



Death of Brother Gerry Burke



It is with a very sad heart that I write to tell you of the death of our loved brother, Peter Gerald Burke.

Gerry passed away shortly after 4.00pm on Monday 1 November at Prince Charles Hospital, Brisbane.

His life slipped away in the presence of his mother, sisters and brothers as well as Vince Skelly and Bob Wallace.

The Medical team spoke with his family and our brothers and assured them that all tests showed that Gerry's heart was irrevocably damaged from the heart attack of last week.

Soon after he was taken off life-support Gerry died peacefully.

For us the suddenness of Gerry's departure is hard to bear. God moves in ways that are not ours. We are sad but we rejoice in the life of a man we knew as brother and a man who was a friend to all with whom he came in contact. He had the ability to put all at their ease and to treat each person as singularly important.

His scholarship, particularly in languages, was renowned.

He did not flout conventions but he certainly was not constricted by them.

He knew how to fly free.

And he knew how to allow others to be free.

His life was an extraordinary gift to all and one that became more and more evident in the time he spent with the young men of St Leo's.

Gerry's relaxed, carefree spirit will be with all who knew him.

Ted Magee

Oceania Forum (27-29 October 2010)



Cluster Leaders, Directors and Oceania Leadership Team members gathered at Riverglenn for three days last week for the second of this year's Forums. The first two days were facilitated by Pam Searle and was spent in processing the feedback from 318 people on the implementation of the new structure of the Oceania Province. Participants at the Forum were impressed with the collation (52 pages) of the data into themes by Pam. Pam led the Forum in a process to identify further themes and issues and then areas for action. A more

detailed report on this part of the Forum and the actions proposed as a result of the consultation will be distributed later this month.

On the third day of the Forum the group was asked to review and suggest modifications to the elements behind the new system of working out the Community Living Allocation in Australia and New Zealand. The modified document has been sent to Support and Administration Services to check on the practicability of each of the elements and then will be distributed to communities.

Also on the third day:

- The Cluster Leaders were commissioned from the Province for this next three years.
- Some issues affecting Cluster Leaders were discussed.
- Theresa Johnson from the International Spirituality Team addressed the group on the role of the Team.
- Ted Magee explained the LOTE programme.
- Max Montisci, Mary Murphy and Peter Clinch gave updates on their respective Directorates.
- The Forum was evaluated and suggestions taken for future Forums.

The next Forum will be in Sydney, at Kensington, on 11-13 May 2011.

Joe Lauren

Strategic Planning for Oceania Ministries

Have you ever been to a meeting where everyone talks at once? It is usually chaotic, confusing, and unproductive; not much gets done and people leave the meeting frustrated and angry. Recently I attended a meeting of people involved in the management of Ministries across the Oceania Province where we were encouraged and even enabled to all speak at once – and it was very productive and people left feeling that they had made significant contributions that had been heard and evaluated by the group. How did this happen?

We were led by our facilitator, Jim Willcox, into the use of individual wireless keyboards that fed information directly into a single laptop. This enabled the inputs from participants to be displayed as they were typed on a large screen for all to see, unfiltered by anyone, and able to be assessed by the group. All contributions were anonymous. This technology enabled up to fifty or more responses to key questions to be garnered over a very short period of time. Once displayed on the screen, common themes, concerns, and suggestions could easily be identified.

The results of this key meeting to set a strategic plan will be analysed and put together by the Director of Ministries for the Province, Peter Clinch cfc, and the facilitator, Jim Willcox, for further comment by the participants and further refinement. The outcome will be a clearer vision and strategy around the people we serve, our ability to change and improve, our organisational processes, and the management of our finite resources.



Clockwise: Jim Willcox, Elaine Kan, Peter Clinch cfc, Sam Drumm, Laurie Collins cfc, Julieanne Manson, Bev Patterson, Mark McGlaughlin, Pauline Meemeduma, Bernie Gartland cfc, Gerard Keating

This was the first time that this group had all met together – from Adelaide, Auckland, Brisbane, Broome, Melbourne, Perth, and Sydney. It is hoped that further meetings can be held via technology that will enable us to reduce the need to travel to the one place each time we need to talk with each other. However, for this first meeting it was important to actually meet each other face to face and spend some quality time understanding the role that each one has to play in the very complex area of ministry across the Oceania Province.

Shane J. Wood cfc

From the Broken Bay Institute



In a **letter** dated 4 October, Broken Bay Institute Director Dr Gerard Goldman wrote:

It is with much pleasure that I send you a **flyer** for our January 2011 intensive to be offered by two eminent professors from Catholic Theological Union Chicago. Both Anthony Gittins and Dianne Bergant are well known to those of you who have had the privilege of studying at CTU.

After the intensive, Anthony Gittins will work in New Zealand till February 5. He then returns to Australia and is available, up till his departure on February 17, should any of you wish him to work with you on mission, culture or associated missiological areas. He also has the 24 and/or 25 January available. Please contact him direct if you wish to engage him during that time. His email address is anthonygittins@aol.com

Access full text of letter [here](#) and flyer and registration form [here](#)

Inter-faith Calendar

November	5	Diwali	Hindu, Jain, Sikh
	12	Birth of Baha'u'llah	Baha'i
	15	Waqf al Arafa – Hajj	Islam
		Nativity Fast through December 24	Orthodox Christian
	16	Eid al Adha	Islam

CAST YOUR NET WIDER

www.edmundrice.net

Edmund Rice Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Service

The new, and (yet to be named!) refugee and asylum seeker support service, is a platform to mobilise the Edmund Rice Network and wider community, particularly young people, through a relationship-based support settlement service. It has received strong support and interest from a diverse group of volunteers across Sydney, many attending the recent information session and yesterday's training and preparation evening. At this stage, we have one volunteer already engaged with working with the Sudanese women at the St. Bakhita Centre, with much more in progress.

This service is the natural evolution of a long history of involvement in justice and support for Australia's newest arrivals throughout the Edmund Rice Network. The basis of the Edmund Rice vision and direction

is in the engagement with people at the margins, to challenge injustice, providing dignity for the poor, and as voice of advocacy for change.

The Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education, from where the project will be based, has long been engaged in this arena. This has been played out on many levels, through advocacy (*Deported to Danger* reports, *A Well-Founded Fear* documentary, media releases and statements etc), community education (involvement in school and community forums and presentations, research projects and publications such as *Debunking the Myths on Asylum Seekers*) and settlement support (furniture delivery in partnership with the House of Welcome, support for associated organisations, and individual case work and support where necessary).

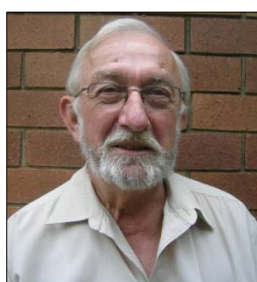
The push for a formalised refugee and asylum seeker support service arose from the Centre's Br. Steve Cram in late 2008, who has been collecting and redistributing furniture for asylum seekers for many years. Up until now, he's been largely doing this heavy work by himself, in partnership with the House of Welcome and others, yet as the demand (and his age!) increases, the need for a wider support network has also become more pressing. This set in motion the process of research and networking with existing service providers, to develop a support base and network for open engagement.

In Australia, there remain massive gaps in direct practical support, as well as real, human support and compassion. In the context of the (long overdue) political changes calling for the release of vulnerable children and families from detention, these gaps will become more pronounced, and increasingly essential.

The purpose of the support service is based on the concept of justice, rather than charity. Of working with, rather than speaking for; to learn, before you give; seek questions, before offering answers; and where the strength and 'success' is based on what is heard, learnt and gained. Recognising that while specific needs may vary, the basics remain, and the importance of real, human understanding is universal. It is this simple, and this necessary.

Grace Maguire

Ted Magee re-appointed to Cluster B



On Tuesday 19 October the OLT invited Ted Magee, Ian Robertson and Anne Pinzon to join them in prayer and for a dinner to celebrate and commission Ted Magee as Leader of Qld/NT/East Timor Cluster B. Ted, having just finished three years as Cluster Leader, graciously accepted another 3 year appointment.

Ted brings much energy, compassion and presence to the role and will continue to bring much creative and challenging leadership to the brothers and the other members and groups within the ERN. The prayer/ritual involved the presentation of

Ted with a candle and a blessing sung by Jan Novotka. We pray that Ted will enjoy good health and a deep sense of the Spirit moving in him and among those he serves.

Peter Harney

Further appointments



Effective from 1 February 2011 Brother Chris Peel has been appointed to Sydney Cathedral community which is part of NSW/ACT Cluster B. In 2011 he will succeed Brother Dave Standen as Principal of St Mary's Cathedral College, Sydney.

Giinagay Everyone

As we have reached the 3rd birthday of the Oceania Province, I am collate information to track 'Our Cultural Connections'.

To do this I would appreciate a brief outline of your Indigenous programs listing all the Brothers, ERN members and the Indigenous community involved, the length of the program or project, as well as, noting any and challenges.

This information will be presented to the Director of Ministries Br Peter Clinch for further discussions with both the Indigenous Ministries consultants as well for future planning and development of Indigenous Ministries programs within the Oceania Province.

It is hoped that in late 2011, the Indigenous Ministries consultants can coordinate a number of small Indigenous Ministries gatherings in different parts of the Province; followed by an Oceania Province Indigenous Ministries Gathering planned for 2012.

I would greatly appreciate your responses by Friday 12th November via my email at jmanson@edmundrice.org

Ngiina Nyaagu

Kind regards



working to
or projects,
members
successes

Julieanne Manson
Indigenous Ministries Consultant
Christian Brothers Oceania

Edmund Rice Camps celebrates 20 years in style

Laughter and dancing were plentiful as children's charity, Edmund Rice Camps, marked their twenty year anniversary with a stylish bash on the night of Friday 22 October. Held in the Adelaide Oval Pavilion, every guest walked up the red carpet to the snapping of the charity's own paparazzi.



Read [more](#)

Mount Henry Conservation Project



Here is the latest newsletter from the conservation group at Aquinas College, Perth. Jan King, formerly on the staff of the school and thousands of generous volunteers over many years have worked on preserving the local ecosystem (which consists of 4 acres of heath-woodland on a ridge called Mt Henry, in the school grounds).

It shows what one woman and a school serious about conservation can do.

Moy Hitchen

Read [more](#)



CHRISTIAN BROTHERS OCEANIA PROVINCE

Support Officer – Brothers Welfare (WA/SA)

- Based in Perth
- Salary Negotiable
- Part-Time Position (4.5. hours per day – Monday to Friday)
-

The Christian Brothers, operating in 26 countries worldwide, continues the vision of their founder, Edmund Rice, to foster awareness of human dignity with special focus on social and eco justice particularly to those marginalised by society. The Christian Brothers Oceania Province comprises communities and ministries in Australia, the Cook Islands, East Timor, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines. The Christian Brothers are currently looking for an enthusiastic Support Officer – Brothers Welfare to join their team of professionals at the Westcourt Support Centre office in Perth.

The Support Officer will aid in the facilitation of services to deliver efficient administrative and secretarial support for the Manager – Brothers Welfare and Property Management (South Region) and other team members at the support centre, with an assigned focus on the welfare of the Christian Brothers in the region.

For more information on the position refer to the Edmund Rice website: www.edmundrice.org

The successful applicant will preferably have tertiary qualifications with secretarial training, with a minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar role and a current driver's licence.

If interested please submit your CV and covering letter to: Mr Vince Sinagra vsinagra@edmundrice.org by 5:00 p.m. (AWST) Monday 8 November 2010

SOUL FOOD from *PATRICK OLIVER*



CD: *Soulspace*

This series of talks was presented in September 2010, at a Reflection Day sponsored by the Caloundra Spirituality Support Group. Its focus was the care of the soul, and how this soul care invites prayerfulness and presence to all that is.

Patrick enlarges on some Gospel stories, in order to provide a portal through which we can drop into an awareness of the God who is Presence itself. He takes us through re-looking at how failure and brokenness can be invitations into an eternal relationship with Love.

Talk 1 *The Soul of God*

Talk 2 *Sitting by the Well Wall*

Talk 3 *Passages into Eternity*

116 mins. 2 CD set \$15 plus \$6 postage and packaging

For information on Patrick's retreats and workshops, visit his website: www.patrickoliver.net.au

Elders gather at Kincumber



Back: Tony White, Max McAppion, John Carrigg, Barry Louisson, Bill Finegan, Vince Connors, Stan Cusack, John Tyrrell, Mel Couch, Brian Hamilton, Don Murray, Brian Jeffers

Front: Ray O'Donohoe, Jim Gorman, Patrick White, Myron Byrne, Lex Hall, Matt McKeon, De Porres McRae

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.