

In this issue

We will be looking at the recent ERN Wisdom gathering in Brisbane and what is happening with Reconciliation and Social Justice across the ERN in Queensland.

Now is the Time !!!



2- 4 July, Indooroopilly

The First Oceania Gathering of Wisdom representatives of the Edmund Rice Network took place at Riverglenn July 2-4. The formation of the Wisdom Groups came out of the direction from the Munnar Chapter 2008 with a powerful message "The Time is Here, The Place is Now. We are the People". There was diversity, unity of purpose, and a feeling of vibrant energy emanating from the group, as Sr Margaret Endicott RSM and Br Geoff Whitefield, facilitated each session, focusing towards a desired understanding of purpose. Queensland was represented by Anita Angelos, Anne Van Heer and Br Jim D'Arcy.

Day two began with a smoking ceremony with Uncle Joe Kirk from St Edmund Ipswich. Having renewed the connection with the sacred land, the groups in their presentations

showed widening and thriving communities within the ERN. The Qld story told by Jim, Gerry, Anita and Anne was a rich, diverse one. The difficulty was to focus the sharing of their activities and compact them into a nutshell for 5 minutes. People were beginning to recognize the evolution of the ERN and to awaken to its enormous potential of people who *proclaim liberation and justice for all creation*.

Natasha Siebert and Danny Moore then gave a presentation showing the structures of the ERN in Oceania in all its many facets. Paul Robertson of the OLT presented a history of the ERN, which was thought provoking and insightful to the gathering.



Brendan Webb and Paul Roberson

The afternoon of the second day brought an analysis of the dying practices, established norms, emerging trends and cutting Edge Ideas of the group. Margaret's and Geoff's helped guide the groups to form a clear understanding and a shared consciousness of the ERN within the Oceania context, but the next step involved imagining the possibilities of the future of networking could take and an evolution of new forms of commitment, common language and symbols, emerging spirituality and value systems for a new age.

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Day three started with a reflection of the previous day's visioning and brainstorming activities and suggestions for the 2011 Adelaide Gathering. Steve McLaughlin, Director of Networking, Communication and Development (Oceania) addressed the group about the recognition of the ERN that came out of the 2008 Chapters in Munnar. The time for radical change was upon us and we are challenged to "Fly Free as Edmund did before us to new horizons, to the unknown, to the not yet imagined". The gathering finished with a blessing by Julieanne Manson and Donella Brown and a closing ritual with stones. Thanks to Gerry Keating and Jim D'Arcy for organizing the prayers and rituals.

Anne Van Heer, Qld ERN



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South Africa ~~Alive~~ /Australia



Ignatius Park in South Africa

Late in 2009, students Ian Underwood and Sam Shaw were fortunate enough to be chosen to represent Ignatius Park College Townsville, along with 15 other young leaders from various Edmund Rice schools across Australia, to venture to South Africa for three and a half weeks. The program was South Africa/Australia Alive- a social Justice and peace leadership program.

“Our journey began in the city of Johannesburg, where with the 15 other young leaders, we were introduced to the life of South Africa. The first two days were spent learning about the history and the culture of the vast lands of South Africa. This included a visit to Soweto, one of the most widely known slums in the world and the scene of the controversial apartheid riots. The next stop on this spiritual Journey was the small town of Kroonstad, where experienced a South African Mass.

The team then took an eight hour bus trip to Kimberly, a former diamond mining town, also known as the “big hole” where we spent four fantastic days forming relationships with students from St Boniface, a local Edmund Rice school. We were impressed at the dedication of these students to improve not only their lives, but the lives of 49 million people of South Africa concerned with issues of teen pregnancy and HIV/ AIDS. We discovered that this reflects the Christian teachings of Jesus and Edmund Rice.

On a visit to Robben Island, we were able to see first hand where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for 27 years. .has played in the peace of his nation. The very last stop on the journey was to a little local slum, where we met the most wonderful Aunty Mildred, who ran her own little school teaching children in the Malawi camp to read and write- she is a true saint. Throughout the three and a half weeks spent in South Africa, our eyes were opened immensely to the poverty that is endured, not only in South Africa, but in nations all over the earth. The hope that these people live with day in and day out is truly inspirational, touching not only the heart, but also the soul.”

(Ian Underwood and Sam Shaw -Ignatius Park students)

Brothers Gathering PNG

Port Moresby, 5-9 June

“Mipela i pilim olsen mipela i wok bung wantaim” – we feel connected.

To think beyond the boundaries expands our vision. We BELONG to each other.

In June, the Christian Brothers aged 60 years and under throughout Oceania gathered in Bomana, PNG. It was a tangible expression of the brotherhood we share and the trust we have in each other to share our lives, our struggles (our leaping and falling) and our hopes for the future.

The time together was enriching and an experience of the commonality of the religious life that we lead and the brotherhood we share. Cultural differences donot divide us when we are prepared to listen to each other and share from our hearts. In fact, the cultural differences allow us to grow, to be dis-eased and to be shaken out of our comfort-zone.

(Ted Magee, Coordinator -Brothers Formation)



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Sorry Day



(Staff and students from Deception Bay FLC at the local bridge)

Deception Bay FLC, 26 May

Our school community gathered at the base of the flagpole in the morning sun to begin National Reconciliation week with the commemoration of Sorry Day which marks the Stolen Generation to which many Aboriginal families have links. Our ritual started with Angelana and Aimee helping us to understand the reason for the day which was followed by an Acknowledgment of Country by Fred Leone and a reading from the National Apology by Br Mick Talty. The morning continued with each member of our community being invited to commit to reconciliation by placing a handprint on a prepared banner.

After the regular morning meeting the community followed the newly painted banner in procession to the little bridge on the bayside where we gathered and had our photo taken. The remainder of the morning was spent engage in traditional aboriginal games led by Fred. The end of our commemoration was to partake of a Barbeque where the menu included Kangaroo meat as well as the traditional rissoles and sausages. After enjoying our barbeque we walked once again behind the banner and headed back to school. (*Mick Talty, Deception Bay FLC*)

Reconciliation

Nudgee College, 11 May

St Joseph's Nudgee College kicked off the GPS winter sports season in style on Saturday with a celebration of the College's Indigenous program.



In a show of camaraderie between Nudgee College and Round 1 competitors Ipswich Grammar School (IGS), both schools came together before the kick off to the 1st XV match to celebrate Indigenous members of both schools. "As a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition, Nudgee College is committed to putting reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people up front," Nudgee College Dean of Identity, Chris Ryan said.

Both Nudgee College and IGS have extensive Indigenous programs with almost sixty students of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island descent attending Nudgee College in 2010 and approximately 50 attending IGS. Most of these young men are boarders. In the lead up to National Sorry Day on May 26, saw the College host 30 Indigenous guests for lunch and the game including Aunty Julie Smith who is our elder on the College's Reconciliation Action Plan committee.

The day also saw the Indigenous Dance Troop perform a welcoming dance for both communities, as well as a didgeridoo performance under the Ross Oval goal posts by Year 9 student Lachie McRae.

Commemorative jerseys featuring both the Nudgee College and IGS playing strips, as well as Indigenous artwork done by Nudgee College's Indigenous Liaison Officer Ms Yvonne O'Neill, were exchanged when Indigenous students from both schools met on the halfway line before the match. Each home game throughout the year will have a different theme that celebrates various aspects of Nudgee College life.

(*Chris Ryan, Dean of Identity, Nudgee College*)



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Upcoming Events



ERN

“Casting the Net”

The Edmund Rice Network is growing into a greater consciousness and identity...

If you are interested in exploring the bigger picture of where the ERN is heading come along and find out more.

Date: Sat Nov 6

Time: 9.00–12 noon (morning tea provided)

Where: Xavier Support Centre, Indooroopilly

Contact: bjdarcy@edmundrice.org

ER Web-sites

To find out more or to contribute an article about the [ERN in Oceania](#) go to:

www.edmundrice.org

For advocacy and research in [Justice issues in Oceania](#) go to:

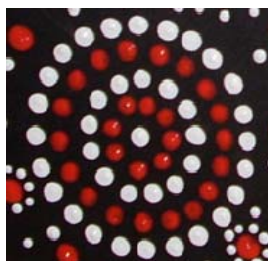
www.erc.org.au

For events and news about the [ERN globally](#) go to :

www.edmundriceinternational.net

Edmund Rice International (ERI) is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) advocating for young people who are marginalised because of poverty, lack of access to education, legal status, environmental degradation, involvement in armed conflict.

www.edmundriceinternational.org



FIER QLD

Festival of Indigenous Edmund Rice Leaders

Celebrating Indigenous culture and spirit with Indigenous young leaders and staff from Edmund Rice schools, Flexible Learning Centres and ER ministries from across Queensland.

Date: Friday August 27

Time: 9.00 am- 2.00 pm

Venue: Nudgee College, Brisbane

Further details: Chris Ryan, Nudgee College.

ph 07 38650191 or Br Jim D'Arcy on 0402441134

Urban Contemplatives

Session 3 “HINDUISM”

by Primala Prasher

Date: Sat October 9

Time: 9.30-11.30 am

Where: Xavier Support Centre, Indooroopilly

Donation: \$5.00

Contact: bjdarcy@edmundrice.org



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