

News and Views



Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka Inc

Welcome to the Nineteenth Edition of the
Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 19
Jan/Feb 2011

News and Views from the Director - Steve Bowman

Inside this Issue

The painting "Meeting Place" recently completed by the children of the Moorditj Koolangka program with the assistance of artist Maureen and Anne-Marie Foster and which now hangs in the front foyer serves as a reminder to us of the central purpose of the Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka. As we begin another year, people from very diverse backgrounds will come each day to learn from and appreciate each other and the benefits we all bring to our community. It serves as an important message to the wider community to appreciate and celebrate the richness of living in a multicultural community. This month we celebrate Harmony Week (March 15th to 21st). Locally, there will be a major event at the Mirrabooka Shopping Centre on Thursday 24th March 2011 from 11am until 5pm to which all are invited.

The painting experience, one of many activities in the Moorditj Koolangka (Strong Children) program, was made possible through the support of the Smith Family, the Cancer Council WA through Healthway sponsorship and the Annie Millicent Foundation. At the Centre we promote the "Go for 2 & 5" message and encourage all our readers to ensure fruit and vegetables are part of each day in order to ensure long and healthy living!

- Computer Studies Program
- Driver Education Program
- Koondoola Integrated Services Centre
- Language for Living in Australia Program
- Lifeskills for Living in Australia Program
- Moorditj Koolangka Indigenous Children's Program
- Multicultural Sport & Recreation Program
- Multicultural Youth Creative Music Program
- Parkwood Integrated Services Centre
- Settlement Grants Program
- "Women Together" Program
- Youth Leadership Development Program



MEETING PLACE

"This painting talks about the Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka where they deal with men, women and children. In each circle it talks about what is achieved at the Centre. In the left hand top corner, it talks about the Edmund Rice Centre itself because of its Logo. In the left hand bottom, it talks about women coming to get to talk and listen. In the right hand top, it talks about men's business where they have a mentor or a teacher to talk to. In the right hand bottom, it talks about children and everyone at the Centre who is involved with working with the children."

Maureen Foster, Anne Marie and the children of the Moorditj Koolangka Program - 24 November 2010

MEETING PLACE



Steve teaching "Go for 2 & 5"



In February 2011, one activity was a very successful cooking lesson conducted by Steve. Each child made two ham, egg and vegetable muffins – one was eaten and the other taken home. They were also given the recipe to take home.

Dr Phil O'Loghlen, Moorditj Koolangka Program

Lent 2011 is a time for self-examination and reflection. This year, you are invited to discover food and the act of eating as something to embrace and reclaim as a daily and sacramental action.

Richard Rohr



Government of Western Australia
Department of Health



News Briefs from our Program Coordinators

Lifeskills For Living in Australia Program

Classes for term one commenced at Communicare on Thursday February 3 and ERC on Wednesday 9 February. Due to changes to the funding from DIAC to Centre-care, sessions at Gosnells are currently "on hold", awaiting further clarification and organisation.

Two Sessions were delivered at TAFE last Friday and another two are in the planning phase.

As part of the Wednesday group, for 6 weeks this term, the students will also be involved in a series of activities focussing on the link between food choices, eating, exercise and good health. Following the lesson content, a Zumba exercise program will be offered. As part of this term's lessons, a couple of sessions will involve Nutritionists to assist with aspects of the FOODSENSE program.

Ros Jrestrail, Coordinator



Lifeskills group at War Memorial on Anzac Day 2010

Koondoola Integrated Services Centre

These two months have seen 94 sessions for 30 people. House issues continue to dominate the workload.

Other issues have included changing clients' names and help with enrolling at new schools and family reunions. Networking meetings and sessions have included:

- TWA-Burundian community networking meetings held weekly at the ERCM
- Sewing Group- group of ladies sewing at KISC
- HCCCaLD-meetings and organizing the Housing Forum to be held in March to launch the results of the report "Accommodating Everyone"
- West Coast Training - Took 2 clients to be filmed telling their stories for REIWA mandatory training on racial discrimination.
- Lets Talk – Meetings held weekly with a group of ladies in partnership with Relationships Australia.
- DCP – networking meeting on Parenting and meeting re the TWA community
- ERCM – after-school swimming classes
- Fix It – weekly meetings with a group of men to discuss aspects of home maintenance and financial

counselling with Scott and Simon from Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre.

Mandy Whitton Multicultural Community Liaison Officer

Multicultural Sports Refugee Program

In December 2010, the Refugee youth had a session with the Scouts which involved some fun games involving bike riding and pillow fighting. This was followed by the 'end of year' party to which the Scouts were invited. All in all



Atot Amoly and Peter Ajang

it was a very successful year for the sports program, culminating in the **promotion of Atot Amoly into the Sports Officer role.** Atot has been with our leadership program since the age of 15. He is a qualified lifeguard and has a number of certificates from TAFE in Sport & Recreation having recently completed his Pool Supervisor's Course, and is currently studying a Certificate IV in this area. He is a Senior Leader in the Youth Leadership Group, Head of the Sports Team and was Head Coach of the ERC Lions in 2010. He will be a great asset to the Youth Sports & Recreation Team in 2011.

Joe Moniodis, Coordinator - 2010

In the month of January, the Refugee youth participated in surf life saving with Mullaloo Surf Club. The staff at Mullaloo Surf Club coached the young people in beach safety and they had some fun and games. Their overall confidence in the water has improved immensely since the beginning. At the last session of the program one of the Mullaloo staff got a rescue boat out and all the kids hopped on and headed out to sea. During the time of the sessions the kids just loved it and had a great time with big smiles on their faces.

Atot Amoly, Coordinator - 2011

Driver Education Program

THE DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAM IS FULL! There will be **NO FURTHER PLACES AVAILABLE** until at least July 2011, and then only if further funding is received. Currently we have 28 on the waiting list. The success rate has been very high over the last few months with 14 people passing their Practical Driving Test. *Chris Ward, Coord*



Atot in Action



SISTERS OF ST JOHN OF GOD



Government of Western Australia
Office of Multicultural Interests



Australian Government
Department of Immigration
and Citizenship

News Briefs from our Program Coordinators

SGP Generalists Program

Marika and Dolly have seen a total of 105 humanitarian entrants in January and February 2011 of whom 24 were new.

The largest group of people are from different parts of Africa - Sudan, Somalia, Burundi (TWA), Eritrea, and Ethiopia, with a few people from Afghanistan and Iraq. There has been an increased number of People from Burma (Myanmar) who are from different ethnic groups such as Karen, Chin, Shan and Karen Ni. Fortunately the people from Burma speak and understand Burmese which makes it a lot easier for Dolly to communicate with them.

Issues presented were, on the whole, utility bills, tenants being issued with un-prescribed notices of termination, and mobile phone and landline contracts with various telecommunications providers .

As well as legal issues, people have come to us with letters from Centrelink, Family Assistance Office, Department of Housing, and Health Dept for document assistance, which means our attempts to educate our people not to ignore any official correspondence is working.

Our work involves a lot of challenges which we are prepared to take on for the benefit of people new to our community.

Dolly Holzinger and Marika Krstevska - SGP Generalists

Women Together Program

Mon 7th Feb - Meeting, salads, small sock bags. Mon 14 Feb -Celebrated Chinese New Year, Chinese food, played Chinese Music and frightened everyone in the building with our Lion Dance! Mon 21 Feb - Italian Day: Elda demonstrated the making of pasta, pizzas, tortes and tiramisu without the liquor; music, dancing and lots of fun; beading and sewing;

generous supplies of herbs, figs, grapes and fruit; the women sharing and trying new foods. A new volunteer, Lynn

Freeman, has joined us.

Mon 28 Feb: a Japanese theme; Sushi, Oregami, dress in Kimono.

Sally Hertzfeld, Coordinator

Youth Leadership Program

Members of the group include: Senior Leaders: Hafis Mamoun, Atot



Atot, Joe, Mohammad, Hafis, Peter

Amoly, Mohammad Sherifi, Peter Ajang and Leader: Bella Ndayikeze. The Youth Leadership Group meets every second Sunday to discuss achievements of the group, upcoming events and have a theory discussion. A number of trainee leaders come to the meeting and help run programs and events. The senior leaders of the group also meet once a month at one of the senior leader's house to discuss issues within the group. Achievements of the Youth Leadership Group include many varied activities in such areas as running media workshops, attending coaching meetings, filming, helping, mentoring, learning, coordinating.

Hafis Mamoun, Leadership Coordinator

Computer Department's Program

This is the third and final term of our First Click Grant and we easily reached our required 90 students. The number enrolled for the grant period was approx 105. In January we replaced our ageing computers with refurbished machines from the **Wanneroo Men's Shed**. These computers are faster and come with up-to-date Microsoft applications. It has been a rewarding year for First Click due to the wonderful cooperation of teachers Adele, Tia and Nel and volunteer assistants, Lee and Sam. *Foin Quigley*

Language for Living in Australia

This year we have inaugurated a specialised basic class for those students who are very new to the language. It is by invitation only and we hope to keep this class a small as possible so that individual participants are given almost a one-to-one lesson. An interpreter is vital to this class.

Our need for teacher volunteers is still with us. Although of late we have three new teachers aides which is wonderful.

Angela Broderick, Coordinator

Parkwood Integrated Services Centre

So far this year, Maria has attended to four new families referred by the Community Nurses and School Counsellor, and has had a total of 29 contacts with new and already registered people. The main issues presented were: accommodation, parenting, financial assistance, legal issues and Centrelink.

Information about School Holiday programs organized by local government and non-government agencies was gathered and distributed amongst the families, the ISC team and the IEC teachers and staff. Contacts were established with Cannington Youth Service Belmont Youth Program and Youth Services from the City of Gosnells. As a result, 10 children attended the above programs supported by the ISC Counsellor.

A multicultural playgroup has been established in collaboration with Parenting WA, Playgroup WA and Brookman Primary School. The group commenced its weekly activities on 24 February 2011 at Brookman Primary School with total of eight families attending on the first day. At present, we are in the process of negotiating the establishment of a women's group in collaboration with Boogurlari Community Centre.

Maria Krivorova, Multicultural CFB



Department of
Sport and Recreation

Department
for
Community

Department of
Training and
Workforce
Development



The Oceania Province
of the Christian Brothers

New Enterprises

Upcoming Programs in City of Wanneroo

The Edmund Rice Centre has been awarded funding through the Department of Sport and Recreation to run sports programs within the City of Wanneroo in 2011. The aim of the project is to engage young people from Refugee and Indigenous backgrounds in activities in sport and active recreation in the North Zone of the City of Wanneroo, focussing on suburbs such as Butler, Clarkson and Banksia Grove. At present the position is job-shared and the success of this arrangement has allowed the project to move ahead at great pace. Meetings have occurred with the City of Wanneroo, including a facilities visit. A number of agencies have been consulted, including Nyoongar Sports Association, East Perth Basketball Association and ECU Joondalup, and further meetings have been arranged to discuss program proposals.

A presentation last week at the B-Group Meeting in Clarkson generated great interest. An Excel spreadsheet has been created documenting the youth programs available in the Cities of Stirling, Joondalup and Wanneroo. This will be transferred onto a visual display map located in the office to make it easy to identify what is going on in the areas of interest. A sponsorship program, called **Grow Through Sport**, has been developed, and enrolment forms and protocols are near completion. The proposed programs include an Indigenous Soccer Team, a Multicultural Women's Basketball Team and a Multisport Program involving student teachers from the Edith Cowan University. *Joe Moniodis, Coord*

Multicultural Youth Creative Music Program

The Multicultural Youth Creative Music Program is a new ERCM multicultural youth program. Its aim is to teach young people how to make music free on their home computer. There are three parts to the program. The first part teaches us about computers. The participants learn about each part of the computer and are taught in a practical manner how to disassemble and assemble a computer. The second section of the program teaches us how to use the beat using software *Linux Multimedia Studio* to make beats. The youth are shown different parts of the program and asked to make their own beats. One participant has made a beat and is still in the process of perfecting it. The last bit of learning is the music-writing and recording of songs with a



Hafis in Action

Coming Events



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Bella Ndayikeze, has completed a song entitled "Letter to my Mum". The song talks about a young girl and her mother's struggle, with a message of love and comfort. Bella is now being taught how to mentor other young people in their writing and recording. Three other participants have written songs and have recorded the choruses for these songs. The participants also learn how to setup the recording gear and how to use the "Audacity" music software for recording songs.

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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