



*In this issue we acknowledge our Heritage and see how the story of Edmund Rice continues to grow and evolve.*

## Aboriginal Interpretation of Logo

Feb 4, Province Centre



At a special ceremony OLT, Directors and staff gathered to reflect in prayer and story on the artwork of Yvonne O'Neill, Indigenous Support Worker at Nudgee College. Special guests included Ravina Waldren and Sr Kay McPhadden from the Catholic Murri Ministry and Br Victor Larkin from Nudgee

College. The prayer began with readings from the chapters and from the scripture. Yvonne then presented her art and explained the story through her story and culture. Using images from nature and totems from own family, she drew out themes of journey, keeping traditions, wisdom, gathering and new shoots. This was followed by the Welcome to Country by Uncle Des Sandy. Finally Ravina Waldren performed a traditional Aboriginal blessing on everyone using water and a bailer shell.

## Ambrose & Brothers set sail on the good ship 'Donald Mackay'



Br. D. F. Bodkin



Br. P. A. Treacy



Br. J. B. Lynch

**15th August, 1868** Ambrose Treacy and three other Brothers crossed from Dublin to Liverpool to board the Donald MacKay for Melbourne. Picture the four of them, in frock coats and wearing top hats, waving goodbye as their ship pulled out. As far as they knew, they would never see Ireland again. Ambrose was 33. Fursey Bodkin, a Galway man, was the youngest in the group, being 25 years of age, finally professed and a member of the Congregation for 10 years. Then there was Br Barnabas Lynch. He had been a member of the Congregation for only a few years, having worked as a draper in Carlow until he was 26. Most of his life in Australia would be spent in Melbourne, where he would die at the age of 82.

The fourth member of the community was Br Joseph Nolan. He was the oldest of the group at 45. A Kerry man, he was 36 when he joined the Brothers and was a skilled carpenter, a talent he put to good use in the early days in Melbourne. As saloon passengers (there were 22 of them) the Brothers were each allowed 1 ton of luggage. There were over 600 passengers in steerage and a crew of 45.

The Donald MacKay was among the last of the clippers, sailing ships renowned for their speed. The voyage to Melbourne took 95 days. Their route was from Liverpool down the Irish Sea and then down between Africa and South America until they reached the 40s in the Southern Ocean turned left and came across the Great Australian Bight to Melbourne. During the voyage Ambrose and the brothers sometimes helped the crew with the handling of the sails. Land was sighted only twice before reaching Australia, once in the Irish Sea and once in the Caribbean. No landings were made during their 95 days at sea.

**Br Regis Hickey (edited)**



*Pictured: Artist Ms Yvonne O'Neill*

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## Schools



### *St Josephs Gregory Terrace*

The **MATES Community Problem Solving Team**, who have been working with students at Milpera State High School for the past two years, were recently named **Australian Champions in their Community Problem Solving Division** at the Australian Future Problem Solving Championships on the Gold Coast this year.

The aim of this project has been to develop inclusive activities so that Milpera students have a greater sense of belonging in the Australian community. The students have organised many activities such as sporting workshops and an on-line book, and also included students from Kearney House and from All Hallows school.

Five of these students: Nick Denzin, Will Hinz, Rob Davis, Will Greig and David Tubb with their coach Mrs Carolyn Waters will be travelling to the University of La Crosse in Wisconsin in June 2010 to represent Australia with their project.

*Connor Finn, Dean of Identity -Gregory Terrace*

## Edmund Rice Camps

*Connected Soft Top Camps is a unique experience which provides two camp experiences one month apart.*

Let me tell you the story of Shannon. During the first camp, Shannon, a shy girl spent most of her time with a few volunteers and rarely spoke above a whisper. Our goal for Shannon was to support her to build her confidence and make friends. It was tough going during the first camp but with much reassurance she was excited about the opportunity to camp again. Wow ! That second week of camp was amazing and by the last evening she was able to get up on stage and perform "Lean on Me" with others. Well done Shannon!

The first day of camp we met as strangers ... We left as friends. We returned to the second camp as old friends continuing our journey together .We left friends connected by a unique experience.

*Claire Simpson, ER Camps*



*Pictured from left to right: Eden, Claire, Sean, Andrew, Ashleigh, Jean- Gabriel*



*Acknowledging the Turrbal and Jagerra Peoples  
As traditional owners and custodians of Brisbane .*

## Volunteers

### December 14, Indooroopilly

The latest group of young people to volunteer to work in Brothers ministries on the margins was commissioned at the Oceania Support Centre at Indooroopilly. In a ritual led by Regional Formation Co-ordinator, Gerry Keating, the 3 volunteers Ben, Liam and Brad were commissioned to Timor, Kenya and Tanzania. Present on the night were the families and friends of the volunteers as well as the Director of Ministries, Br Peter Clinch and Director of Formation, Ms Mary Murphy as well as many ER campers.

Tom Lawler, who had recently returned from Timor, shared his experiences and Br Peter Clinch officially accepted the new volunteers' commitment to live some of the calls from the Brothers Congregational Chapter and challenged them to try and understand things from the perspective of the people in the cultures where they were going. Having started the prayer reflection with the song "Those who love Justice" the night finished with the Kev Carmody song "From Little Things, Big Things Grow".

**Gerry Keating, Qld Reg Co-ordinator Formation & Ministries**



**Pictured Br Joe Lauren, Brad, Liam, Gerry Keating, Br Peter Clinch, Br Chris Meehl and Ben at the Volunteers Commissioning Night**

## Brothers Jubilees

### 12 December, St Leo's

The Brothers of the Qld region assembled at St Leo's University college to celebrate the golden jubilees of our brothers who were joined by friends, family and members of the Edmund Rice Network. Mary Murphy prepared a beautiful liturgy and Father John Gillen led the Eucharist. Jubilarians were presented with a papal blessing by the provincial. Eucharist was followed by lunch on the deck. **Br Nick Campbell, Ted Magee, Kev Dwyer, Peter Sheldon, Chris Pritchard**

## Support Centre

### 29<sup>th</sup> January, Qld Support Centre

Staff members from all the various entities based in the Oceania Support Centre Indooroopilly gathered on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January. The purpose of the gathering was to have the opportunity to reflect on our life together as an Edmund Rice inspired community:

**Community Gatherings for Prayer and Reflection** – This is a regular sacred time gathering, OSC Liturgies marking special feasts, and community reflection gatherings. This area included a regular Community Morning Tea organised to celebrate birthdays and community, and community social events.

**Opportunities for Outreach** – developed to provide opportunities for staff to be involved in some outreach programs connected with schools and ministries. The gathering concluded with a special Acknowledgement to Country from Aunty Valda Coolwell is a Gureng Gureng woman from Bundaberg. It is hoped that Aunty will be a regular visitor to our Edmund Rice community.

**Gerry Keating, Reg Co-ord Formation & Ministries**



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## Jan Kovatka Awakening the Truth Tora



### "Awakening into God by the Fire of Truth"

Since the early 1990's Jan has been composing songs that flow effortlessly through her. She sings of the sacredness and oneness of all, the unfolding Universe, care for the Earth, the awakening of a new and vast dimension of human consciousness, and the Still, Silent Presence within. Her music touches people of all faiths, cultures, and backgrounds.

Helping others recognize and connect to the Divine is where Jan's giftedness lies. In addition to being a songwriter, she is also available as a retreat director, a wilderness / vision fast guide, a spiritual director, a bio-spiritual focusing companion, and a leader of song for retreats and rituals. Jan works with individuals and groups.

#### Brisbane

Retreat: Tuesday 4 May - Friday 7 May 2010, PSC Manly  
Concert/Symposium: Friday 7 May 2010, College Hall, St Joseph's Gregory Terrace



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## Peace & Justice Course

For people wanting to explore justice perspectives in our world...

#### Venue:

Oceania Support Centre,  
70 Kate St , Indooroopilly

#### Time:

5.30 - 8.00 pm

#### Dates:

Tuesday 2 March,  
Monday 8 and 15 March  
Wednesday 24 March, Tuesday 30 March

#### Cost:

\$50 Waged; \$20 unwaged/fulltime students

*Certificates* will be issued for those who complete the course and will count for 10 hours professional development.

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