

News and Views



Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka Inc

Welcome to the Twenty-Fourth Edition of the Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka Newsletter

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News and Views from the Director - Steve Bowman

List of Programs

It is at this time of the year that we often find ourselves and others saying "I can't believe that another year has passed" or "where did the year go?" Such expressions can be an indication that we live life at a fast pace, - so, as we take a break over the Christmas period, it may be a useful exercise for all of us to take some time to stop "doing" and instead spending time "reflecting" on the "real" messages of the Christian festival of Christmas. For living peacefully, caring for others, giving to others and building a harmonious community begins with each of us and the way we appreciate others. "Thank you" to all staff, volunteers, friends and supporters for your generous contribution to the work of the Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka during 2011.

- Computer Studies Program
- Creative Music Program
- Driver Education Program
- Edmund Rice Centre Lions Club
- Koondoola Integrated Services Centre
- Language for Living in Australia Program
- Lifeskills for Living in Australia Program
- Mooridj Koolangka Indigenous Children's Program
- Multicultural Sport & Recreation Program
- Parkwood Integrated Services Centre
- Settlement Grants Program
- Specialist Housing Project
- "Women Together" Program
- Youth Leadership Development Program
- Strengthening Our Community Program
- Grow Through Sports Program



Atot Amoly, Coordinator of the Multicultural Youth Sports Program, conducted a weekend camp for Aboriginal Youth from Friday 25th until Sunday 27th November at the Keith Maine Centre with ten indigenous young people aged from 9 to 14 years old attending. Assisting Atot were eight Leaders from the ERCM Youth Leadership Group who were in charge of the schedule for each day, - Butros, Tuna, Bella, Salma, June, Grace, Mohammad and Peter as well as Jess Moniodis (Helper) and Caroline Speirs (DCP). The competitions for the weekend were based on an Olympic Games style, with Basketball, Volley Ball and Athletics being the order of the day. Atot proclaims the camp as 'great' and 'excellent', with the Leaders in control at all times, and the children seemed to enjoy themselves. Congratulations, Atot, on the success of your camp!

*Atot Amoly (with his twin brother, Lwal) was born in Khartoum, Sudan, in 1992. His family came to Australia in 2005 and settled in Nollamara. He completed his Secondary Schooling at Balga Senior High School and is now in his first year of studying Sports Development and Sports Management at the University of Notre Dame. He and Lwal have been with ERCM for about three years, and both have grown from strength to strength. **We are very proud of you!***



Government of Western Australia
Office of Multicultural Interests



Government of Western Australia
Department of Health



News Briefs from our Program Coordinators



West Australian Youth Jazz Orchestra (WAYJO) gave a wonderful performance at the centre on Tuesday 29th November. The performance was enjoyed by about 60 staff, volunteers and students and was followed by a special morning tea. The eight representatives from WAYJO were presented with a flowering plant in a clay pot made by members of the Burundi TWA Community.

Stephen Bowman, Director, welcomed the GAYJO group, Samia Fadlalla and Chol Piok served as interpreters, the audience clapped and applauded, gifts were presented, and Tesfay Tesgie delighted us with her spontaneous dancing!



Darlington Arts Festival

On the 6th of November, 150 adults and children from the Centre travelled on three buses to Darlington and enjoyed a great day of fun and entertainment. The Burundi Peace Choir travelled with us and their performance was



awarded with a standing ovation. We were provided with vouchers for coffee, drinks, ice creams and rides and enjoyed a sausage sizzle for lunch. It was a very successful outing. Unfortunately the Youth Leaders could not attend, so special thanks must go to Marika, Karen, Ros and Naheed for cooking the barbecue, giving out vouchers and making sure everyone got back on the buses safely at the end of the day. *Ros J'etrail, Coordinator*



Language for Living in Australia

Our new teachers, Kate and Ros, who have both come with qualifications appropriate to the needs of the participants, are a blessing. We have noticed an increase of movement up to the next level amongst our participants. Classroom numbers, although still a little high, are adequate.

Our intrepid program writers continue to devise excellent modules of experiential work. *Angela Broderick, Coordinator*

Computer Studies Program

At the moment a new Network Server is being installed to cater for increased demands, and should be up and running by the beginning of next year. *Foin Quigley, Coord.*

Special Housing Assistance

On the 16 November, we held an Information Session on the 'Priority Waiting List' and how it works, citing such factors as changes in the number of family members and change of address. Presenters were Marika Kretevska and myself with Celestin from MMRC in Mirrabooka as interpreter. *Kachool Piok, HAO*



News Briefs from Our Program Coordinators



The Lions Award Night held on Saturday 19th November was a huge success. Six ladies from three African communities spent all day at the centre cooking an amazing African feast which was enjoyed by 80 people including Veronica and Alison from DIAC, Walter and Said from OMI and Janine Freeman and her husband. Entertainment was provided by Ancestrais Capoeira, a belly dancing performance by Stephanie accompanied by Joe on Tablas and a song from Raida, a member of the ERCM youth leadership group. The official part of the event included a jumper and medal presentation to the 2011 Lions and trophies were awarded to six players who had excelled in different team aspects.

Peter Ajang, Lions Team Manager & Team Coach



ERC Glory win the Moorditj Yarning RAWA Perpetual Soccer Trophy (sponsored by Wanneroo Rotary Club)

Banksia United Noongar Soccer Team coached by youth leaders Kamil, Susan and Joe played a rematch against the Edmund Rice Glory coached by Atot at 'Spring in the Grove' festival in Banksia Grove on Saturday 6th November. It was a close contest with the Glory winning by 3 goals to 2. The match was well supported by family and community members.

Susan Chuot, Banksia United Head Coach



Driver Education

This month has been a busy, important month as I have managed to add and change a number of things. These include:

- Giving a copy of the 'code of conduct' to every driving client who was to read, understand and sign it. This paper has the requirements which must be followed while they are in the driving program. If however, they fail to follow any of the 10 requirements, they will be taken out of the program. I am hoping that this new form of official document will be helpful. So far, it seems to show positive results.
- Drawing up a table which shows clients the number of hours and cost for going to any particular licensing centre. This will give them an indication of how many boxes they may need to use for the day (eg: Mandurah- 4hrs, Morley-2hrs). A total client list of 27 who are in the program currently, of whom there are 12 who have completed the program but have been unsuccessful in their test. Eleven clients so far have passed their tests



successfully. One client passed the first test she did! This was a great result! There are more than 30 clients on the waiting list who will need to be prioritized and then taken on the program. *Wahida Aziz, Coordinator*

Women Together Program

Making flowers from serviettes (roses and tulips!), cooking special Christmas fare, and discussing beauty hints have been November's order of the day. Did you know that you can put garlic on your eyebrows to make them grow thicker?! One Monday, the ladies went to the Bahai Learning Centre in Myaree where they attended a talk regarding the Bahai beliefs followed by a delicious lunch. *Lyn Freeman, Volunteer*

Koondoola Integrated Services Centre

Very busy: 56 sessions with 30 clients and meetings, meetings, meetings! Plus, weekly network meetings and "Let's Talk" sessions in partnership with Relationships Australia covering such topics as Saving Energy in the Home, Basic First Aid, Safety in the Home, Oral Hygiene, Child Protection, Healthy Lunch Box, and Centrelink. *Mandy Whitton, MEdW*

News Briefs from our New Enterprises

Grow Through Sports Program

This amazing new program has already contacted City of Wanneroo Schools and some mainstream clubs including Kingsway Football Club, Carnaby's Scout Group, Brighon Seahawks - Butler Community Centre, Padbury Pumas Junior Basketball Club - Joondalup, Quinns Rocks Cricket Club, Wanneroo Little Athletics, Wanneroo Districts Cricket Club and Southern Cross Bujutsu with assistance from the City of Wanneroo and the Department of Sports & Recreation. They have been able to

- recruit 16 Indigenous and Refugee Youth into nine different mainstream sporting clubs,
- Delivered cross-cultural trainings at sporting clubs, and
- Managed to pay for two more participants' fees.
- Plan to visit some mainstream sporting clubs who have not yet replied to emails or phone calls.

Pashtana Yad, Multicultural Youth Sports & Recreation Liaison Officer

Strengthening Our Community Program

In partnership with the Department of Child Protection, the Leaders in this Program are developing a list of trusted community members with whom DCP can work to deal with young people who may not want to deal with members of their own community. To combat false allegations made against community members, the group is in the process of developing a campaign with the theme "If it's not True, Don't Say It!". DCP has made a film highlighting issues faced by multicultural Communities

Susan Chuot, Volunteer Coordinator



Creative Music Program

Participants have now mastered the computer hardware section and are ready to take the next step forward. They will use the computers they fixed and have installed Windows for recording. The major programs used for recording are Audacity and Linux Multimedia Studio, both free softwares downloaded from the internet.

Mohammad Shetifi, Coordinator

Butler Multisport Program

Some disturbances and confrontations with local youth have served to give our Leaders-in-training some real-life learning experiences in conflict resolution and non-violence. Despite these occurrences, the program is running well with soccer, basketball, AFL and tennis proving popular. More parents are attending, giving the Program a good name.

*Christmas Greetings
& a big 'Thank You'*



*to all our Staff, Volunteers,
Students, Families
and Friends*

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If you would like to support the Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka Inc, your donation will be most gratefully accepted. Your donation will enable people from Refugee and Indigenous backgrounds, including youth, to continue to gain benefits from our educational programs.

I enclose a donation to assist the work of the Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka Inc:

[] \$20 [] \$50 [] \$100 [] \$500 [] Other

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Donations can be made by cheque or by direct deposit.

Please make cheques payable to "Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka Inc" or deposit directly into "Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka Inc", Account BSB 066 183, Account No: 1009 1408.

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