



From the Province Leader

The words “moving forward” might not have any particular significance in the Philippines, East Timor, Papua New Guinean or New Zealand parts of Oceania Province right now, but in Australia they bring to mind immediately that we are facing a Federal election in the next two weeks. “Moving forward” is the slogan adopted by one of the major parties to summarise its policies and ambitions; and, in the way of political campaigns, the same words are being ridiculed by the other side as “empty meaningless rhetoric”.

All politics aside, it seems to me that “moving forward”, or the desire to do so, could be used to describe much of what I have observed across Oceania and across the Congregation in the past few months. The Spirit in our midst continues to stir various ones of us to searching, to longing, to yearning, to contemplation, to activity. That special gift we call “Edmund’s charisma” continues to inspire thousands of people across our Province. Through actual presence, or through news received in letters or emails, I have witnessed this happening in so many ways recently. Just a few of these are -

- the presence of our Brothers in the indigenous communities in Murgon and Cherbourg;
- a group of Strathfield students on an immersion experience in Vunakanau, Papua New Guinea
- a group of Brothers at Mulgoa considering “emerging religious life”
- the address by Professor Ron McCallum at the Edmund Rice ethics breakfast in Sydney earlier in the week.

What stops some of us from “moving forward”? Two things that occur to me are anger and nostalgia.

When I say “anger”, I am not thinking of the productive anger that seeks to right injustices, but of the anger that leads to bitterness and paralysis. I don’t think I have ever seen it on a job description or a list of performance objectives, but a good case could be made out for putting “a sense of humour” very high on most such lists. “What is laughter? It is the glorious sound of a soul waking up?” (Hafiz)

When I say “nostalgia” I am not deriding story-telling or keeping memories alive - these are very necessary; what I am talking about is a retreat into the past as if nothing good has happened in the world since 1960? ... 1980? ... 2000? Some reminiscing about “the good old days” can be good for us; we often come to the conclusion that they were not always all so good anyway! If conversation around the staff-room table or the community-room table seldom gets beyond “the good old days” then I think we have a problem.

So, what does “moving forward” mean for your particular place in the Edmund Rice Network? Fact and ambition or empty meaningless rhetoric?

Vince Duggan

Oceania Province Executive Team Meeting

The Directors meeting was held on Thursday, 12 August at OPC. Peter Clinch, Anne Pinzon and Mary Murphy were in attendance with apologies from Steve McLaughlin and Max Montisci. Bob Chambers,

Anthony Ryan and Sr Margaret Endicott attended as speakers. The following points were discussed at the meeting:

- The website is being updated with more improvements still to occur by Bob Chambers.
- Anthony Ryan provided an update on the development portfolio.
- Several Policies and Procedures were discussed with the Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Policy and Complaints Management and Resolution Policy being forwarded to the Oceania Leadership Team for endorsement.
- Possible pilgrimage to Ireland in 2011.

The following reports were received:

- Characteristics of an Edmund Rice Ministry – draft two
- ERRGE gathering in Perth (where Directors met with regional people)
- Philippines report by Shane Wood
- Living on the Edge program for Brothers moving towards a new ministry
- New Pathways of Connection to Edmund's charism by Catherine Tesoriero
- ERN gathering in Brisbane (3rd and 4th July 2010)

Peter Clinch
(Chair of Meeting)

Remarkable result



On the face of it, a new approach by the St Thomas of Canterbury school to misbehavior by students has been an extraordinary success. Since replacing its pastoral care behaviour management system with a restorative justice programme, the number of suspensions and expulsions the school has made have plummeted.

The new programme was launched six years ago. In the preceding three years, the school stood down 60 students, suspended 18 and excluded two. After five years of the new programme in practice, there was only one stand-down last year (and that was to enable a student to enroll in alternative education). So far this year, there has been no-one in any of the three disciplinary categories.

The restorative justice system the school has adopted appears very similar to the one used in the outside justice system. A conference is held involving the offender, the victim, school staff and a police youth aid officer, with the aim, as the school puts it, of finding out what harm has been done and trying to fix it.

A crucial element is trying to elicit any underlying cause there may be for the offender's misbehavior. The school gives the example of an older boy who at a restorative justice meeting told of having been beaten by his father all his life and of turning to violence himself after the father had left the family. The awareness, which the school might not otherwise have had, of factors that went some way towards explaining why the student was behaving as he did enabled a constructive intervention that led him away from the possibility of a joining a gang and into tertiary education instead.

Results like this are not easy to achieve. The school itself has to devote considerable resources to it – undoubtedly more than would be spent on the process leading to expulsion. It is also demanding on the

participants who are required to face up to their shortcomings. It can be emotionally testing. But for St Thomas of Canterbury the results speak for themselves. And clearly if it saves students who might otherwise be excluded and go off the rails entirely it is worth the effort.

Restorative justice in the wider world is regarded with some skepticism. If it is not to be misused, it must be well managed. Too often it appears to be a soft option, used by knowing young offenders as an opportunity to make a show of contrition, and sometimes not even that, and to carry on misbehaving exactly as before. Victims, who may be reluctant to be involved, can feel intimidated and victimized again by a system that seems more concerned about the offender than about them. Care must be taken to avoid a power imbalance that practiced offenders can exploit.

Properly run, however, restorative justice can be valuable for both sides. In a closed community like a school, where all parties will continue to encounter one another, it is also easier for behavior to be monitored, so gaming the system is harder to get away with. St Thomas's results suggest its system could well be worth emulation by other schools.

Editorial
Christchurch Press
27 July 2010

Visit [College website](#)

Sogeri singsing

On Friday 23 July I travelled up to the Sogeri Plateau to the cultural day for Sogeri National High School. There were some narrow stretches of road going up, so I am glad Br Bernie Cooper fsc was driving the twin cab ute and not me. Quite a lot of people were using the road to get to the singsings. Up at Sogeri there are the hydroponics farms that supply a lot of the vegetables to Port Moresby, and cattle farms. The teachers' college is a little over 15 minutes' drive from where I am living at Erima, and it was just over half an hour up to Sogeri. We had students piled into the back of the ute. The four



hydro stations, Rauna 1 to 4, are at various levels coming down the mountains. We passed the Franciscans' place not far past us at Bomana where I shall have to try out the swimming - it's quite close to a stretch of the Laloki River called "the washing machine", where many people do their washing. Bernie is pretty familiar with the Papuan Region, and he knew the way to Sogeri from when he was stationed here in 1978 as a young brother.

Last night, being the last day of trimester, the students prepared a special meal. They do all their own cooking. We had chicken and rice, cooked bananas, aibika (a kind of gluey greens cooked in a stew with noodles) and small plastic cups of ice cream to top it off. As things sometimes do, we got off to a late start. The food was late in arriving. By the time 8pm came around I could have eaten a horse. Zita and Pulip had a great time with one of the cameras donated by brothers at the recent assembly here in Moresby. We had a great time making faces. There was to be a dance after, but as it was getting late and I had to drive back I didn't stay.

If anyone could see their way clear to coming up for a while and sitting with students to listen while they practise reading or give some coaching in writing, it would be greatly appreciated. Likewise if you have

any old items lying around the community you don't need and might be useful up here, all donations are welcome. We could also do with someone coming up for a visit to return to Aus where they could comb the Internet and text books for teaching resources for our students. Bomana Primary School, where they do their practice teaching, has almost nothing. Recent curriculum reforms have given us great syllabuses and teachers' guides, but nothing useable in a classroom yet.



Most of all, please keep us in your prayer. We have 101 students, all from remote areas and all boarding at the college. Some travelled for days with much walking through the mountains and travel by canoe to get here. All have promised to teach for at least three years in a remote school after they graduate, but most will spend much longer than that as they will return to teach in their home districts, like remote Kokoda.

Gerry Buzolic
Sacred Heart Teachers' College, Bomana, Port Moresby

Kincumber gathering

The gathering at Kincumber was a special time for the thirty five people who were able to attend.

Many hours were spent in sharing story and spirituality as brothers reflected on our Congregation Motto; on the call from the latest letter from our Congregation Leaders; on the Missiology Framework for the Oceania Province; on a Community Experience of resourcing, recalling, reflecting, refreshing, replenishing the River of Life; on our special call to Indigenous Australians and Refugees; and, on Climate change and sustainable living.

All the above was underpinned with prayer and daily Eucharist (though we lost the services of Fr Ivan Herson who had to return with Denis to Brisbane for the funeral of their sister, Maureen).



Back row (left to right): Tim Barnes, Lou Walker, Don Beatson, Brian Moylan, Ray Dowding, Hugh Sharpe, Neil Langan, Brian Steele, Kevin Smith

Third row: Terry Burke, Reg Shepherd, Kevin Nangle, Gabe Rowbottom, Len Hanlon, Carl Sherrin

Second row: Brian Brandon, Bernie Adams, Dan Stewart, Kevin Laws, Ian Robertson

Front row: Brendan Versace, Mick Knights, Mick Bible, Terry Kelly, Eric Hyde, Peter Sheldon, Coman McCarthy

Once again this time was sacred time and nourishing time for all. It is good when brothers gather and when brothers allow the Spirit to move them to give life to the brotherhood we share. Such was this experience.

Special thanks go to our Health Care Coordinators, Anne Brown and Jenny Carter, who saw that all brothers were comfortable; to Fr Ivan Hernon for ministering to us; to Greer White who was with us for the River of Life Community Experience; to Sr Ellen and the staff of St Joseph's for their hospitality and care; and, to all who attended for their involvement, sharing, and brothering.

Ted Magee

Stand Up Against Poverty

A recent letter from Edmund Rice International in Geneva reminded us of the urgent issue surrounding the removal of poverty from our world. The effects of such poverty are all too evident to those of us familiar with the situation of many of our own Indigenous communities in Australia, of many of the people Brothers and ERN personnel work with and support in East Timor, the Philippines and PNG.

In September this year world leaders will gather in New York to review progress in implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's). Australia has been unfortunately quiet in its support of these goals; we do not hear much about them in the speeches of our politicians or church and community leaders. This is a shame. I wonder how many of our ministry staffs have been made aware of them? What do your local candidates for the approaching election have to say about them?

Since the historic pledge by 189 heads of state in 2000, progress has been made in the fight against extreme poverty, but not nearly enough. Today, 50,000 people continue to die every day as a result of poverty. A woman dies every minute in pregnancy and childbirth. Around the globe, 72 million children still do not go to school.

Edmund Rice International is encouraging Edmund Rice people around the world to join together in solidarity with each other, with millions of others and with the world's poor by participating in the *Stand-Up Against Poverty* campaign scheduled to take place over the weekend of September 17-19, 2010 (the weekend before the summit) to demand that heads of state deliver breakthrough plans at their meeting the following week. It would be good if we could be part of the action as well, in whatever way you feel able. We can be a large and influential lobby group when we work together.

This could mean something as simple as finding out if there is an event happening in your local community or city that you can attend; it could mean simply including reference to the MDGs in private or ministry prayer. You could invite a speaker to address an ERN gathering. The website at <http://www.standagainstpoverity.org/> contains many ideas for possible events as well as background information on the issue and the official *'Stand Up, Take Action, Make Noise for the MDGs 2010'* Video. There are many internet sites that provide information about the MDG's

ERI also invite you to share with the wider Edmund Rice Network any action you might undertake by forwarding a short article and photo for posting on the ERI website (<http://www.edmundriceinternational.org/>) or inclusion in the ERI or local ERN newsletters.

Br Peter B Clinch
Director of Ministries

Edmund Rice Centre opening at John Paul College, Rotorua

In Rotorua on 22 July, the official blessing and opening of the new gymnasium, fitness centre and sports pavilion took place at John Paul College. The Centre has been officially named, The Edmund Rice Centre.

Bishop Denis Browne celebrated the Mass in the presence of the 1100 students, and a large number of parents and friends of the college. Brothers Vin Jury, Trevor Gibbons, Tony Sisson, Arthur O’Kane together with Sr. Celine Dean, Annette Arnerich and several of the Rotorua Edmund Rice Reflection Group were amongst the special guests for the occasion. Several De la Salle Brothers were also present.



Some of the members of the Rotorua Edmund Rice Reflection Group at the opening

(left to right): Pauline Lawrence, Dorothy Jensen, Brother John O’Shea, Rhoda Shaw, Brother Vin Jury, Annette Arnerich, Veronica Morgan, Brother Trevor Gibbons.

The Principal, Mr. Patrick Walsh, paid tribute to the Christian Brothers for their pioneering efforts in the founding of Edmund Rice College in 1963, and which was the humble forerunner to the magnificent school that now goes under the banner of John Paul College. John O’Shea responded on behalf of the Brothers.

All in all, it was a particularly memorable day in the life of the school and especially gratifying for the brothers to hear of their earlier endeavours spoken of in such an appreciative manner.

John O’Shea

Appointment - Governance Project Officer - Ministry Directorate

The Oceania Leadership Team has appointed Brother Laurie Collins as Governance Project Officer - Ministry Directorate. In consultation with the Regional Ministry Coordinators, the ministry leaders and the Boards of Management, he is to develop a Memorandum of Understanding between each ministry and the Oceania Province. It is hoped that he will be able to complete the project, which involves 28 ministries, within a six-month period.

After many years as a teacher, including 21 years as a College Principal (St Leo’s Box Hill, Parade Bundoora, St Patrick’s Ballarat, and St Joseph’s Melbourne), Laurie served for three years as Executive Officer of the Christian Brothers Education Commission in St Patrick’s Province, before moving to Kenya to undertake school leadership at Embulbul. There he laid the foundations for Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre, and fostered Immersion Programs there for overseas groups. After returning from Kenya, he accepted an invitation to assist the Brothers mission in the Philippines, teaching spirituality and theology at Kabankalan Catholic College, and conducting formal reviews of school principals for the Diocesan Education Commission.



Laurie holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Melbourne University, a Bachelor of Education from Latrobe University, and a Master of Arts Degree in Pastoral Ministry from Boston College, where he focused on Spirituality. In 2002 he served as Loftus Professor at Iona College in New York, researching 'the Spirituality of the Principal'. Laurie has recently returned from participating in the highly regarded Sangre De Cristo Sabbatical Program in New Mexico.

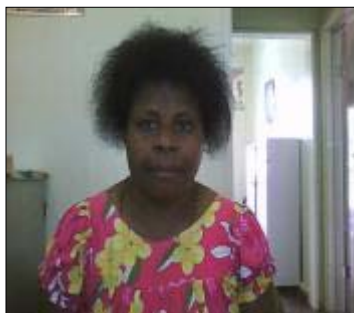
As his varied ministry positions, especially his recent experiences in Kenya and the Philippines, have reinforced in him a strong belief in the value of combined efforts, teamwork, and effective networking, Laurie looks forward to the opportunity to help clarify the desired working relationships between individual ministries and the Province.

Br Peter B Clinch
Director of Ministries

Inter-faith Calendar

August	15	Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary	Catholic Christian
		Dormition of the Theotokos	Orthodox Christian
	24	Raksha Bandhan	Hindu

Update on Rose Kum



Thank you for writing and also publishing Rose's story in Oceania Updates. The outcome has been very good so far. During Br. Vincent Duggan's last visit to Wewak he has informally advised that we should make arrangements for her to come to Australia for the operation. I have contacted Air Niugini for support and they have indicated that they will assist by issuing Rose a free return ticket and her guardian on 50% discount price. They want us to attach a confirm booking or letter from the hospital Doctor in Brisbane that he will proceed with the operation.

Please continue to keep Rose in your thoughts and prayers as she begins this next phase on her road to full recovery

Augustine Koroma

Oceania Updates

Please send any information or news items for Oceania Updates to the Province Publications Coordinator, Brother Nev Thornton, Email: ntthornton@edmundrice.org

I am particularly interested in receiving any good quality images of people, places, sights and faces throughout Oceania.