



Edmund Rice Network News

NSW/ACT October 2010

Dear friends,

It's been great to catch up with many of you at recent events. We had a great network day, an inspiring retreat day, and the asylum seeker project is ready to move to the next stage with a great deal of interest from the around the network. More info on that below, as well as invitations to participate in upcoming immersions in Papua New Guinea, El Salvador and a pilgrimage to Ireland....plus news of upcoming events, as always.

Asylum Seeker Support Service

Following the recent information night, we are ready to move into the next stage of this project which is a training and preparation session for volunteers. Proposed dates for the training sessions are either: mid week evening: Wed 20th Oct, 6.30-8pm or weekend morning: Saturday 23rd Oct 10.30am-12noon

These will be held at either the Edmund Rice Centre (Homebush West) or the House of Welcome (Carramar) - to be confirmed. Please let us know which session is your preference (RSVP latest 15th October), so we can let you know if we have the numbers for both sessions to go ahead.

If you were not able to make it to the Information night, but are interested in volunteering in this project, please contact Grace at gracem@erc.org.au

The Asylum seeker support service aims to accompany and assist asylum seekers in the transition and settlement process through friendship and practical support. The service might include visiting families, delivering furniture, English conversation, organising recreation and picnics, help with resumes and job-seeking etc. Venues and hours will vary and be flexible.

Are You Interested in Participating in a PNG Encounter Programme in July 2011?



The Formation Life and Mission Team, in partnership with Catholic Mission, is keen to offer a *Getting to know each Other as Pacific Neighbours* PNG encounter programme in July next year and are calling for expressions of interest from potential participants.

Dates: To be determined - depending on which period suits the most potential participants

Cost: Approx \$2500

Programme (Draft): 10 - 14 days. Encounters with Edmund Rice and other Church, Government and

NGO programmes in Wewak, Goroka and Kiunga, the Ok Tedi mine in Tabubil and villages downstream from the mine.

If you are interested in participating in this encounter to this rich and resilient region of Oceania Province please contact Martin Kelly mfkelly@edmundrice.org or +61 (0)409575892

Pilgrimage to Ireland

A pilgrimage to Ireland is being organised for members of the Edmund Rice Network in 2011 from September 30 to October 14. Pilgrimage is an important part of spiritual life in the Edmund Rice tradition. By visiting creative and innovative centres around Ireland focusing on the Edmund Rice story, this visit offers the pilgrim the chance for the story to come alive, and provide a new lens to look at the elements of an Edmund Rice ministry upon return. Places are limited, if you are interested in receiving further information, please contact Donna at dmulhearn@edmundrice.org

Afternoon Tea for the Future:

The next Afternoon Tea for the Future is on the topic of Recycling Plastics, which arose as a result of a lack of solid information on what those little numbers on the bottom of plastic items mean in terms of recycling ability, and safety and reuse.

Details: 2pm to 4pm, Tuesday 12th Oct at the ERC 15 Henley Rd Homebush West, in

the small room at the end of the corridor opposite reception. Relaxed small group discussion, donation of \$2 or \$5 depending on ability to pay.

Any enquiries to leoniec@erc.org.au

Kiribati Delegation Reflective evening

You are warmly invited to the Edmund Rice Centre at 5.30pm for 6.00pm on Monday 11 October 2010 to share a meal and take part in reflections on the experiences, learnings and outcomes of the delegation Patrick Dodson recently led to Kiribati including:

- reflections about climate change and the Solomon Islands from Mary Felesi who comes the island of Malaita and is currently in Australia with the SMSM Sisters
- discussing 'Where to now for the Pacific Calling Partnership in the lead up to the UNFCCC in Cancun and beyond?

Everyone is very welcome - it would help us in planning if you can RSVP to jillf@erc.org.au

26th October: Edmund Rice Business Ethics Initiative breakfast with Kate McKenzie

"If doing the right thing is seen as weakness"

When Jeffrey Skilling took over as CEO of ENRON, he created a committee that reviewed every employee every year and sacked the bottom 15%. The idea was to create a lean mean competitive machine. But the "smartest men in the room" were on the road to destruction and took a lot of others with them.

- Does what drives you in your job push you to be "mean"?
- How does that sit with your own moral compass?
- What motivators do the job for you? For your business? For your self?
- What can you do when attitudes like Skilling's turn up at work?

Kate McKenzie, Telstra's Chief Marketing Officer, has a long and varied career both in the public and the corporate sectors. As a successful woman, she has clear ideas about what are real strengths and weaknesses in the world of business. Come and join in with your own concerns and issues.



WHEN: Tuesday, 26th October, 2010, 7:30 - 9:00am sharp

WHERE: Gilbert + Tobin Lawyers, 2 Park St Sydney.

COST: \$40, members and students \$25 (breakfast included)

MORE: For bookings contact Gary Wellmore on (02) 8762 4200 or [reception\[at\]erc.org.au](mailto:reception[at]erc.org.au)

ERC: Upcoming Human Rights Immersions - Latin America

Through engagement with ERC's international partner organisations, ERC's International Immersions facilitate the participants' experience-based transformational education for justice. With a focus on human rights, the immersion programs develop a new and internalised sense of our world, and of structures of inequity within it, from the perspectives of the economically excluded.

The Edmund Rice Centre is offering an international human rights immersion program in January 2011: Living the option for the poor: the Church in the struggle for human rights, El Salvador & Guatemala: 1st to 20th January 2011

This formation program is focussed on those seeking to explore further a faith-inspired commitment to social justice. For further information contact Sean in seanc@erc.org.au or 02 8090 1976

FILM Night: Renewal

"The religious environmental movement is potentially key to dealing with the greatest problem humans have ever faced, and it has never been captured with more breadth and force than in RENEWAL," Bill McKibben, Founder of 350.org

A film about people, faith and earth

Thursday, October 28th

Christian Brothers High School Theatre, 68 The Boulevard, Lewisham

7 PM till 9 PM

Following the film, hear and share what Sydney faith communities are doing to live better with the natural world. Entry: By Donation

Presented by: FEN (Faith Ecology Network), an interfaith network from 10 different religious traditions which aims to: share mutual appreciation of religious traditions regarding ecology, discern and foster religious reasons for advocacy about care for the earth.

Witness in Palestine: A Jewish-American Woman in the Occupied Territories

with Anna Baltzer Columbia University graduate, Fulbright scholar and author.

Raised with a traditional view on the issue, her perspective changed when she moved to the West Bank to work with nonviolent Palestinians and Israelis. Anna sees Judaism as about "social justice" which entails "challenging human rights abuses" occurring daily in the Occupied Territories.

Wednesday October 20, 12.30-2.00 pm

New Law Seminar Room 030, Sydney University

Session introduced and chaired by Associate Professor Jake Lynch, Director, Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Sydney.

For further info contact arts.cpacs@sydney.edu.au or phone 9351 7686

blessings

Donna

"Fly free as Edmund did before you to new horizons, to the unknown, the not-yet-imagined." Munnar Chapter, 2008