



# *Edmund Rice Network News*

## *NSW/ACT March 2010*

Dear friends

It's been a busy and exciting month: schools and camps are in full swing, the ERC is buzzing with activity, I've enjoyed meeting up with Edmund Rice Associates, and working on the development of Young Adult live-in community in Sydney. The young adults who met on the weekend have formulated an action plan to respond to the crisis in Gaza. Let me know if you would like to hear about that.

Below is a list of upcoming events around the network, of special note, two international speakers coming to Sydney: Jan Novotka, May 24-27 and Dr James Nickoloff, May 11, both no doubt will be special events. Details below. In the meantime....

### ***Upcoming Edmund Rice Network events:***

#### **'After Copenhagen - Where to Now for the Pacific?' Special Invitation:**

You are all warmly invited to come to the Edmund Rice Centre and join with others from the Pacific Calling Partnership in considering the question:

'After Copenhagen - Where to Now for the Pacific?'

5.30pm for 6.00pm till 8.00pm Thursday 29 April 2010

15 Henley Rd Homebush West NSW (2 minutes walk from Flemington Station)

You will join with members of the Pacific Calling Partnership's delegation to Copenhagen (Phil Glendenning, Maria Tiimon, Jill Finnane) in an evening of sharing about the significance of what happened there and what it means for the future.

The evening will include a short film of their experiences and achievements, a chance for you to ask questions and share your reflections and an opportunity to hear about the how the PCP's new strategic plan responds to the post Copenhagen world.

Refreshments provided, Entry free (donations welcome)

Please RSVP to [jillf@erc.org.au](mailto:jillf@erc.org.au)

#### **Indigenous Programs**

Once again this year the Edmund Rice Centre is offering a range of cross cultural immersion programs into Indigenous communities across north west NSW.

##### **Let's Talk Rural 9<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> April 2010.**

Let's Talk Rural is an immersion program offered to teachers and educators that invites participants to have a first-hand experience within Indigenous communities that allow them to explore issues past and present that have impacted on those communities and their peoples. We travel through places like Brewarrina, Goodooga, Walgett, Moree and the site of the Myall Creek Massacre.

##### **Let's Talk Local 4<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

Let's Talk Local is an immersion a cross cultural immersion program offered to Year 11 students from all schools. This opportunity provides participants with the chance to participate in Aboriginal cultural activities such as art, dance, exploring artifacts, exploring bush foods and medicines, elders yarn ups and lots more. Join us for an experience that is guaranteed to impact on your life.

##### **Brothers and Others – 2010 Dates to be confirmed**

Let's Talk Brothers and Others is an immersion program targeted at Christian Brothers and Other people who are members of Edmund Rice networks, communities and families. Brothers

and Others was scheduled for February however it has been postponed until later in the year. Please contact us if you are interested in this program to register your interest and details. If you are a teacher, educator, a brother, or know a year 11 student that would be interested in the Let's Talk programs offered by ERC or would just simply like further information, please feel free to contact Cassandra Gibbs Indigenous Education Officer at the Edmund Rice Centre on 02) 87624215 or [cassg@erc.org.au](mailto:cassg@erc.org.au) .

### **Jan Novotka – Awakening the truth tour**

Jan Novotka - "Awakening into God by the Fire of Truth" Helping others recognize and connect to the Divine is where Jan's giftedness lies. The greatest human challenge of our time is to say "Yes" to the emerging dimension of consciousness for the sake of the whole of life. Weaving together Jesus' experience of the Reign of God, the insights of the mystics as well as understandings that come from the new cosmology and quantum physics, Jan gently and skillfully leads participants to explore and experience this fuller dimension of consciousness. Integral to this retreat is communal contemplative sitting, the exploration and practice of deeper awareness, some group sharing, personal processing, time in the natural world, and music. Come ready to have your whole heart opened anew.

**Sydney events:** Two-day Workshop: **Monday 24 May** 9:00am - 3:00pm

**Tuesday 25 May** 9:00am - 12:00pm 2010, Mulgoa (Live In \$200 and Non-Live In \$140)

Concert/Symposium: **Wednesday 26 May 2010**, Lewisham

Concert/Symposium: **Thursday 27 May 2010**, Lewisham, 5:30pm - 9:00pm \$20

### **'Catholic Schools and the Church of the Poor'**

Visiting scholar, author and liberation theologian Dr James Nickoloff will give a presentation for school leaders, identity leaders, teachers, board members and anyone interested in hearing an inspiring and challenging speaker.

Tuesday May 11, 10am-3.15pm, St Patricks College, Francis St Strathfield

James B. Nickoloff is Associate Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, where he taught Catholic systematic theology from 1989 to 2009. He is currently Adjunct Professor of Theology at Barry University in Miami, Florida.

### **Other events**

**Earth Hour March 27:** You are warmly invited to A Vigil of Light and Hope - Earth Hour 2010 at Sydney's Observatory Hill. We will gather at this spectacular vantage point of Sydney's Harbour to meditate, pray, dance and share hope and aspirations for a more sustainable future. The event will join millions of others around the planet as they switch off lights in support of Earth Hour, which seeks to raise awareness of the urgency to act on climate change. The evening will run from 7:30 to 9:30pm at Observatory Hill, corner Fort Street and Watson Road, The Rocks, Sydney. It is free and all are welcome. Greg O'Donnell (Co-ordinator 02 8239 6299)

### **Blue Mountains book event**

Want a nice afternoon out next Sunday in the Blue Mountains? You are invited to a delicious 'high tea' at a lovely restaurant in Springwood to celebrate the recent release of my (Donna's) book, Ordinary Courage, [www.ordinarycourage.org](http://www.ordinarycourage.org)

This special literary event will be hosted by Razz Restaurant, 150 Macquarie Rd, Springwood on Sunday March 21, from 4pm - 6pm. As well as a fancy 'high tea', I'll share some reflections and do some readings and Q&A and books will be available for purchase. If you missed the Sydney book launch, here's a great opportunity to hear about the book, grab a copy and celebrate with me! Cost \$25, bookings essential to Razz Restaurant ph 4751 7500. It should be a great afternoon.

### **Emptying Out - Lent and the call to simplicity and justice**

27 March, Erskineville Sydney 2pm to 5pm, St Mary's Catholic Church, 1 Swanston St, Erskineville, (a 5 minute walk from Erskineville Station)

A reflection afternoon from the Justice and Peace Office with input from Paul Ghanem OFM and

Jenni Hickson as well as time for prayer and conversation.. Refreshments provided. Please RSVP for catering purposes by Tuesday 23 March. For more information contact Chantelle on 9390 5319 or at [chantelle.ogilvie@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:chantelle.ogilvie@sydneycatholic.org)

**“If You Want To Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation”**

Explore the Spirituality, Theology and Justice of Pope Benedicts challenge with Rev Dr Sean McDonagh. Fr McDonagh is a Columban missionary priest who worked in the rainforests of southern Philippines. He has been teaching, writing and campaigning on ecology for 35 years. He was an observer at the recent Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change Respondents:

Most Rev Julian Porteous, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Sydney

Ms Sandra Menteith, Lecturer in Environmental Ethics, Catholic Institute of Sydney

Ms Emily Aitken, Waitara Parish Youth Leader, “Greensteps” participant

Saturday 10th April 2010, Time: 5pm - 7pm, Thomas Aquinas Centre

Santa Sabina College , 90 The Boulevard, Strathfield NSW 2135

Musical Interlude by students of St Patrick’s College Strathfield

Wine and cheese served. Entry by donation (suggested \$10)

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Blessings along the way,

***Donna***

PS: “Come follow me to the edge, into the deeper and wider dimensions of Living that you may discover the God who awaits you” Munnar Chapter, 2008