



# Edmund Rice - Networking WA

Volume 4 Issue 3

November 2011

## Special points of Interest:

- **CBERS welcomes Cathcart Weatherly. Philippa White.**
- **Wheelchairs for Kids 2011 in Vanuatu - taken from a report for WFK by Dr Janet Richmond & Lois Moir of Joint Therapy Outreach Inc.**
- **ERCKWA Fundraising Cocktail Party November 19th 2011. Ashley Little.**
- **ERCM Awards Night & Fundraiser November 19th 2011. Joe Moniodis.**
- **ERN WA Christmas Gathering Dec. 5th 2011.**
- **Report from Trinity College Spring Fair. Sandra Doick**



**JOB in his new wheelchair from Wheelchairs for Kids WA.**

## CBERS WELCOMES CATHCART WEATHERLY



Dr Philippa White

**CBERS (Christian Brothers Ex-Residents and Students Services)** is a part-time consultancy operated by Dr Philippa White in Fremantle since January 2006. Previously, CBERS was a full-time service that ran for ten years in Subiaco. CBERS was in the process of winding down when in December 2007 the announcement of the 'Redress WA' scheme created a substantial increase in client demand. 'CBERS Redress Service' was set up and operated from May 2008 to June 2011 with funding from the Department for Communities, and governance and financial services provided by Steve Bowman and his staff at the Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka.

Throughout this time, the Christian Brothers, the Sisters of Mercy and Sisters of Nazareth have continued to fund other services for their ex-residents. With the support of these Orders, CBERS is now in the process of assisting FACT Inc. (Forgotten Australians Coming Together) to develop a Western Australian Resource Service for all 'care leavers' (former child migrants; Stolen Generations; non-Indigenous people who experienced any form of institutional or out-of-home care during childhood; and young people currently 'ageing out' of the State care system). Lotterywest funding has been sought to operate an 18 month pilot project at 24 High Street Fremantle, and negotiations are underway with State and Federal Governments and other sources to secure ongoing funding to develop a full Resource Service in a more central area of Perth.

**Cathcart Weatherly** joined the CBERS team in August 2011, and brings with him a wealth of skills and experience. Cathcart has a passionate interest in the arts, culture and social justice issues and this is reflected in his personal and work history. He is a strong strategic thinker with many years of experience in working at a high level in politics and a wide range of community, social service and arts organisations.

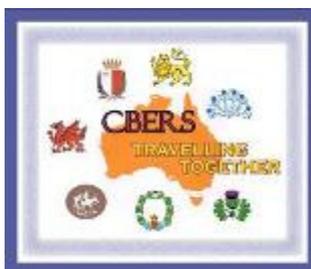
Born and raised in Tasmania, Cathcart moved to Western Australia in 1992 to work as Personal Adviser to *Greens WA Senator Cristobel Chamarette*. In 1996 he was appointed as the founding *Executive Director of the Community Housing Coalition of WA* – the peak representative body for non-government, not-for-profit housing providers. In that role he was a member of many State and National committees and organisations including serving a 3 year term as *Chairperson of the Community Housing Federation of Australia*. In 2001 he served on the Gallop Labor Government's *State Homelessness Task Force* that inquired into and proposed an action plan for resolving homelessness in WA. During this time he served over 3½ years on the Board of the *WA Council of Social Service*.

In 2002 he undertook organisation development work for *SafeCare*, a small Fremantle-based counseling service that works with families where child sexual abuse is an issue and then worked as a media and membership consultant for the *WA Council of Social Service*. In July 2005 Cathcart was appointed General Manager of the *Spare Parts Puppet Theatre* in Fremantle where he worked until December 2010.

Cathcart commenced work for Edmund Rice Ltd at 24 High Street Fremantle in August 2011 and is working closely with Dr Philippa White on the development of a Resource Service. He also runs his own consultancy working with a range of not-for-profit organisations. He is Deputy Chair of *Healthway*, Chairperson of *Healthway's Arts Sponsorship Committee* and is a Board member of the Chamber of Arts and Culture WA.



**From right: Cathcart Weatherly, Pip White and FACT Inc Chairperson Laurie Humphreys with some members of the computer**



The CBERS symbol recognises the origins of the men and women who have been a part of the Christian Brothers Ex-Residents and Students Service in Subiaco, and CBERS Consultancy in Fremantle. A map of Australia joins with emblems from Ireland, Eire, Scotland, England, Wales and Malta – reflecting the heritage of both Australian born ex-residents, and those who arrived in Australia as child migrants and resided at Catholic child care institutions. The crest of the Catholic Migrant Centre also forms part of the CBERS symbol, and acknowledges the CMC's significant role in supporting former child migrants. The motto, *Travelling Together*, captures the historic journey shared by this network of men and women, and the bond they carry into the future.

## WHEELCHAIRS NEEDED FOR KIDS IN VANUATU

In July this year **Dr Janet Richmond** and **Lois Moir** from **Joint Therapy Outreach Inc.** ( both OT's), & **Jess and Amy** ( OT students from ECU spent 2 weeks on the island of Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu in the town of Luganville.

**“We took 10 specially designed rough terrain paediatric wheelchairs made and donated by the Perth based charity Wheelchairs for Kids.**

We are supported on Santo by two Non Government Organisations (mostly Australians) and we mostly work with local organisations supporting people with disabilities.

We delivered some **training** in the first week; the niVan people who work and volunteer for Frangipani association were very keen to learn and willing to try activities.

Relevant training included seating, adjusting wheelchairs, and wheelchair maintenance. Some of the issues with this were;

- Had no idea of the prior knowledge, level of education, understanding,
- Language barriers – local language is Bislama (a pidgin language) although many local people speak some English and French.

The Fiji trained niVan physio was away for the 2 weeks we were on Santo and was replaced by his untrained therapy assistant

- Local planning was vague and varied.....

Positives were -

- we provided some theory and then practical demonstration and practice opportunities
- practical demonstrations and opportunities were ongoing
- a number of local niVans appeared very keen to learn.



**Danny**

The adjustability in the wheelchairs enabled us to fit a wide range of people with varying needs. We fitted 3 children using the standard adjustability and postural supports. For example:

**Danny** and **Job** both had sitting balance, but Job was easily displaced, requiring trunk support.

Lap or hip belts – all belts were attached at a forward position and had to be moved to the rear position to provide a 45 ° angle of pull required to maintain hip flexion.

The adjustments were adequate to meet their sizes.

**Job** has muscular dystrophy and is extremely weak. He is currently able to sit upright, but easily falls over if moved or pushed.

- Hip support was moved to narrowest position as his body is slim; additional foam was added to the inside to improve support and comfort.

- Other adjustments for his size

- As Job's condition deteriorates the chair will be able to provide additional support: the chair has the adaptability to accommodate this. We consider he will need thoracic lateral supports, head support, and more tilt of the chair.

- The new design that allows the lateral hip supports to be placed lower will provide better pelvic support for the children

In addition to the above children, we were presented with some extreme challenges seating 3 of the children who had very high needs. These children could not have been seated without extra resources, ingenuity, and skilled therapists. However what is worthy of note is that the WFK chairs provided a significant amount of adjustability as a basis for this additional work. These children are in a minority and we do not consider that it is at all realistic or warranted, or even desirable for the WFK wheelchair to carry the additional features, as these children could only be seated by highly skilled practitioners.

We include the information about Edmund to demonstrate the extreme capabilities of these wheelchairs.

Edmund is 20 years old; has cerebral palsy and has spent most of his life lying on a small home-made stretcher. He has fixed contractures in his upper and lower limbs, fixed head position in extension, and limited hip flexion. Using the adjustability features available in the chair, some extra padding and ingenuity in using the chair, Edmund was seated for the first time in his life, able to sit and be fed, and join the family in walks to the river. The adjustments made to the chair for Edmund include:



**Edmund**

- Pelvic straps were moved from the given position to the position where the back and base met – this gave an angle of about 45 °, essential to maintain his pelvic preferred position.

- Increased tilt from the standard provided in the chair; this was managed by placing bolts above and below the long front wheel beam. This is not an intended adjustment, however it works well.

- Adding extra foam to the base of the back cushion as Edmund could only achieve about 80 ° of flexion

- Moved rear wheel back to rear position for Centre of Gravity

- Added padding inside all 4 lateral supports to increase comfort and minimise risk of pressure

- Use of the head support; with lateral supports; provided continuous cushioning from shoulders to top of head support

- Chest strap provided adequate support for his upper body (due to his high tone)
- Foot rests at different heights to account for varying amounts of contractures in knees, ankles and feet.
- Foot rests were adjusted –the footplate support brackets were swapped and the Left footplate was placed backwards
- Provided addition foam wedge under his right thigh
- Foam pommel
- Wrapped fabric around foot rest riggers to preserve skin integrity
- Additional foam to be used behind his head during meal times.”



**Job**

**Dr J Richardson & Ms L Moir.**



## Sunset at Salter Point Cocktail Party

**WELCOME  
TO ALL**

**When:** Saturday, 19 November 2011

**Time:** 6pm - 10pm

**Venue:** Riverside, Westcourt Building  
53 Redmond St, Salter Point.

**Cost:** \$120 per person

*ERCKWA & Bankwest invite you to join us for a Balinese Sunset experience in one of the most tranquil river settings Perth has to offer on the banks of the Canning River. Enjoy delectable Asian inspired Sashimi and Hawker Stations—all prepared on site by professional chefs—canapés, local WA wines and boutique beers.*

*To raise money for kids in need in Western Australia*

	<p><b>PROUDLY SPONSORED BY</b></p>			
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Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA (ERCKWA) is a non-profit charity committed to supporting kids and families at risk or experiencing disadvantage in our community. Edmund Rice Camps WA provides services to over 40 West Australian families every year  
**For more information or to purchase tickets contact : Ashley Little (08) 9365 2811, [amlittle@edmundrice.org](mailto:amlittle@edmundrice.org) [www.edmundricecampswa.com.au](http://www.edmundricecampswa.com.au)**

	<h1>LIONS FOOTBALL CLUB</h1> <h2>AWARDS NIGHT &amp; FUNDRAISER</h2>	<p><b>Proudly supported by:</b></p>
<p><b>Ticket includes:</b>  <b>Full buffet meal, free soft drinks plus 1 complimentary alcoholic drink.</b>  <b>Special guest performance by Ancestrais Capoeira &amp; other local talent.</b></p>	<p><b>VENUE:</b> <u>KINGSWAY FOOTBALL CLUB</u> SKEIT RD KINGSLEY</p> <p><b>DATE:</b> <u>SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19TH</u></p> <p><b>TIME:</b> <u>6.30PM</u></p> <p><b>COST:</b> <u>\$35 PER HEAD</u> <u>CASH BAR</u></p> <p><b>Dress:</b> <u>Smart Casual</u></p>	
<p>Contact Joe: <a href="mailto:jmoniodis@gmail.com">jmoniodis@gmail.com</a>; mob: 0417 923 873; or <a href="tel:0894400625">ERCM 08 9440 0625</a></p>		



**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**TO THE**

**EDMUND RICE NETWORK WA**

**CHRISTMAS GATHERING**

**RELAX OVER A GLASS OF WINE OR A CUPPA  
MEET WITH FRIENDS – OLD & NEW**

**MONDAY DECEMBER 5TH 2010 5.30 PM**

**WESTCOURT SUPPORT OFFICE**

**RSVP: NOVEMBER 28TH 2010**

**JCPARKER@EDMUNDRICE.ORG**



## TRINITY COLLEGE SPRING FAIR OCTOBER 2011



**Catherine Wall & Antonella Segre**



**Simon Harvey & family**

On Sunday 23 October Trinity College was a kaleidoscope of colour and activity as stall holders and the community mingled for the Spring Fair. The Fair Committee headed by Trinity mother **Mrs Antonella Segre** had been planning this event for the past six months and with assistance from the Trinity community, the result was well worth the effort.

An innovation this year was the **Trinity Idol Competition** which was hotly contested by students from a variety of schools including Trinity, Perth Modern, John Curtin and Mercedes College. With so much talent available it was hard for judges Mr Ivan Banks, Dr Robert Braham and Miss Athena Litis to select a winner, but in the end **Mattie Cameron** who is a Year 9 student at John Curtin, won the trophy.

Another popular event was the Cook Off between **Trinity Old Boy Josh Catalano (2001)** and Trinity mother **Rachel McSweeney**. Josh and Rachel, who are both Masterchef finalists, entertained the crowd with some culinary tips while they battled it out to be the **Trinity Masterchef**.

The Fair also gave parents and students an opportunity to browse through the **Trinity Student Art Exhibition**, a wonderful variety of artworks displayed in the new gallery of the Br P L O'Doherty Cultural Centre.

The Trinity Spring Fair is held every three years and money raised from this event is donated towards improving facilities at the College. This year shade sails will be installed over a newly paved area to provide additional shaded areas for students.



**Mattie Cameron**

**The TOBA ANNUAL SUNDOWNER will be held on FRIDAY NOVEMBER 18TH in the Trinity Staff Lounge from 4.30 pm. This event is held to thank those who have contributed and supported TOBA throughout 2011. We look forward to seeing you there. Contact: [www.toba.net.au](http://www.toba.net.au)**

**Thanks to everyone who sent information in for this issue. Please keep the news coming for future issues. Blessings , Jill**  
**Online link: [Christianbrothers.com.au/ernwa](http://Christianbrothers.com.au/ernwa) With thanks to Br Berkeley Fitzhardinge. [www.edmundrice.org](http://www.edmundrice.org)**

The position of Networking (ERN) Co-ordinator is to aid the Oceania Networking Communication and Development team in maintaining contact with individuals associated with the Christian Brothers and the Edmund Rice Network in Western Australia; to keep them informed and to encourage participation in future endeavours of the Christian Brothers Oceania and associated entities. I can be contacted on mobile phone **0414 629 218** or as below.

**Jill Parker Direct Line: 08 9365 2841**

ERN Regional Co-ordinator WA.

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