



From the Philippines

Now that we are living in Maasin City, we have the luxury of being able to receive a newspaper each day. The Philippine Daily Inquirer is a very readable newspaper. Firstly, it is totally in English, and secondly, the journalists portray above average writing skills, and are not afraid to assertively pursue many issues. Of the many stories over the past few weeks, three in particular have stuck in my mind.

Story 1: The United States has apparently agreed to supply the Philippines with \$18 million worth of military aid to fight militant insurgency in the south of the country. There is some suggestion that this 'aid' will be mostly precision-guided missiles similar to what is used by coalition forces in Afghanistan. At least some voices are questioning whether this is a worthwhile use of foreign 'aid', especially when the army will be expected to use these weapons in its own country, in regions where there are significant centres of civilian population. The chances of things going seriously wrong seem to be high.

Frank Perkins

CAST YOUR NET WIDER

www.edmundrice.net

While we fully support the Edmund Rice Global website, advertised above, it seems a pity that articles are being submitted to this and not to our own Oceania website www.edmundrice.org.

Child Protection Week 2010

Child Protection Week runs from 5 September to 11 September. It is coordinated nationally by the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN Incorporated) and, in Queensland, by the Child Protection Week Committee under the auspicing body of ACT for kids.

For details and to download the flyer goto <http://www.edmundrice.org/Child-Protection-Week>



Inter-faith Calendar

September 9	Rosh Hashanah	Jewish
10	Eid al Fitr	Islam
11	Ganesa Chaturthi	Hindu
12	Paryushana	Jain
14	Exultation of the Holy Cross	Christian
18	Yom Kippur	Jewish

Aboriginal leader eyes Maori issues

An Aboriginal leader will visit Christchurch this month to promote racial harmony. Patrick Dodson, one of Australia's most influential Aboriginal leaders, will speak at Rehua Marae and Canterbury University on September 13.



The visit, organised by Community Law Canterbury and the Australian Edmund Rice Foundation, will highlight concerns about the high Maori prison population.

Edmund Rice Centre director Phil Glendenning said Dodson would take his message of reconciliation and racial harmony to New Zealand. 'He is known here (in Australia) as the father of reconciliation,' he said.

Community Law Canterbury manager Paul O'Neill said New Zealand needed to tackle the high Maori prison population. 'In New Zealand, if we don't tidy up our indigenous issues we will not end up with a safer community. The bottom line is we have an issue around the imprisonment of Maori and until we address it, we will not get anywhere,' he said.

Christine O'Brien, a New Zealand Board member of the Edmund Rice Foundation, said Dodson could help raise the profile of Maori issues in New Zealand.

Charlie Gates
The Press Christchurch

Presence – Compassion - Liberation

Each of us belongs to many different organizations and groups. The commitment we have for a particular group depends on our own passion, love and involvement. Do I have passion and energy for the groups or organizations that I am associated with? Some of the groups that I am a member of are because of my ministry or role. Others I choose to be part of. The question I am reflecting with 'what gives me energy and life'? I have been reflecting on some of the groups that I am associated with and questioning whether they are life giving for me.

The Church at times frustrates me. I suppose I am challenged by the way I interpret gospel values and the way others in the Church see them. We see things differently. Diversity is good and healthy. The Church and I need to look beyond self and be open to different interpretations and listen to each other and our World. Not to be closed to different thinking. There is a risk involved. The risk being that I may have to change, to be free and to widen my horizons. The challenge before us is to be the open to dialogue.

There is a tension. We must live in the tension between what are often conflicting pulls on our time and energy – it is not a matter of black and white but living with and in the tension.

How do I live my life with integrity and in right relationship with my God within the structure of the Church? Yes, as a Religious in the charism of Edmund Rice I am challenged by values that I seek to live in my life. The way I live these values will not necessarily be the same as other Brothers but there is a challenge to be open to the Spirit in each of our lives to allow the Spirit to move freely among us.

The challenge before each of us is the freedom to listen to the other, to see the goodness of the other in the struggle of life and to be able to risk. At times I experience difficulties with accepting what I am hearing and seeing. But am I limiting the Spirit? The question that I find myself asking, others may also be asking. Am I allowing the Spirit to be active in our world through a diversity of people and ideas or limiting the vision? Integrity is more than loyalty. It is about inclusivity, respect, taking risks, being peaceful, patience and forgiving.

Chris Meehl

Impressions of Timor Leste

I returned to Brisbane by a circuitous route from Dili to Darwin, off-loaded overnight in Darwin, next day to Alice Springs and then Brisbane (twenty-four hours late). The joys of travel are sometimes quite exaggerated!

Was it worth it? It was worth every bit of the wait and the extra time in the air! I saw country I had not seen before and really enjoyed the stark scenery and the beautiful colours of central Australia.

But it was the time in Timor Leste which made this whole journey so worthwhile.

Today there will be a public holiday in Timor Leste. It is the anniversary of the referendum which proclaimed the independence of this newest of nations – one nation of our five-nation Province of Oceania.

What did I see?



I saw the opening of a new school in Samalete Three – Eskola H. E. L. P. (Hutchinson, Edmund's, Laurence's, Patrick's) – built by students and staff of the four groups in its name. The opening ceremony was a whole village occasion - the ladies dancing; the chieftains beaming; the teachers marshalling the students; the students singing; the parents preparing a celebration dinner; the members of CER all present and rejoicing in yet another significant development in their community of villages. Adrian Creedy (a builder from Ipswich volunteering for six months) and Bill worked with the

team of students and teachers and staff from Hutchinson's along with many local villagers in building the school.



Ted Magee



HELP, Hutchinson's St Edmunds, St Laurences, St Pats did an incredible job, and the new 2 room school is in operation this week.

The Timorese helpers could not believe the energy of the 9 students and 6 teachers, builders in the team. Despite a couple of reasonably major difficulties with the container, the bits arrived, and the school got built, and the desks and chairs for the 80+ students were ready.

The opening ceremony was so joyful, Yr 1's and Yr 11-12's together in dance and song. I even grabbed Lordis for a quick dance in the classroom, good old Portuguese waltz.



Bill Tynan

OLT Meeting

The Oceania Leadership Team held its August meeting in Townsville. This was the second meeting of the OLT out of Brisbane. The team was superbly hosted by the communities of Townsville and Ignatius Park College. Most people were able to live in the community houses and the communities provided the meals for the team members. Townsville itself turned on a warm spell of weather enabling the visitors to enjoy the beauty of morning walks along the Ross River. The OLT is very grateful for the thoughtful and complete hospitality shown by the two communities.

We welcomed back Dean McLaughlin to the meeting after his time on sabbatical in Wicklow and elsewhere.

Topics discussed at the meeting included:

- Consideration of an Acting Director for Networking, Communication and Development to enable Steve McLaughlin time to recover his energy and health.
- Consideration of the responses to the Community Living Allowance paper.
- Planning for the Stewardship Report to the Brothers.
- Receiving a report on the Province Leaders' meeting with the CLT in Rome.
- Determining Cluster Leaders for the next three years.
- Further consideration of a review by Integroe Partners on relationships among the OLT and between the OLT and Directors.
(This is part of the wider review of the implementation of the Oceania structure.)
- Receiving Visitation reports on 26 communities.
- Receiving Reports from the Directors of Ministry and of Formation.
- Consideration of applications for Brothers' Renewal.

Consideration of expressions of interest in the "Living on the Edge" programme.

Joe Lauren for OLT

Oceania Province and Terrace Timor Network Meeting

A meeting between the Oceania Province and Terrace Timor Network (TTN) was held at the Oceania Province Centre on Thursday, 26 August 2010. The attendees included Cathy See, Kate Kelly-Duke, Kaylene Elliot, Dympna Danaher from TTN and Peter Clinch, Gerard Keating and Anthony Ryan from the Oceania Province Centre. Margaret Endicott facilitated the meeting for the day.

The group discussed on various issues such as:

- Their partnership in support of Comunidade Edmund Rice (CER) Timor Leste
- Their vision for 2015
- Current situation
- Their commitments
- Next steps in the development of their partnership

Invaded by democracy

A week is a long time in politics, we are told – and what a week it was. After a negative, largely uninteresting election campaign and its frequent ‘race to the bottom’, the near-deadlocked Federal election outcome has triggered a curious thing. We can all sense the beginnings of – just maybe – a different political dialogue.

Necessity is the mother of invention, we are told. This is historic. We see the election of an indigenous MP, a hung Parliament, four Independents with something like the balance of power in the Reps, and the Greens with this in the Senate. We sense widespread public rejection of spin and of cynical party machinations. Who knows how it will all play out?

It is hard to think there will not be some movement on climate change, for example, or the ethics of political donations, or a revisiting of asylum seeker and other social justice issues. The mainstream media may also find that its standard line of questioning, and personality-driven focus upon PM vs Opposition Leader, does not really cut it during this unusual – but welcome – state of affairs.

One observer on Twitter quipped: “It’s like we got invaded by democracy and were completely unprepared for it.” Many in the not-for-profit community sector are buoyed too, as some of the issues Australia needs to address start to make their way into general discussion. Public conversations matter. They build understanding of human needs, and support for better outcomes for people’s lives and dignity. We need to keep talking about things that truly matter.

The 12 Social Justice Intensives that the Edmund Rice Institute for Social Justice in Fremantle each year provide another way for the public to have conversations about what matters when building decent societies for all. Participants gain invaluable skills and networks along the way. We look forward to your company.

David Freeman
Director
Edmund Rice Institute for Social Justice

Follow ERISJ on www.twitter.com/erisj_au or log on to www.erisj.org.au

The Canterbury Quake

All members of the Edmund Rice Network in New Zealand are fine and homes are intact after the large earthquake and ensuing aftershocks that have rocked the Canterbury region since Saturday morning. The worst damage amongst ER Network groups has been sustained at St Thomas of Canterbury school where a building full of rowing boats collapsed crushing the contents, roughly estimating \$6 million dollars worth in damage. The old Brothers Residence at St Kevin's College in Oamaru, more commonly known as Red Castle, lost a chimney through the roof of one of the bedrooms. Thankfully no one was injured. Full articles on the extent of the Quake can be found through all your usual media sources.

Local students build school in Timor

By [Phil Smith](#) ABC Radio

Nine Brisbane high school students with the help of professional tradesmen and trade teachers have assisted a small Timor community by building a two-room school in the mountains southwest of Dili. For more information, please visit : <http://www.edmundrice.org/My-visit-to-East-Timor>

eConference on 'Jesus the Christ'

One of the world's leading scholars, Jesuit, Reverend Professor Gerald O'Collins will be the key presenter for the 'Jesus the Christ' eConference on Thursday 16 September. This fourth eConference, presented by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and the Broken Bay Institute, is hoped to break records for numbers of participants from across Australia and around the world.

Professor O'Collins has a worldwide reputation as an excellent lecturer, and one who is able to push the boundaries of theological speculation and knowledge. His presentation on Jesus as Fully Human and Truly Divine will tackle key theological questions at the heart of the faith.

Professor O'Collins will be joined by Ms Philomena Billington (Director of Education Sandhurst Diocese), Dr Claire Renkin PhD (Melbourne College of Divinity and Yarra Theological College) and Dr Rev Merrill Kitchen OA (Principal, Churches of Christ Theological College) as they explore Jesus and his mission that we live out today. For more info go to: <http://jesus.vividas.com>

NB. If you are a Mac user, and have Safari as your browser, it does not work with vividas.com You need to download Firefox and vividas and Firefox are compatible.

Heartbeats

*There is no August issue of 'Heartbeats'. Next issue will be this month.
August issue of 'Newsletter to the Brothers' (No.7) will be arriving soon.*

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.

