



## A Reflection by Donella Brown, Maryanne Confoy and Jim D'Arcy

Our image represents a journey. I suspect that when we gathered for Firestic we may have thought that the stage of the journey for us was near the arrowhead but in fact these last few days have been a journeying back into the story of Edmund and Ambrose Treacy. The Journey in is represented by the blue spiral and the journey out is the red spiral. You will notice that in the centre of the spiral is the black centre which represents "the Mystery" (the God the Creator the Deity). You will also notice that on the path we have also added the black to represent that encountering mystery is always possible on any part of the journey.



You will also notice that outside of the spiral we have represented the following with different symbols:

The image of the **eye** represents the **awareness of what we have observed** these last few days, in the people, in the process and in the surroundings of this bush setting.

Two people in conversation is a reminder that we have been in conversation throughout the last few days not just in this room, but also the other times that we have engaged with one another. It is about the **connection, the listening and the hearing of the story.**

The hand is about the process that **we have engaged in the “doing”** on this Firestic Journey

The heart is the **compassion and presence** we have been called to as we listened to story during this time we listened to Denis telling the Edmund Story and Regis telling the Ambrose Treacy story. In each of their own way we heard and saw the **compassion and commitment** to these stories, the labour of love from both men in the research and the telling of the story. They challenge to us **to be present to story**. To be present to the Edmund and Ambrose story and **the possibilities of liberation for us as the Edmund Rice Network in the future**.

The different strokes of colour is a reminder of the **many experiences that we have encountered during the telling of the stories**– joy, sadness, hope, grief etc

A small seed and the tree represents **the growth and transformation** of the journey and **liberation** that each of us may have experienced in these last few days

Green shoots near the arrow are symbolic of the **new ideas and thinking** that we encounter as we journey with each other.

In this image the Journey is never finished and it always allows us at any point to stop and to return to the **source of our creation, that “Mystery” that gives us meaning**. Although this image is about our Firestic journey it can also be a representation of other journeys and our **presence and the presence of another in each journey** we take.

## Novitiate News – Logre, Ghana



There are 5 Presentation Brother Novices – four in their first year and one doing the second year in the postulancy programme run in Ghana.

## Inter-faith Calendar

May	23	Pentecost	All Christians
		Declaration of the Bab	Baha'i
	27	Buddha Day – Visakha Puja	Buddhist
	29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah	Baha'i
	30	Trinity Sunday	Christian
		All Saints	Orthodox Christian

## From Timor Leste

On the Thursday following the Founder's feast day, I had a meeting with the chefes of the 5 villages, and all 5 plus about 25 others came. We spoke about

Just Coffee,  
roads,  
schools,  
pre-schools,  
how best to buy rice for the villages,  
TTN's involvement,  
EREA's involvement,  
ACU's involvement,  
Lights

To name a few.

Along the way and at the end there were questions and clarifications. But when I sat down as they chatted, I had a sense of the POWER I had, and I was "threatened" a bit by it, uneasy. With all those projects, friends of Timor and CER working here have made available over \$200000 this year. So in conclusion we talked about the ERN in Timor Leste.

I told them that as a 64 yr old, I was still one of the younger Bros in Australia. There were a few smiles at that, as later they pointed out I was the second oldest in the room.

But we talked about how we would hope the **ERN in the form of CER can have a life after the Bros leave**, led by people like Ludi, Flori , Nelson who goes to NIC for 10 weeks in June. And led by people such as the 17 pre-school teachers that Richard works with each week.

The 2 days connected me with the article by Kevin Stone in the latest Hearbeats magazine for the Bros in Oceania. For me it said so well the direction for the Oceania province of the Brothers-ERN. I felt for the 6 years of prep for Oceania we were forgetting ERN.

But with the two Directors or EREA and ER non-school ministries, the future of ERN and ER's charism is there for the future. The name change in 2002 from ER family to ER network was significant so as to be inclusive of all, all ER ministries, all ER schools. The wide bits and the not so wide bits, the fat and the thin. OK, I might not feel you have GOT the charism as much as I HAVE, but who am I to say that?

I enjoyed the Firestic gathering in Melbourne where 30 ERN people reflected on the legacy of Jesus, Edmund and Ambrose Treacy. I suppose it is for each of us in our part of ERN to keep alive what Denis McLaughlin saw as Edmund most likely motivation "a deep compassion for the dear little ones in whom he saw his incarnational lord"

Each year Edmund Rice day in Timor Leste has different blessings and messages. Thanks to all who help us to keep keeping Edmund alive up here.

Bill Tynan

## Founder's Feast Day address, Hobart 7 May

Jessica sails into Sydney harbour. Within a few days.

A huge achievement, 22k km, 6 months alone, 1000km from assistance at times.

Gales, 10m waves, Australia will rejoice at her success.

She is 16 yrs old.

I'm excited by this. It is a powerful message for me, that young people can be capable of great things.

It is a message that teachers, governments and all who work with young people need to have: Young people can be capable of greatness.

It is a message for you too.

You are capable of great things – beyond what you might imagine. It may even surprise you.

As it did the 16yr old boy whose mate fell into the surf of Bicheno

June 7<sup>th</sup> 2007 – Winter

9pm – night

Rocky shore

Heavy surf

Heavy clothing

The 16yr old dived in immediately, experienced surfer – dragged him out beyond the break – kept him afloat and alive until rescue arrived after an hour. No warning, no preparation. Discovered great courage when it was needed.

I see this goodness and potential greatness in many of you and I know it is in others.

In your sport,

Studies,

Interests,

And in a few of you, in the daily struggle you have with situations in your lives that are known only to yourself and very few others.

Jessica's celebration return to Sydney serves as a celebration of your goodness and potential for great things.

200 years ago, Edmund Rice had that message, maybe he learnt it from his young daughter, because he was a dad.

He was a wealthy man in Waterford, Ireland. He sold supplies to ships: rations, ropes, sails etc. He would have been a lot wealthier if the docks were not infested by the Bogans of Waterford who were always stealing and vandalising his stuff.

Then, there was little schooling, no welfare, no healthcare, no unemployment benefits, most of the population were in dreadful poverty. Many kids had no parents alive. People died early. The kids hung around the docks. They stole, got drunk, fought one another, lived in gangs – the Bogans of Waterford.

Edmund saw behind the Bogan mask. He saw the potential in them. He saw that they too had potential for greatness if some obstacles were removed – so he went and put his wealth into schooling, clothing and food for them. Others got excited about what he was doing and joined him. Together they knew the greatness that could be in those kids.

Jesus really impressed Edmund. Jesus was very popular with the bogans of Jerusalem, not that they were called that. They were called tax collectors and sinners. Those ‘losers’ found Jesus a friend. Could say a heap more about that, and I hope you are being told about it.

This inspired Edmund to look harder at the problem kids of Waterford. Jesus saw the potential in his people. Edmund saw it in the kids of Waterford. I know it is in you and I would like to think that every student in an Edmund Rice School knows that his/her teachers see the goodness and the potential greatness in them. I hope you can see it in yourself.

There are many other things about Edmund that went to make him great. But today it is his ability to see the greatness and goodness in young people that I celebrate – and invite you to celebrate.

And when you watch Jessica’s return to Sydney on TV, have a close look at the spectators. Somewhere you just might see some ghostly figures on a wharf, in old fashioned clothing, standing, watching and cheering – you will see the one with the little daughter nudge the others.

And if you listen, you might hear him say: ‘I told you – kids can do great things’.

Peter Flint

(This address was delivered at the Edmund Rice Mass celebrated in Hobart to a congregation of students from schools in which Christian Brothers had taught over the past ninety years in Tasmania)

## Edmund Rice Volunteer Scheme Positions

### **The Kabankalan Ministry, The Philippines:**

1. A volunteer to support Diocesan schools set up and maintain a computer- based financial management system. This could be a short or long term placement (3 – 12 months) for someone with spreadsheet, MYOB or Quicken competence and confidence. This role could also be based on a ‘fly in/fly out’ basis, with the volunteer returning home after initially setting up the project and then offering a series of support visits.
2. A young adult volunteer with experience working with other young adults is sought to assist Br John Moody and two Filipina teaching staff deliver an Alternative Learning System programme for young adults who have not been able to access education. Teaching or youth work experience would be very helpful but not essential as the role is primarily about relationship building. The placement will initially be for 11-12 months.
3. Volunteer teachers are required to;
  - a. Support the “Let’s Say it in English” programme that supports Diocesan school teachers teach English.
  - b. Assist curriculum development in Science throughout the Diocese.

### **Comunidade Edmund Rice, Dili & the District of Railaco, Timor Leste:**

1. Pre-school, Primary and Secondary teachers to mentor Timorese teachers.
2. Volunteers with at least two years post-school experiences to assist Timorese teachers teach English, or to support entrepreneurial project such as the women's card making group.
3. Health workers to support a mobile health clinic or to present short- term training.

### **Edmund Rice Family, Murgon/ Cherbourg, Queensland Australia**

In partnership with Murgon YACCA the Murgon ER Ministry requires a youth worker or teacher for an Outreach programme for Indigenous students. This is a programme for students of secondary school age who, for reasons that result from the experience of severe marginalisation, are unable to access mainstream education. (11 months minimum placement)

For further information or queries please contact your Regional Formation Coordinator  
or

Martin Kelly

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Martin Kelly

## **WA's Edmund Rice Lions showcase multicultural talent**

An emerging group of potential AFL stars displayed their new-found skills during a trial game against the Clontarf Football Academy at Lightning Park in Noranda, Western Australia on Monday 3rd May.

The Edmund Rice Lions, which have been formed from multicultural players attending the Edmund Rice Centre, have been training twice a week for the last nine weeks after being introduced to Australian football.

Joe Moniodis from the Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka, which is a charitable organisation supporting new arrivals to Australia as well as Indigenous families, said that Australian football was an amazing medium for promoting young strong community youth leaders.



West Australian Football Commission Multicultural Coordinator Russell Higgins congratulated Clontarf and the Edmund Rice Centre for participating in the inaugural game and thanked everyone involved for their support.

[Full text](#)

## **Positions Vacant**

### ***Christian Brothers Oceania Province - Administrative Support Officer***

The Oceania Province Centre in Nudgee Brisbane is now seeking an enthusiastic Administrative Support Officer. The Administrative Support Officer is part of the Centre's Administrative Team that aids in the facilitation of services to ensure the efficient administration of the business operations of the Centre. In conjunction with this, the position has an assigned focus to provide secretarial and administrative support

to the Director of Networking, Communication & Development (NCD) and the Communication & Development Team.

**For more information on the position refer to the Edmund Rice website: [www.edmundrice.org](http://www.edmundrice.org)**

The successful applicant will preferably have tertiary qualifications with secretarial training, with a minimum of 3 years' experience in a similar role and a current driver's licence.

**Please submit your CV and covering letter to:  
[HR@edmundrice.org](mailto:HR@edmundrice.org) by 5:00pm (AEST) Friday 23 May 2010.**

### *Proof-reading*

The Oceania Province website requires a proof-reader to ensure there are no errors in spelling or grammar on this showpiece of the Province. If you are interested in this position please contact Brother Bob Chambers at the Province Centre ([rbchambers@edmundrice.org](mailto:rbchambers@edmundrice.org)) for details. It would be a much appreciated service to the Website and would ensure its accuracy, reliability and credibility as first point of contact with Oceania Province for its many visitors.

### **Communications Audit**

The Communications, Networking and Development Directorate has engaged Rowland Corporate Communications as consultants to develop a communications resource for the Oceania Province.

The resource will assist us to hone our crisis preparedness, as well as our internal and external communications. The resource will focus on how we can value-add to these areas, with a particular focus on ways of attaining positive media coverage of the Province.

Steve McLaughlin

### **Tasmanian Edmund Rice Network Convention**

Thanks to an energetic group of local Edmund Rice people the first Edmund Rice Convention was held on the weekend (7-8 May) at St Virgil's College, Austin's Ferry. Danny Moore, Regional Coordinator for the Edmund Rice Network, convened the gathering which celebrated the Edmund Rice story since the Brothers arrival in 1911. It was mentioned we are actually in the hundredth year of Edmund Rice activity in Tasmania.

Representatives from most of the Edmund Rice inspired ministries from around the state were able to attend. Vince Duggan and Peter Clinch spoke inspiringly of how we act as Edmund Rice people today. Anne Boyd and Peter Harney facilitated a process around the Munnar Chapter document. Damian Messer, Principal of St Virgil's, the local Brothers and the Edmund Rice Camps personnel were instrumental in providing hospitality. Well done and congratulations to all who contributed to a fantastic celebration of Edmund's charisma.

Shamrock

### **Thoughts from Gerry McGrath**

There was a two part mini-series on ABC television recently called "Burn Up". The story was about the intrigue, machinations and corporate and political corruption that ensures that the oil industry continues to maintain its power and influence over governments and any other organisation that threatens its virulent agenda.

Similar power was manifest with the control over the agenda and outcomes following the Copenhagen conference of last year. Fortunately there are some scientists who are not allowing the bully boys within the International corporations to have it all their own way.

"Meanwhile 255 members of the US National Academy of Scientists, including 11 Nobel Prize Laureates issued the strongest statement since the UN Copenhagen conference last year defending the rigour and objectivity of climate science. They called for an end to "McCarthy-like threats" of criminal prosecution against researchers" (SMH Friday May 7th 2010).

I conclude with what was to me a rather chilling line from "Burn Up" spoken by one of the bully boys.

"What they don't realise is. We sell doubt. That is our product."

Gerry McGrath

## Encounter East Timor



Palms Australia has opened registration for Encounter: Timor-Leste 2010. Palms Encounters are guided short-term cross-cultural experiences available to individuals or groups of up to eight (8) participants. These 10-day cross-cultural experiences are designed to provide an insight into the daily life of people of another culture; an understanding of sustainable approaches to development, including ecological sustainability; and an insight into the life and work of development volunteers.

To find out more information about Palms Australia visit <http://www.palms.org.au/encounter/>

## Health hint

You feel exhausted at the end of the day. Your neck always hurts. You have frequent headaches. You have fibromyalgia. Have you wondered if head posture could be the cause?

Cyril Bosco

[Full text](#)

## Appointment of Oceania Province Development Manager



We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Anthony Ryan as the Oceania Province Development Manager

This position was formerly held by Br Steve McLaughlin prior to his appointment as Director of Networking, Communication and Development

Anthony Ryan has had a long history in working with Christian Brothers. In 1995 he started his teaching career at Nudgee College and three years later took up a new role as the Campus Minister at Gregory Terrace. During his time at Gregory Terrace Anthony, alongside Br Damien Price, established the Eddies Van as well as a social justice and sequential retreat that is now being adopted across many of the Edmund Rice Schools.

In 2004 Anthony accepted a role as the Assistant Principal of St Patrick's College, Shorncliffe. It was here that Anthony continued to explore the importance of integrating justice initiatives across the curriculum. In 2006 he established, alongside Dr Michael Carroll, the Paddies Van program for the marginalized. Both the Eddies Van and the Paddies Van continue to operate on a daily basis.

Over the past five years, Anthony formed the Mimiki Foundation which has quickly become a well respected and recognized charity throughout Queensland. In 2009 Anthony was honored with the Queensland Greats Award for his work with the homeless and the formation of the Mimiki Foundation. In early 2009, Anthony accepted the position as the General Manager of AERgO International and has been responsible for developing a number of aviation operations throughout Australia.

## Oceania Updates

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

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