



## EDMUND RICE CENTRE—WA



Each year the Edmund Rice Centre interacts with around 5,000 people of all ages and backgrounds. We provide programs in English, Computer studies, Life-skills, Driver education, settlement assistance, a women's group plus very popular youth sports and youth leadership training programs, alongside leisure and cultural programs.

We welcome 60 students a day to the Centre to participate in the Language for Living English program alone. 300 young people per month participate in programs run by the Centre including AFL, basketball, soccer, art classes and a highly successful local parks program that encourages children to come and “have a go” at a range of different activities that bridge the gap between local park gatherings and structured community programs.

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## EDMUND RICE CAMPS TASMANIA



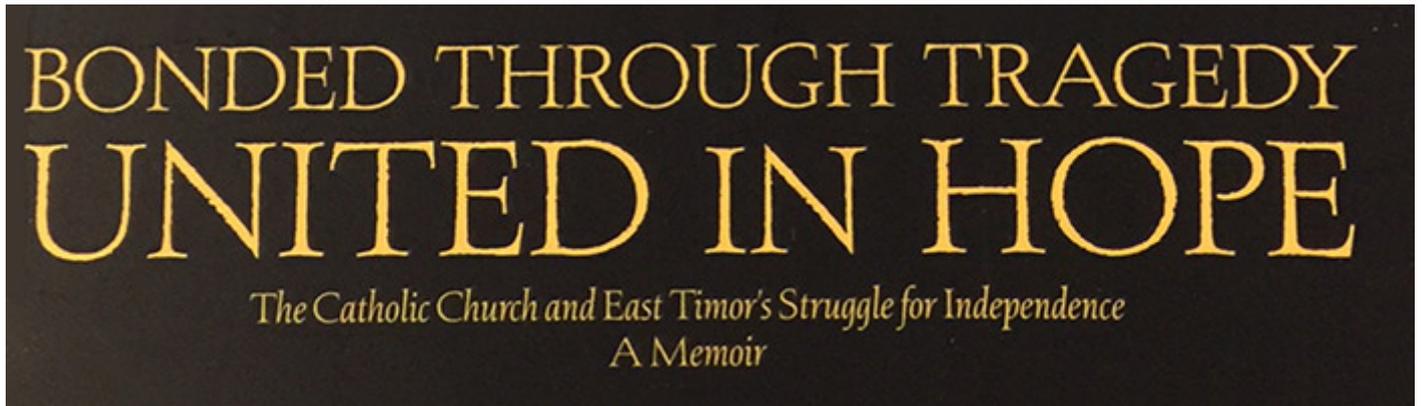
*Police recruits and Edmund Rice camp youngsters on the march at the Tasmanian police Academy*

The ERCTas 2017 Police Recruit Program took place earlier in June. Seven experienced Edmund Rice Leaders mentored 21 recruits dressed in “civvies” who buddied up with youngsters from St. Paul’s School Bridgewater and Herdsman’s Cove Primary School Gagebrook, for a weekend of fun, companionship and sharing.

The youngsters got a surprise on the last morning when their buddies came marching out in full dress uniform. A few days later, ERCT executive officer Andrew Blackett attended a de-brief at the Police Academy giving every recruit the opportunity to tell their own story of connection, compassion and friendship on the Camp.

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### **Book Launch: Bonded through Tragedy — United in Hope**



Recently over 200 people gathered for the launch of Bonded through Tragedy — United in Hope,

The book was the fruit of a six year research project by former Brother Dr Jim D’Orsa and Professor Therese D’Orsa with input from Hilton Deakin. Br Ben Boonen was responsible for the preparation of the large collection of photos.

The book is a biography of Hilton intertwined with the history of the Church in East Timor’s struggle for independence. It is about making a stand for justice in the face of fierce political and ecclesiastical opposition, local and global. The book has already garnered critical acclaim from reviewers.

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### **NEW FORM OF BROTHERS COMMUNITIES IN AFRICA**



**This is “the Way into the Future” for the Brothers in several countries.**

Many friends of the Christian Brothers will remember “The Proposition” from back in 2013. It was a proposal to develop by 2020 15-20 communities of Christian Brothers in very poor parts of the world. They were to live in communities of 4-5 Brothers from different nations who were to concentrate on a deep community life together, a shared search for God, simplicity of living among the poor and working in community engagement with the poor.

The 2014 Congregation Chapter adopted the Proposition and set up a team to bring it into reality. The first of the two Clusters of communities was established in the poorest part of Zambia, Western Province. There are three members of the Oceania Province in those communities – Mark Cody, Michael Godfrey and Joe Lauren.

*By Br Martin Silutongwe*

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### **BROTHER BEAUSANG SCHOOL IN AFRICA**



Deputy (Anne Ogallo) and the teachers with their "Top Teacher" certificates (from left: Nyansimora, Omoro, Shadrack, Kamau, Henry) The first half of Term 2 has been a very busy one especially with the school games and music festivals being on a tight schedule because of the August 8 election. Highlights include: Ngong Diocese Education Day – students and staff representatives from all the Catholic sponsored schools in the Diocese met on May 26 for the annual Education Day.

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### **EDMUND RICE EDUCATION AUSTRALIA APOLOGISES**

**Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) has delivered a National Apology on behalf of its schools to the survivors and victims of sexual abuse.**

EREA has responsibility for over 50 Catholic schools and entities, some of which were previously governed by the Christian Brothers. These schools are now governed by Edmund Rice Education Australia.

EREA Executive Director Dr Wayne Tinsey said the National Apology was delivered at the National Arboretum in Canberra during EREA’s National Principals’ Conference.

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## ADVOCACY WORKSHOP IN WESTERN ZAMBIA



*Brothers, Volunteers, Champions, members of PAT attending the first upskilling workshop 2017*

From 5 – 8 June a group of over fifty people gathered at the Limulunga Pastoral Centre near Mongu in Western Province Zambia for an Advocacy Workshop, facilitated by Br. Kevin Mullan (ERI Geneva), Jessica Dewhurst, Sarah Child and Kayla Brittan (ER Justice Desk South Africa).

Participants included Christian Brothers and their colleagues from four local communities, team members of the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection as well as representatives of other religious congregations and of social services based in the Mongu area.

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## ADVOCACY IN EDMUND RICE SCHOOLS AROUND THE WORLD

Students from Edmund Rice schools around the world continue to be active in advocating for justice. Here is a selection of some recent examples:-

In Australia, Edmund Rice schools again participated in the "Detention 4 Detention" campaign to highlight the injustices faced by asylum seekers caught up in Australia's immigration detention system.



*Image: Students from St Bernards College, Essendon, participating in a march in support of refugees.*

In Asansol India, a school assembly included presentations on the Sustainable Development Goals with different year levels within the school highlighting issues of:

- (Goal 5) gender equality
- (Goal 6) clean water and sanitation
- (Goal 9) industry, innovation and infrastructure
- (Goal 13) climate action to save our planet.

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I am still looking for comments about the development website. The specific matters under consideration are demonstrated under the "[Web Development Menu](#)". Look at this section and comment on which font you prefer, how you would like headings displayed and how contact data might be presented. Use the "Contact" page to make your comment. I wish to test how this works.

**Submit Articles to the Website or to this Newsletter**

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Feedback suggestions are very welcome as the Newsletter develops.

Send items, etc to -- [rjwallace@edmundrice.org](mailto:rjwallace@edmundrice.org)



**EDMUND RICE CENTRE—WA (continued)**

If you dream of a better world where everyone is accepted and respected regardless of their colour, race, creed or ability we hope you will consider making a donation to the Edmund Rice Centre in the next few weeks. Funds received on or before June 30 allow the donor to receive a tax deduction in the current financial year.

**Soccer Academy of the Edmund Rice Centre**



An expansion of the Common Goal Soccer Academy was launched in Cannington on May 1st, building on the earlier success of the program launched in Mirrabooka 12 months ago. Common Goal uses soccer as a way of engaging youth from diverse backgrounds and provides leadership and other development opportunities. The program began in early February and has been building ever since. It currently boasts a juniors program, a female program and a youth academy.

After formalities, hosted by the Canning Mosque which included speeches from Senior Police, members of parliament and ERCWA Director Steve Bowman, and a reading from the Quran, it was on to business for the Academy team as they looked forward to their encounter with the WA Police soccer team at the Queens Park Primary School Oval.

This was an eagerly anticipated game by the players and their community, and they did themselves and everyone else present very proud, with an attacking brand of football that left the Police team constantly on the defensive. The Common Goal team broke through late in the first half to score the only goal of the game and held on for a 1-0 victory.

*by Steve Bowman--Director*

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## EDMUND RICE CAMPS TASMANIA (continued)



Andrew reports that there were a few damp eyes, as stories were retold and a box of Kleenex tissues did the rounds, demonstrating the kindness, humanity and compassion of the recruits and officers involved.

This is the fifth year that an Edmund Rice Camp experience has been part of the Tasmanian police recruit training program. Younger police are now referring youngsters to ERCamps, and one young policeman involved in a serious incident with a young person during normal police duties, has credited his ERCamp experience with helping him to handle the situation safely.

Oliver O'Halloran, formerly of St Virgil's College and now a Year 11 student at Guilford Young College in Hobart, touched down safely at Cambridge Aerodrome, near Hobart, on Saturday 4 June, becoming the youngest person to fly solo, unassisted, around Australia.

The 17-year old took 20 days flying 15,000 kilometres in a single-engine aircraft, in a record attempt dubbed Solo17. Having conquered Australia, he admitted to waiting media that he now has his eyes set on the world record.

Another former SVC student, Harold Gatty, set the then-world record (with Wiley Post) for circumnavigating the globe in 1931.

*(Oliver returned to mid-year exams at GYC, and also hopes to get his terrestrial driver's licence.)*

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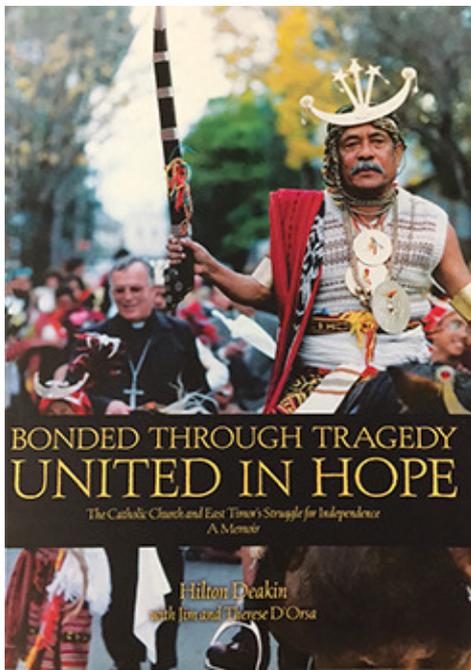
## Book Launch: Bonded through Tragedy — United in Hope (continued)

The evening commenced with soup for those attending. An interesting choice considering that a common outreach in times of crisis is the humble soup kitchen.

Vicki Walker, well-known to many of us via her work in Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, began the formalities with a welcome to the land. Therese D'Orsa, speaking on behalf of Jim and herself, spoke passionately of the need to tell the story of the struggle for justice of Timor Leste. The various speakers all paid tribute to Hilton's achievements, but the flavour of the evening was of a family — celebrating the life of a trusted and revered elder.

Hilton Deakin is the one Australian Catholic Bishop who has stood by the people of Timor Leste through thick and thin. Having been the parish priest of a very comfortable Catholic parish at Mt Eiza outside Melbourne, having written a doctoral thesis while living with the Aboriginal people of remote Kalumburu in the Kimberley, and having been the vicar general of the vast Archdiocese of Melbourne, he encountered Timorese refugees who were seeking spiritual sustenance in Melbourne.

They wanted mass offered for their murdered relatives who were victims of the Indonesian takeover. From these personal contacts, he developed a lifetime commitment to the cause of justice and independence for the Timorese. He went out of his way to befriend Bishop Carlos Belo, the bishop of Dili. Through these Timorese friendships, he was able to build an international network of support.



This is a ripping yarn of how one solitary Australian bishop was able to traverse the ecclesiastical and political worlds to stand in solidarity, against the odds, through oppression and liberation, with downtrodden people who rose up and established the newest nation in our region.

He found a whole new life in the politics and advocacy of human rights, mixing with all sorts of people he would never have met in the Church. He loved joining arms and voice with those who were ‘an irritant to the ordered world of bureaucrats, ecclesiastics and politicians, a challenge to the “wise” men and women of academia, and the beloved (or the belittled) of the media.’

Together they mobilised Australians in support of the Timorese, despite the power and received wisdom of the politicians and Vatican officials. Prior to the 1999 popular consultation, Bishop Deakin was bonded through tragedy with the Timorese people. He has been blessed to live and be united in hope with them as a self-determining nation though still seeking justice in its dealings with its large neighbours.

Jim and Therese D’Orsa have succeeded admirably in transcribing the bishop’s larger-than-life voice which has witnessed so much human misery and triumph.

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## **NEW FORM OF BROTHERS COMMUNITIES IN AFRICA (continued)**

The months of April and May 2017, recorded a progressive step forward by Brothers in the Western Cluster from “learning with the community” to “acting with the community to address issues affecting them.”

In the 3 Cluster Communities: Senanga, Limulunga and Luampa, Brothers worked closely with technical specialists from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Education to begin addressing knowledge gaps in various areas identified during the needs assessment phase.

Interventions began with the up-skilling of Brothers and volunteers in Reproductive Health, Water, and Sanitation, Hygiene and Nutrition. The objective for up-skilling Brothers and volunteers was to equip them for their oversight, monitoring and mentoring role at community level.

### **Summary of Accomplishments**

Knowledge of Brothers, Volunteers, Champions and 450 vulnerable men women, boys and girls improved in various issues identified. These included:

- Basic WASH needs
- What constitutes malnutrition
- Causes of malnutrition
  
- Complications of teenage pregnancy
- The nature and impact of STIs
- The importance of exclusive breastfeeding

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## **BROTHER BEAUSANG SCHOOL IN AFRICA (continued)**

The school's success in both the 2016 KCPE and KCSE was recognized with a number of our teachers in secondary receiving the award of the "top teacher" "in their particular subject due to the performance of their students – Henry Kimiywi (Mathematics and Physics); Francis Kamau (Physics); Samwel Omoro (History); Shadrack Tumaini (Business Studies) and Peter Nyansimora (Geography and CRE).

The school's participation in the Term 2 Games competitions finished at the Regional level for the girls netball (semi finals) and boys Under 16 football (finalist losing to defending national champions St. Anthony's. The boys and girls open football were second (boys) and quarter finalists (girls) at the County games. Also participating in the County games were out table tennis girls whilst our girls sprinters, relay and long distance athletes did well at both County and Regional level as did our entry in the boys 10 km walk. It is worth noting that Kajiado County was moved to the Rift Valley region from Nairobi region this year meaning we were competing against 13 other counties rather than 4 in Nairobi and that only the winner in each sport proceeded unlike in Nairobi where the top 2 schools proceeded. The absence of Brother Beausang and our local rivals Upper Hill meant the Nairobi schools could enjoy success again in boys football after experiencing a barren 2014 – 2016.

Not to be outdone by the secondary the primary pupils involved in this year's Music competition have also been very busy rehearsing then performing at the various levels of completion – district, County and Regional. Building on the success of last year the school will have six entries in this year's nationals in Kakamega next month – guitar / vocal solo; Buganda dance; Indian dance; Scottish dance and two solo Indian dancers. The children involved come from Kindergarten to Class 7 which is testimony to the spread of talent and enthusiasm for the arts at Brother Beausang.

*by Br Peter Shanahan, Principal*

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## **EDMUND RICE EDUCATION AUS. (continued)**

"The National Apology has been made by EREA on behalf of all its schools to the survivors and victims of sexual abuse by members of the religious community and lay staff in those schools," he said.

Dr Tinsey said EREA had consulted widely on the apology, particularly with survivors, who had contributed to its development. He said the apology had the full support of the Christian Brothers and the Archbishop to the Canberra Goulburn Archdiocese.

By acknowledging the suffering of survivors in our schools, we hope this apology demonstrates that we have listened to survivors and acted on their views, thoughts, and feelings," Dr Tinsey said, "It is our hope that this apology will go some way to addressing and healing this long-standing omission and hurt." Dr Tinsey said EREA realised its apology was just one step in the journey towards healing.

"As today's stewards of our values, we acknowledge this is part of a destructive and shameful reality in our national history and we are totally committed to it never happening again." "We hope this apology will help in the healing process and be a step towards re-establishing trust," he said. Dr Tinsey said EREA would continue to support the provision of care for survivors.

"Since its inception in 2007, EREA has made the protection of children from abuse a priority and has committed to ongoing accountability, integrity and due care in its schools," he said.

“Our commitment to providing a safe, supportive, caring environment for students is reinforced by strong moral and legal obligations which underpin all of EREA’s policies.”

Dr Tinsey said the national event also marked the beginning of a series of apologies around Australia with EREA schools and their communities planning their own local ceremonies.

“EREA schools around Australia will mark this day in their own way throughout this year,” he said.

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### **ADVOCACY WORKSHOP IN WESTERN ZAMBIA (continued)**



The aim of the workshop was to empower the participants with knowledge and skills needed to become involved in advocacy in the areas of human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals in the local context of Western Province, Zambia. The purpose of the workshop was clearly outlined and a booklet was given to each participant that enhanced their knowledge and understanding of key processes involved in advocacy and on topics being addressed during the workshop.

Over the first two days the participants were introduced to advocacy and human rights, to the current work of Edmund Rice International and Edmund Rice Justice Desk, to the UN mechanisms and the Sustainable Development Goals. The daily sessions combined inputs, interaction and group activities. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and The Convention on the Rights of the Child were highlighted and on the final day time was given for the different groups present to prepare advocacy plans which were then shared with the entire group. These groups will continue to meet and work on the implementation of these plans over the coming year and keep ERI and ERJD updated on progress. Participants also completed pre- and post-evaluation forms on the workshop. Morning and evening reflections were facilitated by the Limulunga, Luampa and Mongu communities.

Attention was given to the upcoming Universal Periodic Review of Zambia and to the issues included in the submission made to this Review by ERI based on data gathered at local level in Mongu. This workshop will help strengthen further the links between work on advocacy and human rights at the local, national and international levels within the wider Edmund Rice network.

The social gatherings organized by the Senanga community gave the participants a chance to share experiences, to build relationships and discuss issues that were affecting them and see possibilities for working more closely together on their advocacy plans.

Bro. Samuel Munyua and the co-ordinating committee made all the necessary arrangements for this advocacy workshop, attended to practical matters that ensured it ran smoothly and was a worthwhile and enjoyable learning experience for all involved.

*by Br Kevin Mullan cfc*

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## ADVOCACY IN EDMUND RICE SCHOOLS (continued)

In Tramore Ireland, the recent Edmund Rice feast day was used as an occasion to highlight the student led peace and justice campaigns carried out during the past year - on refugees, mental health, domestic violence and participation in the 'Nine Is Mine' and 'I am Your Neighbour' campaigns. A poster competition on the Sustainable Development Goals was also conducted.

In Tafawa Balewa, Nigeria, members of the Presentation Brothers Secondary School Social Justice Club visited the Satellite Prison in Tafawa Balewa. Gifts were donated to inmates and the possibilities for legal assistance explored.

In the USA, at Iona Prep in New York, the school held an Advocacy Week, in which students raised awareness of the various global issues that the school had advocated for throughout the year. These included plastic pollution of the environment, children's rights (particularly through the 'Nine is Mine' campaign) and world hunger. Whilst at All Hallows (in the Bronx area of New York city) the issue of human trafficking was the subject of an awareness raising presentation made to senior students.

The Edmund Rice Justice Desk in South Africa recently made a presentation on human rights at Changa Changa primary school in Mazabuka, Zambia, in which students learned how to protect each other and stand up for their rights. In other news CBC St Patrick's and St Boniface High Schools in Kimberley, South Africa tied for the 'Justice School of the Year' award for 2016. The schools ran human rights campaigns, which educated and empowered their fellow peers, teachers and communities to be advocates for change! The desk has also recently launched a Sustainable Development Goals awareness campaign which will be promoted across schools in the South Central African region.

At St Joseph's Stoke on Trent in the UK, new ERI Youth Ambassadors and members of the advocacy group have been appointed and met recently to ensure their readiness to assume office in the 2017-8 school year. Meanwhile outgoing ambassador Isabella Prior was interviewed on the '6 Towns' local radio station about the advocacy projects and refugee publication completed by the St Joseph's students.

Visit the ERI Youth Ambassadors Facebook page for these and more examples of advocacy actions taking place in Edmund Rice schools.

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