastic year in 1945. He taught primary and secondary classes there until the end of 1953 by which time he had also completed his B.A. from Melbourne University. 1954 to 1958 finds him at Rostrevor College in Adelaide where he was Boarding House Master and also Senior Humanities Master. His versatility was further demonstrated in his being also OC of Cadets, sports-master and choir-master.

Transferred in 1959 to the Brothers Victorian Juniorate at Bundoora, William taught classics, humanities and music and from

1963 to 1966 he was also Juniorate Director and as such he created a less stuffy and rigid atmosphere for his young charges than had been customary. His musical talents were also put to good use. He also found time to complete a B. Ed. with first class honours, winning the Harold Cohen Prize in Education.

Having completed a year as Educational Supervisor for the St Patrick's (Southern) Province, he was appointed Principal at Parade College (1968-1973). As Principal he fostered the various abilities of his staff and allowed them to be innovative.

William, himself, was outstanding as an English teacher where not only his knowledge but also his acting abilities and feel for the dramatic arts enabled him to bring literature to life for his students.

He transferred to the New South Wales, St Mary's Province in 1974 assuming the post of Deputy Principal of St Patrick's Strathfield and the following year was appointed Principal until 1980.

During this time he commenced work on his Masters of Education thesis dealing with the first mission of the Christian Brothers to Sydney from 1843-1847. He was awarded his Masters with honours in 1981 allowing him to commence doctorate studies. He gained his Ph.D for his thesis on the adaptation of the Irish Christian Brothers educational system to Australian conditions in the 19th Century.

After some study leave at Vaughan College, Marsfield, he joined the staff of Mt. St. Mary's Strathfield Teachers' College during the eighties, firstly as a part-time lecturer in sociology, educational psychology and the History and Philosophy of Education and later, as Campus Director. They were exciting times to be there because the Teachers' College was expanding considerably and had a reputation for producing fine young teachers. Ultimately it was to develop into a campus of the Australian Catholic University.

In 1992, he accepted an invitation to go to Notre Dame University in Fremantle as rector to the American students. Bill also acted as registrar there for six months.

Back in Sydney in the mid nineties Bill worked as Province archivist and also secretary to the Province's Edmund Rice Beatification Committee.

From 1995 until 2003 Bill resided at Waterford House at Waverley while he assisted the Principal and the College in various capacities, chiefly representing the Principal at meetings of the Old Boys Association but also as a Board member, Archivist, and so on. He retired to Edmund House at the Charingfield Hostel in 2004.

Bill has been active in many educational circles, and served on many committees over the years too many to name here. Many of them reflect his interest in the teaching of English; he was for instance made an honorary life-member of the Victorian Association for the teaching of English. School leadership has been another area of interest for he has served as a member of the Executive of the NSW Association for In-

dependent Schools and as a member of the National Standing Committee for School Evaluation, to name just two of several such committees.

Bill, with his gregarious personality, friendliness and sense of hospitality have enabled him to be at ease in society and professional circles. He has always been someone who enjoys the big occasion. Many of his activities and interest have been curtailed in recent years by poor health but his geniality is still evident.

CHRONOLOGY OF EDMUND'S LIFE					
1762 (Age 1) Born June 1 st at Westcourt, Callan	1777 (Age 15) Attended Commercial Academy in Kilkenny	1779 (Age 17) Joins uncle Michael in Waterford	c. 1786 (Age 24) Married Mary Elliott (Ellis?)	1789 (Age 27) Wife dies daughter Mary is born	1791 (Age 29) Large contribution to new edition of the Bible
1793 (Age 31) Encouraged by Bishop Lanigan of Ossory to educate poor boys	1796 (Age 34) Pope Pius VI approves of new ministry	1797 (Age 35) Bishop Hussey writes Pastoral Letter on Education	1798 (Age 36) Helped to establish convent of Presentation Sisters in Waterford	1800 (Age 38) Began to teach street children, after work helped by volunteers	1802 (Age 40) Joined by Thomas Groves and Patrick Finn - started community living in New Street
1803 (Age 41) The three moved in Mount Sion, a purpose-built monastery and school, on 7th June	1806 (Age 44) 1st foundation in the Diocese of Waterford outside Waterford city at Carrick-on-Suir	1807 (Age 45) New foundation at Dungarvan	1808 (Age 46) Edmund and 8 companions took vows as members of the Diocesan Society of the Presentation	1811 (Age 49) 1st foundation outside the Diocese at North Monastery, Cork	1812 (Age 50) 1st foundation in Dublin
1816 (Age 54) Order spread to Limerick and Thurles	1817 (Age 55) Meeting to discuss idea of a Pontifical Congregation	1820 (Age 58) Brief of Approval signed by Pope Pius VII on 5th September	1822 (Age 60) Brief formally accepted on 20th January	1823 (Age 61) Continued opposition from Bishop Murphy of Cork. Cork Brothers continued for some time with him as their Superior	1824 (Age 62) New foundation in Ennistymon
1825 (Age 63) 1st foundation in England at Preston. Others follow in Manchester, London and Liverpool	1827 (Age 65) 2 Congregations form: Presentation and Christian Brothers	1828 (Age 66) Foundation stone of O'Connell Schools, Dublin laid by Daniel O'Connell	1828 Edmund moved HQ from Waterford to Dublin	1829 (Age 67) Catholic Emancipation Act	1831 (Age 69) National Board established - some Brothers' schools under the Board due to Archbishop Murray
1832 (Age 70) Cholera outbreak in Ireland. Some of the schools turned into temporary hospitals	1836 (Age 74) Withdrawal of Brothers from the National Board with consequent financial insecurity	1838 (Age 76) Edmund made his Will, resigned as Superior General and retired to Mount Sion. Paul Riordan takes over	1840 (Age 78) Edmund made farewell tour to schools and communities	1841 (Age 79) Edmund seriously ill	1844 (Age 82) Edmund died at Mount Sion, Waterford, 29 th August
1896 Edmund beatified in Rome on 6 th October	O God, Bless Edmund and you faithfully in life. Grant through his intercession the petition(s) I now make and to hasten the day when he will be publicly honoured as a saint. Amen				
	FEAST DAY 5 th MAY				

Br. Vincent Michael O'Carrigan



**Vincent Michael O'Carrigan
A Diamond Jubilarian
of the
Christian Brothers**

***Truly Michael has used God's gifts and
grace to become a man fully alive.***

Vincent (Michael is the name he took in Religious life) was born at Coleraine in Northern Ireland on July 9th 1924 the fifth child born to Patrick and Ellen (nee McCaughan). His father, a hotelier, saw Australia as a less bigoted and safer place to raise his growing family. They settled on the central coast eventually at Woy Woy. Michael recalls “a magic childhood” there until they moved in 1933 to St John’s Park. Some of his siblings were born in Australia, the last and eighth in 1934. Four of them were to pursue Religious vocations. Michael credits his vocation to his mother’s influence and deep religious faith, expressed in one way through the nightly family Rosary, with the trimmings!

Having been educated by the Christian Brothers at Burwood and then St Patrick’s Strathfield, he joined the Brothers in November 1942, and entered the novitiate in 1943, the first of two years of training before his first posting to Maryborough where three happy though busy years awaited him. Michael, then and now is enthusiastic about life and blest with an energy that allows him to take on challenges be they intellectual, physical or creative & artistic. All of this was evident in his eight years at St. Brendan’s Yeppoon, a boarding school in central Queensland.

He taught himself Latin and took a full load of teaching of lower secondary classes, sports training, cadets, dormitory and study supervision, bus driving and since he loved tennis he built four courts. In 1956, he was placed in charge of St. John Fisher school and taught the demanding Scholarship class – a school's funding and reputation depended on its success and Michael loved a challenge. He was again actively involved with parents helping build tennis courts, cricket nets, gym equipment and a concrete toilet block.

He had a year at St Paul's North Rockhampton before being transferred to Aquinas College in Albury in 1961.

Once again he threw himself into various sports as he did when appointed Principal of the Bishop Henschke primary school in Wagga Wagga where he spent six years. Two years at Waverley followed before he was Principal again this time at Burwood in 1970. Michael's sporting involvements gave his students many sporting events and successes to remember but at Burwood he introduced ballroom dancing culminating in glamorous graduation evenings with Rosebank girls.

He began four years in Wollongong in 1974 and was Year 10 Coordinator prior to his having six years as Principal of Kempsey '78 – '83. He spent a year at Penrith, three at Goulburn, where boarding school duties and being leader of the Community guaranteed non-stop work. A year at Waverley followed before he set off in September, 1989 for two years in Belfast. This return to his roots was during "the Troubles" but for all that an unforgettable period working with youth amid the shootings, bombings, army patrols and the like.

Rabaul, New Guinea, beckoned in 1992, providing quite a contrast climate wise to Ireland. Michael contacted a debilitating virus there and with battered health returned to Sydney for treatment the same year and recuperated at St. Pius X Chatswood.

He bounced back from that and in 1994 he began three years assisting at Rosary College Tamworth while also taking Scripture classes in State schools.

Given his sense of adventure it is not surprising to find him off to Fuzhou in China teaching English at an Anglo-Chinese College. He testifies to the friendliness and goodness of the students there and this encouraged him after a year there to return later in 2001.

Back in Australia, Michael taught for a time at Obley, a school at St Marys for youth who struggle with mainstream education. Since 2003, Michael has resided at Wollongong.

Such a bare bones account of Michael's life hardly does justice to his many interests and activities. Ever the enthusiast and blest with great energy and a gregarious nature he has thrown himself into many sports, not merely coaching students but also participating – he excelled in running, swimming (both at the endurance level) and tennis; in Wollongong he is an active member of the Collegians Social Golf Club.

His interest in speech and Drama began early in the 1950's in Townsville. In the sixties he completed his L.T.C.L and L.S.D.A. qualification and then a Certificate of Art Ed. at the East Sydney Technical College. At Kempsey he acted in

the Bandbox theatre and produced his first play. Later while at St Pius X Chatswood he produced excellent choral speaking in all Year 7 and 8 classes.

He is an accomplished artist too. In Tamworth in 1994 he had his own one-man exhibition and since he's been in Wolongong he has produced and exhibited many paintings, canvases that reflect so much of his own zest for life, joy and optimism.

Truly, Michael has used God's gifts and grace to become a man fully alive.





Over the years Michael has cultivated a spirituality that has fueled the passion, generosity & commitment he has brought to his ministries.

Br. Michael Knights

Michael Knights attended St Coleman's in Melbourne before he entered the Juniorate at Strathfield, NSW, in January 1942. He was not to know it at the time but when he farewelled his family he was not to see them for thirteen years. This reminds us that many entering religious life in those times sacrificed many of the joys of sharing family life and whose parents missed seeing the years of growth and maturing their sons and daughters experienced once they had entered Religious life.

After five years, during which he completed his leaving Certificate, a novitiate and a teacher training year, he was asked to go to Queensland and there spent the first sixteen years teaching in junior secondary classes; beginning at Rockhampton in 1947 (six years), Maryborough (three years) and then Ipswich (eight years). He was not only an accomplished and thorough teacher in the classroom but a formidable coach of sporting teams; his enthusiasm and his knowledge of the sports and coaching methods added to his determination brought out the best in those he coached and gave them a very competitive edge.

In 1963 he assumed the role of Principal of St Edward's Gosford, that role in those times meant he was also the Superior or leader of the community of Brothers all of which added up to a

fairly high workload. Unfortunately his work was interrupted by a series of hip operations which caused him on-going problems. This did not blunt his drive but it must have been frustrating to someone so active in his ministry. Nevertheless it was a frustration he never yielded to.

Senior secondary classes occupied him for brief stays at Albury, Chatswood (four years), Wollongong, Sutherland, where he was Deputy-principal, then Albury again this time as Principal and community leader for three years. After this he was Religious Education Coordinator at Lewisham from 1979 to 1981 before teaching for three years at Wollongong and then Burwood.

In 1989, he was asked to go to Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea for one year to assume the role of National Catholic Education Secretary. It is a tribute to his energy, enthusiasm and effectiveness that he was asked to stay on for eleven years.

To a man who liked swift action on matters he was dealing with there were frustrations but he handled them as he did the stultifying weather with a philosophy well suited to life in those places, to quote Michael; “one’s heart is never in danger in the islands if one adopts the motto: ‘If you can’t manage today there’s always tomorrow.’”

He literally did the work of two people. He was National Catholic Education Secretary and thus served on the Boards of all the Teachers’ Colleges and Boards of the four Universities. Through its Board he was closely associated with the Limana Catholic Vocational School for girls. There he intro-

duced athletics and also choir work. As one of four on a committee that allocated finances for many schools he worked hard to ensure that disadvantaged schools received what was just; girls, for instance, had often suffered discrimination in funding, some even deprived of essential equipment such as desks and chairs! Michael was and is not one to walk away from a fight for a just cause.

A nasty attack of Malaria eventually put an end to his stay there but he was moved when a contingent of girls from Limana farewelled him at the airport.

In 1999 after some time in hospital and recovery time at Treacy villa he was able to have some spiritual renewal at Baulkham Hills.

Once recovered, he companioned Br Brian Moylan living in a unit at Dalton Gardens Retirement Village where both engaged in useful ministries. He spent a happy five years there until 2006. There were many units and a large community of retirees and Michael was involved with pastoral work such as leading many Lenten groups for reflection and prayer and giving Communion to the sick and disabled. He was active on various committees such as that for social justice and also the social club of which he was secretary and leader in the singing. For a time Michael was a member of Br Colin Smith’s highly regarded Singers of David.

From there Michael lived for a time at Treacy Villa in Strathfield before generously accepting the challenge of an invitation to reside at Walgett to be a presence among the community and staff at St Joseph’s Primary School where the Princi-

pal was a Christian Brother. He stayed there for two and a half years.

Since July 2009, Michael has resided with the Gosford community but with his typical energy and enthusiasm he has stayed active, for instance, travelling to Homebush to the Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education working in the Bakhita Centre assisting Sudanese ladies to gain a mastery over English.

Over the years Michael has cultivated a spirituality that has fueled the passion, generosity and commitment he has brought to his ministries. His sense of community has been evident to all who have lived with him as has been his patience and indomitable spirit in the face of many challenges to his health.





- ❖ ***Australian Christian Brother***
- ❖ ***educator***
- ❖ ***spiritual searcher***
- ❖ ***marine science researcher***

Br. Mark O'Loughlin

Two major life quests

It was a privilege to be invited to do a degree in Agriculture at the University of Sydney immediately after my years of training at Strathfield and Minto in the early 1950s. In addition to being a great preparation for being a senior Biology and Chemistry educator for 20 years, those university years set me on two major life quests. One was to search for a spirituality that would be an adequate basis for my life in place of religious practices that had lost their capacity to animate, and a spirituality that would be 'real' for the senior adolescents whom I was encountering in the classroom and in their lives. The second was to pursue a passionate interest in marine science that had been activated during two university excursions.

A spiritual shift

My pursuit of an authentic spirituality has taken me through dramatic changes. Very significant was a necessary and deliberate shift in the early 1970s from scholastic to existential philosophy and theology. In this decade I embraced the spirituality and missiology of Paul VI's encyclical *Evangelii Nuntiandi*.

From the late 1970s to the mid 1980s I was a leader in the Stranger Movement that was meeting the hunger of young people for relevant community and spirituality. During two six-year terms in the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s as a member of the leadership team in the former St Patrick's Province (embracing Victoria and Tasmania, Australia), I was involved in taking our brotherhood to Fiji and Tonga and Tanzania and thus encountered their peoples and cultures. In participating in three Congregation Chapters in Rome I experienced

- the traditionalist constraints of 1978,
- a liberated rewriting of our Constitutions in 1984, and
- the invitation to shift from “Doing and Teaching” to “Being Brother” in 2002.

After the province leadership years I undertook a year of Clinical Pastoral Education at Mont Park Psychiatric Hospital, and was then employed to work there during most of the 1990s in pastoral care in the acute psychiatric wards as a member of the chaplaincy team.

Intercultural & interfaith community

In searching for an authentic way of living my brotherhood in community, I lived in the Clifton Hill and West Ivanhoe mixed communities over the past 20 years. Here I shared life with young and older men and women from countries with cultures as diverse as El Salvadorian, Taiwanese, Japanese, Samoan, Thai, Colombian, East Timorese, Korean, and Chi-

nese – and religious traditions as different as Christian, Hindu, and Buddhist. With sadness I closed this community early this year.

All these opportunities contributed richly to my spiritual search. In recent times I wrote numerous exploratory spirituality essays for the former St Patrick's Province publication *Reflective Writings*. Last year I began to put language around my own emerging spirituality when asked to conduct a morning workshop for local Brothers on Attempting to understand a spirituality of the transcendent sacredness into which all being invites us. Recently I led another workshop on Now and at the hour of our death - a continuing exploration of our Mary tradition, the transcendent feminine, and the Jungian anima, and their relevance to our spirituality and healthy relationships. This year I have contributed an essay in our Oceania Province *Heartbeats* on A Contemporary Reflection on Mariology.

The marine world

Significantly formative too in this spiritual journey has been my passionate engagement with the world of marine animals. My work in marine science research began in the 1960s when I led four Aquinas College expeditions to the Abrolhos Island off Geraldton. Research scientists who were keenly interested in these expeditions were principally echinoderm systematists (taxonomists), and that focused my marine interests on echinoderms (sea stars, feather stars, sea urchins, brittle stars, and sea cucumbers).

Naming God's creatures

In 1980 I was invited to become an Honorary Associate of Museum Victoria and in the following decade I became aware that numerous species of echinoderms on the coast of southern Australia were not described and named. In 1990 I published my first systematic paper that named and described previously unknown sea stars. This was the first of many systematic papers that can be found principally at

<http://museumvictoria.com.au/About/Books-and-Journals/Journals/Memoirs-of-Museum-Victoria/>

and

<http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/taxa/Echinodermata.html>.

To date I have named and described 108 new species of sea stars and sea cucumbers and have erected 16 new genera. I presented scientific papers at five International Echinoderm Conferences: Atami in Japan (1990), Dijon in France (1993), San Francisco (1996), Dunedin (2000), and Hobart (2009). This year I am planning to present two papers at our 14th IEC in Brussels.

A global trail

In 1994 I spent three months conducting a ship-based survey of the bottom-dwelling marine life along 600 km of Antarctic coast between Davis and Mawson bases. I presented at a Symposium on Antarctic Marine Science at the University of Malaga in Spain in 2008, and at a Symposium on the Census of Antarctic Marine Life in Genoa in 2009, and facilitated a

summer school at the University of Lodz in Poland in 2011. I conducted research in the Australian Museum, South Australian Museum, British Museum of Natural History, Amsterdam Zoology Museum, National French Natural History Museum, US National Natural History Museum in Washington (Smithsonian Institution), New Zealand museums, University of Malaga, University of Genoa, and University of Lodz.

Being Brother to the marine world

I have always invited students into collaboration in my work, and am currently assisting Iranian students in their research into the echinoderms in the Persian Gulf. I continue to be passionate about claiming the natural world for our knowledge and respect and, I like to think, about “Being Brother” to the marine world. My expertise is valued – countries and institutions that I have worked with have funded all of my research, and there has been no cost to our Congregation. My research has really been a professional ‘hobby’, and most of it conducted in my free time with only occasional temporary leave from my formal ministries.

I often see the evidence and reflect on the fact that our precious Brotherhood offers a wonderful opportunity for lives of meaning and mission and fulfilment.

Christian Brothers in Australia

Question 1 of 7

**Which Brother taught at Christian Brothers,
Yarraville?**

- ☐ A. Philip Redding
- ☐ B. Ambrose Treacy
- ☒ C. William Greening
- ☐ D. Brian Bond



Check Answer



Being involved in a school in the Edmund Rice Tradition: A personal reflection.

‘Don’t think. Do something’.

These were the words that coach John Kennedy passionately delivered to his Hawthorn players during half time in the 1975 VFL Grand Final.

The Christian Brothers have a similar expression:

Facta, Non Verba meaning Deeds, Not Words.

At Parade College, the largest and oldest Christian Brother school in the Southern Hemisphere it is all about living out passionately the charism of the founder of the Christian Brothers, Blessed Edmund Rice. A down-to-earth visionary who acted justly, loved tenderly and walked humbly.

I have taught in Catholic schools - overseas, interstate and under different religious orders in Melbourne. I have had involvement with the charism of Edmund Rice in many ways. Through my own schooling, being involved in Eddie Rice camps and teaching in Edmund Rice schools. I could be biased, but I am yet to see another religious order do the ‘don’t think, do something’ cry - as well.

At Parade College I have experienced a variety of ‘real’ examples of ‘doing something’. Mostly student led, and passionately backed by staff.

These have included; a ministry retreat whereby Year 12 students in a busy, important year of their education give two days to lend a hand to soup vans in some of Melbourne’s most interesting suburbs and visit and provide company to disability and mental health centres. A staggering 250, Year 12 students will participate in this initiative during 2012 - the size of some schools.

Student comments that I heard from a ministry retreat include:

‘Real eye opener. Loved the experience. What I think being in a Catholic school is all about’ (Matt).

‘Pretty unlikely that I would normally volunteer for this type of thing. Am thinking about volunteering on a soup van out of school’ (Joe).

I have also seen the initiative the ‘Brekky Van’. A team of students and staff that roll up their sleeves with a 6:45am start every Tuesday morning during term time to cook breakfast for members of the local West Heidelberg/Olympic Village community who may otherwise go without.

And then there is the refugee tutoring at the Edmund Rice Centre in St Albans. Where students from middle and senior levels volunteer on a weekly basis to spend a couple of hours after school tutoring refugee students from the western suburbs and helping them with their English.

The legacy of the Irish man, Edmund Rice, has been around a while. Longer than the oldest AFL club – Melbourne Football Club founded in 1859. This year marks the 250th anniversary of his birth. To have a legacy that is still passionately lived out on a day-day occurrence at a College of 2000 boys is testament to the mission of the Christian Brothers, and the staff and students that fill Edmund Rice schools such as Parade College, not just in Melbourne but world-wide.

Edmund Rice would be proud.

Matthew D Williams.

Director of Ministry and Mission, Parade College.