



No Seed Ever Sees the Flower (Zen)

The Province of Oceania has been re-designing and re-shaping itself over four and a half years. The image that captures for me what has happened and is happening is that of a newly established community-garden. As I ponder our emerging province story, that initially involved mixing, planting, watering, weeding and composting, I am struck by the growing sense of partnership among the diverse groups that make up the Province. We combined the soils of 5 very different gardens each with its own special character and then brought in some new well-processed and structured soil and added it to the mix. The first seeds planted were 'the vision statements' of the Congregation Chapters; some of these seeds took root immediately while others never saw the light of day.



The new buds that sprang forth include gatherings of brothers around age and religious life of the future. Others are the biannual 'Forums' of OLT, Directors and Cluster Leaders, the formative experiences offered at The Archer, Glenburn, Amberley and Mulgoa, the Memoranda of Understanding between the governing bodies of Edmund Rice Camps and the Province, the setting up of Edmund Rice Foundation Australia (ERFA) to raise funds to support present and future ministries, the 'growth' of the Network and the fostering of LotE (Living on the Edge), the outreach of St Albans and Murgon, the work of formators and ministry leaders, the advocacy of the Edmund Rice Centre (Sydney) and NZ, the work of CREAT and the generosity of many volunteers. New energy and direction are now being experienced through Callan Services (PNG), CER in Timor Leste and in the re-vamped projects at Maasin and Kabankalan (the Philippines). A revised Community Living Allowance (CLA) for brothers is being introduced in 2012, EREA is close to being established as a PJP and our administration, records, archives and finance are being refined. To celebrate the 250th year since the birth of Edmund Rice and the 100th year since the death of Ambrose Treacy, the Province in conjunction with EREA is publishing Regis Hickey's new book on the life of Ambrose Treacy. This litany of gifts and blessings shows that the rich soil that was sifted, fertilized and mixed in 2007 is giving birth to some healthy trees bearing some good fruit.



We know from our understanding of the 'new story', the ways in which the universe unfolds naturally enabling the interconnection of all life. So smaller communities form and link within larger communities and by their very nature self-organize, self-renew, self-educate and self-generate if the conditions for growth and new life are right. It is the work of leadership to ensure the structural 'design' of the organization brings the various communities and individuals into alignment so that strong, positive relationships are fostered. These relationships are not just around communities of like-minded people who share a similar vision for our earth community but also around groups with a real passion for justice, rights and a sense of being in mission. Our whole Oceania network of communities is for mission, leading to action for justice that is grounded in the heart's appreciation of the Mystery unfolding in the emerging consciousness of the universe, attentively attuned to the cry of the poor and the fragile earth.

We are learning we must work in friendship and partnership with others who are discovering that there is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about. We name ourselves *Edmund Rice Network*, people discovering the new in the midst of the breakdown of the old, making our path by walking it. We choose not to deny or flee from this time of crisis and critical decision making. Instead, we work in partnership with people and communities who are moving courageously into the future now, experimenting locally to discover solutions to problems that overwhelm and paralyse so many others.

My decision to join the Edmund Rice International Team in Geneva (March 2012) is grounded in a passion for mission that is alive and active. The role of ERI is advocacy and training at the international and local level striving to release the potential of every child or young person. In our world children are often beaten, abused, raped, exploited, tortured and traumatised. Children are at risk because of poverty, discrimination, lack of access to education and war. We can seek to make reparation for the past but more importantly we now strive to ensure that the present and future generations are given the opportunity to live decent and healthy lives within a loving, nurturing heart-centred community.

The ERI website says... *'In a statement to the Human Rights Council on the occasion of the formal adoption of the UPR (Universal Periodic Review) Report for PNG, Edmund Rice International commended the government on its decision to ratify the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and on its commitment to create a data-base for persons with disabilities to inform planning and policy development. Both of these recommendations were among those made in the ERI submission which was put forward by Australia, Mexico and Slovenia on behalf of ERI.'* ERI is making a difference by bringing moral pressure to bear on those who have the power to change unjust systems.

Another story comes from Durgesh Kumar Atwal, a student at St John's Christian Brothers College in Chandigarh, India who writes: *'a couple of days ago, about 400 children gathered at the Central Plaza of sector 17 Chandigarh for an unusual activity. It was one that I wouldn't normally associate with traditional schooling. Fancy us children taking to the streets demanding our Right to Education and that to Health! Imagine our feeble voices opposing governments for the misuse of funds dedicated to the same! The immediate reason for our rally was the fact that 100 million rupees that had been initially devoted to the Education budgets are now being used to felicitate the Indian Cricket team. We feel that such a move is unethical.'* This gathering was organized by children belonging to the **NINEISMINE** campaign which is facilitated by Br Steve Rocha, the Indian Province's ERI contact person.



I am looking forward to being part of a team that is working to bring the stories of injustice to the UN Human Rights Council from our multiple ministry sites in every country where the Edmund Rice Seed has been planted and taken root. It will be a privilege to work with those who on a daily basis immerse their lives in the lives of those who are excluded from sharing in the gifts that our generous earth freely offers to all.

Although the seed never sees the flower, the flower knows that in its heart lies the life-energy of the seed. Every flower begins from a seed that is prepared to give life through dying to itself. ERI will bloom if it is fed by the energetic self-sacrificing seeds planted in each country in which the Edmund Charism has taken root.

Peter Harney for OLT

Tribute to Mary Murphy - OCEANIA

You would have been informed recently of Mary Murphy's resignation from the position of Director of Formation for the Province. Mary has spent close to thirty years as a member of the Edmund Rice Network whether in schools at St. James, St. Patrick's and Nudgee College or in ERED in St Francis Xavier Province or in her present role within the Oceania Province. Mary's gift has been; to articulate in everyday terms the directions that come from Chapters; to creatively express the vision that is now; to gently lead all in paths which we might not wish to follow; and at all times to be that compassionate, understanding companion on the journey. Her gentle leadership, her integrity and her unashamed love for the brothers will be sadly missed.



Mary goes with our gratitude, our support and our indebtedness for the person she has been for us and for the wisdom figure she has been in all situations and circumstances. May the God who is Mystery and All Consciousness love, guard and protect her in the journey on which she now embarks. May Mary know that all Christian Brothers hold her fondly in loving hearts.

Ted Magee

Advocacy and Justice Workshop - OCEANIA



Clockwise: Gerard Keating, Sean McManus, Mark McGlaughlin Sam Drumm, Jim D'Arcy, Danny Moore, Peter Clinch, Donna Mulhearn, Gerard Brady



Donna Mulhearn with Gerard Brady



Clockwise: Shane Wood, Peter Hay, Martin McCarthy, Richard Mavros, Julianne Manson, Lawrie Collins, Bernie Gartland, Donna Mulhearn, Mary Murphy

On October 24 and 25, the Province Directors of Formation-Mary Murphy, Ministry- Peter Clinch and Networking/Communication-Bernie Gartland met with the Regional Coordinators of Ministry and Formation. Another person, already working for the province from each region, was invited to attend and to take on the role of Justice Contact Person that now includes 'Advocacy'

The meeting was called by Peter Clinch who as Ministry Director was responding to the Oceania Chapter's direction '*that priority be given to the promotion of an awareness of structural injustice and an understanding of the place of advocacy as a dimension of all our ministries.*' The gathering was chaired by Shane Wood who, after returning from Geneva, has been appointed Justice and Advocacy Coordinator for Oceania and hosted by Phil Glendenning from the Sydney Edmund Rice Centre for Justice.

A discussion paper was prepared by Mary Murphy and Shane Wood that looked at how the Community Development and Human Rights approaches were both needed to frame where ministry needed to focus processes and outcomes. The two days were then given over to examine what 'advocacy' means and how to incorporate this dimension into all ministries and to strategically link in with the Edmund Rice Centre as the focus for Advocacy in Oceania as well as working at the UN level with Edmund Rice International. Some of the issues and topics covered included:

- Catholic Social Teaching
- UN processes
- UN Periodic Review
- Human Rights Council
- How to Advocate
- Edmund Rice International
- Dealing with Media

The hope of the meeting was that across Oceania Province and the ER Network, people in our communities and ministries would be invited to see beyond their own good work and ministries to a bigger picture of prophetic visioning. Advocacy is not creating more work but working in a different way with an added dimension of awareness of how issues are related and how we can work more strategically and effectively to address the causes of injustice and suffering . Maybe this is what the 2002 Chapter called 'the Prophetic Call to a Quest for Justice.'

Jim D'Arcy

News from Edmund Rice Foundation - AUSTRALIA

The 500 Supporters' Group Spring Racing Luncheon

Congratulations to Patrick O'Brien (Chair, 500 Supporters' Group) members of the 500 Supporters' Group committee and to the Group's many friends and supporters on a most successful Spring Carnival Racing Luncheon held Tuesday, 25 October, in the Olympic Room at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Close to 400 people attended a most successful function in support of health, education and development projects in some of the most impoverished parts of East Africa, particularly the Ruben Centre in Nairobi, Kenya. Br Frank O'Shea, Director of Ruben Centre, joined the gathering via Skype and was interviewed by Madeleine O'Brien about the latest developments at Ruben. Frank thanked all for their ongoing support, without which Ruben's services would be severely limited.

The Edmund Rice Foundation is again deeply indebted to Master of Ceremonies, Leon Wiegard OAM, who has generously hosted these functions for many years. The Foundation is very grateful to Guests of Honour, Colin Madden (part-owner of champion Australian thoroughbred mare, *Black Caviar*), Michael Burn (Chairman, VRC) and former Australian jockeys Pat Hyland, Simon Marshall and John Letts. The Foundation is also grateful to the VRC for making the 1965 and 2011 Melbourne Cups available for display. For more information about the 500 Supporters' Group click [HERE](#). A reporter and photographer from Kairos Catholic Journal were also in attendance. To access their coverage click [HERE](#)



Pictured: MC Leon Wiegard with Pat Hyland & Simon Marshall and the 2011 Melbourne Cup

St Patrick's College, Launceston - Lap it Up & East Africa Day

Congratulations to the extended St Patrick's College community for another very successful *Lap it Up* and *East Africa Day*. These annual events raise funds for East Africa and in particular St Patrick's sister school, Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School in Tanzania. In addition to fundraising, these activities aim to raise awareness and engage the College community in practical action to assist people in need and to continue to build a culture of sensitivity, justice and generosity. The *Lap it Up* challenge involves 24 hours of swimming, riding and running. This year's challenge saw the largest ever parent contingent join their sons and daughters and staff to enjoy the experience together. New records were set for total distances covered: swim – 188km; ride – 2502km; run/walk – 3322km. This is a powerful community event providing experience in making a difference through collective effort and commitment based on principles of peace and justice. Year 12s take responsibility for *Lap it Up*, which provides experience of the patience, persistence, personal contact, planning and committee work involved in organising and managing a large event and co-ordinating the 41 local Launceston businesses who this year provided support through sponsorship or the donation of goods and services.

Everybody Hour, an important part of *Lap it Up*, provides an opportunity to learn more about life in Africa, and particularly about the impact that funds raised will have for communities in East Africa and especially for Edmund Rice Sinon School. Guest speaker at this year's *Everybody Hour* was old collegian, Sean McManus, who gave examples of the power of education to transform lives in Africa.



Robert Stone (Foundation Office)

Brother Tony Whelan awarded Fellow of ACEL - OCEANIA

Congratulations once again to our Brother Tony Whelan, who was recently installed as a Fellow at the annual conference of ACEL (Australian Council for Educational Leaders) held in Adelaide. Tony, who's been resident at Chatswood for many years, is - as many will know - getting 'closer' to retirement after a lifetime dedicated to Catholic education.



Tony has been Director of the Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Broken Bay for the last 12 years and anticipates that he will be handing over at some stage in the early part of 2012. Among other things, during the 1980s, Tony was the founding Regional Director of Southern Region in Sydney. For 14 years, he was also a member of the Provincial Council in NSW-ACT. He was Chairman of the Catholic Commission for Employment Relations from 1997-2001 and for some years was also a member of the Catholic Education Commission of NSW.

He received an AM in 2008 for, as the citation says, 'service to education through a range of executive and teaching roles in the Catholic education sector, to the promotion of social justice, and to professional standards development'. Warm congratulations from us all on this latest recognition of Tony's lifelong contribution to the work of the church.

The accompanying photo shows Tony receiving his Fellowship Award (FACEL) from Mr Jim Watterston, the National President of ACEL last month.

Patrick White

New Street Revisited Celebrates 10th Birthday – OCEANIA



Br Ian Robertson, Mary Murphy and Denis McLaughlin (Members of the 1st *New Street Revisited* Program Team) cut the cake to celebrate the 10th birthday with this year's program participants

New Street Revisited is a formation opportunity for staff members from Oceania Province and Edmund Rice schools to spend some time exploring the Edmund story and their own story in the context of our *call to mission*.

This program commenced in 2002, as a response to the need to form leaders in the former St Francis Xavier Province, in their understanding of the Charism of Edmund Rice and provide them with some time for personal and spiritual growth. Ann Isaac and Mary Murphy formed a program team with Br Ian Robertson and Fr John Gillen and brought the first group to a cold Tuckekoi Campsite in August 2002. This team were supported by the wonderful scholarship and presentation style of Denis McLaughlin. Denis at this time had been commissioned to research the life of Edmund Rice. This research has been shared at these programs since and has also resulted in his book *'The Price of Freedom'*.

Since those humble beginnings in 2002, the *New Street Revisited* program was followed by *Mt Zion Revisited* one year later, when participants returned to further nurture their understanding. This second phase explores the Edmund Mission in the context of the Jesus story.

The 10th Birthday marks a significant milestone in the development of this formation opportunity. Over 120 people have been able to spend some time deepening their understanding of the foundational story and the meaning of *Presence, Compassion* and *Liberation* in their own context of the Edmund Rice mission today. It has served, and continues to serve, the development of leaders in our schools and ministries who have a real depth of understanding of their own spiritual journey and Edmund's charism.

The fact that the vast majority of our Queensland EREA schools' leadership team members have completed this program during the last 10 years, means there is a significant group of people who have a more complete understanding of our founding story and can be advocates to ensure we do not lose sight of this mission today.

While this formation opportunity is being sought by people in our Edmund Rice schools and ministries, the Oceania Province Regional Formation team in Queensland will continue to bring a team together, with Denis McLaughlin, to make this possible.

If you would like to know more or would be interested in being in the 11th group beginning *New Street Revisited* from 11-14 August 2012 please don't hesitate to contact me by email gikeating@edmundrice.org

Gerard Keating



Gerard pleading with some of this year's group to stop playing with the ninja stars!



Some of the 10th New Street Revisited group in 2011 wait to share their action plan commitment as part of the closing ritual.

From the Left; Julieanne Daunt and Paul Begg (Nudgee College); David Seng (St Brendan's); Alyssa Deer (Ignatius Park College); Tony McCulkin (St James); Paul Easton (St Edmund's) and Luke Quinn ready to present the certificate.

Regional Ministry Coordinator appointed - NSW / ACT



Due to Bernie Gartland's acceptance of the Directorship for Networking and Communication, Gerard Brady has agreed to be appointed to Regional Ministry Coordinator in NSW/ACT. I thank Gerard for his generosity in accepting this responsibility, as he will continue as Regional Formation Coordinator as well. Gerard's commitment to the Mission of Oceania, his relational skills and organization capacity will hold him in good stead to manage the two roles.

Bernie has show extraordinary energy and commitment to the ministries of NSW. He is known for his patience and generosity in meeting the needs of ministry leaders and attentively listening to people. Bernie's knowledge of Sydney and environs and his deep wisdom are acknowledged. We wish him well as he prepares for his move to Brisbane.

Gerard takes responsibility of the NSW Regional Ministry Coordination as of 1 December 2011.

Peter Clinch
Director of Ministries

See Change – a Must do opportunity – OCEANIA



I am alerting you to this exciting program being offered at Mulgoa in mid-December.

I thought it would be a great chance for any Brothers and other members of the Edmund Rice Network wishing to avail of these 3 engaging and professional presenters to participate.

The advantage of the program is that it is open to people to join in the whole program, 11 – 17 December or participate in one to three of the presentations offered by Anne Boyd, Brigidine sister, Mark O'Loughlin, our own Christian Brother and Maryanne Confoy, Theology Professor and Charity Sister.

I recommend each highly and promise their presentations will be stimulating and challenging.

Perhaps this may be an opportunity to rekindle the tradition we had of the Advent Day of Recollection.

If you have any questions, you might address them to:

Br. Gerry Brady
Tel: 02 9810 3922
Mob: 0403 742946

OR

Br Paul McGlade
Tel: 02 62396300
Mob: 0409522825
E-mail: KPMcGlade@edmundrice.org



Gerard Brady

For more details of the program and profiles of the presenters visit the website [here](#)

Elders gather at Kincumber - OCEANIA



Shared wisdom – Patrick White, Mick Bible, Paul McGlade

As part of the experience here at Kincumber, we went to Eucharist in the nearby Kincumber Parish Church.

Being All Saints, the primary school attended with the usual congregation. All the Elders agreed that it was a most uplifting experience. We felt that our children were in safe hands.

We have had the benefit of the CREAT team here for two days. What a blessing the Team is! Luke was unable to be with us, because of the QANTAS affair, but Terry and Cyril carried on with their usual sensitivity and brotherly challenge. As you recall, the CREAT Team was generated from Munnar - and indeed, it has "done a new thing". Congratulations and again thanks to the Team for their care of us.

Patrick White

Positions Vacant - OCEANIA

Edmund Rice Camps Brisbane - Program Support Officer



Edmund Rice Camps – Brisbane is seeking an experienced Program Support Officer with enthusiasm to make a meaningful contribution to the lives of young people experiencing disadvantage. You will be part of an energetic team in a fun and dynamic office environment that places highest priority on the people we work with, especially the many young adult volunteers that make our programs happen.

Edmund Rice Camps - Brisbane is a charitable organisation that provides a variety of services and programs to support the development of young people in need. Edmund Rice Camps have operated in Queensland since 1991 and are one of several Edmund Rice Camps entities organised by the Christian Brothers ministries throughout the Oceania Province. For information about Edmund Rice Camps - Brisbane please visit the website: www.ercqld.org

Duties will include administrative tasks to assist with the planning, logistical preparation and coordination of services for Edmund Rice Camps to ensure the high quality of service for programs, activity days, camps and other recreational experiences for young people. In addition, the Program Support Officer will assist with basic bookkeeping, grant applications and fund raising initiatives.

The position is part-time (FTE 0.5) and for a term of twelve (12) months commencing in November 2011. For more information on the position and selection criteria refer: www.edmundrice.org

If you are interested in the position please submit your CV and covering letter addressed to:

The Program Coordinator – Edmund Rice Camps - Brisbane at hr@edmundrice.org or mail to P.O. Box 923 Indooroopilly, Qld, 4068

Applications close 5:00pm (AEST) Monday, 7 November 2011

For complete details including selection criteria visit the website [here](#)

State Youth Membership and Development Co-ordinator - QLD



The St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland has an exciting opportunity for a passionate and dedicated person with experience in project management to fill the new Youth Membership and Development Co-ordinator role.

This new position will involve:

- implementation, formation and ongoing support of youth programs and young adult Conferences.
- canvassing, planning and implementation of new programs and Youth Ministry initiatives.
- developing, facilitating and implementing training packages.
- creating resources and promotional material to support engagement strategies and programs
- working in conjunction with other Youth staff throughout the state

The successful candidate will work across a diverse range of project areas including formation, training, policy and resource development. They must address the selection criteria *in writing*, and have proven experience working with young people and possess an affinity with the ethos and mission of the Society.

A competitive base salary plus super and a car will be provided for the successful applicant. All applicants must have a current driving license and be eligible for a Blue Card.

For further information contact St Vincent de Paul Society's HR Department on hr@svdpqld.org.au or view job description and selection criteria on the Vinnies Qld website <http://www.vinnies.org.au/employment-national> Applications are to be submitted to hr@svdpqld.org.au by COB Friday 11 November 2011.

Invitation to Timorese Children's Book Launch – OCEANIA

You're invited to enter the world of Timorese children through their story:

East Timor – From Little Things Big Things Grow – The story of a Timorese primary school



MELBOURNE LAUNCH

Thursday 8 December 2011
6:00pm –7:30pm
The Red Butterfly Café
669 Sydney Road, Brunswick

BRISBANE LAUNCH

Friday 9 December 2011
6:00pm –7:30pm
Avid Reader Bookshop
193 Boundary Road, West End

With special guest, Edita de Jesus, one of the children involved in the creation of the book!

The book tells the story of the Edmund Rice primary school in Deleco, Timor Leste. The children of the school have beautifully illustrated the book together with local Timorese artists and the story is in both English and Tetun.

All proceeds from sales of the book go to the Edmund Rice primary school and help to distribute the book throughout Timor

For more information see www.littleeasttimor.com.au

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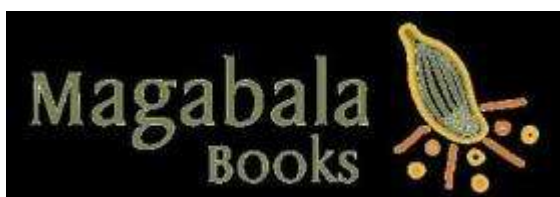
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Inter-faith Calendar - WORLD

Visit the Inter-Faith Calendar [here](#)



Sincere sympathy to the CBC St Kilda community and to all affected by the recent tragedy

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.

CAST YOUR NET WIDER

www.edmundrice.net