



In this issue we acknowledge the various individuals and groups inspired by Edmund Rice to be VOICES OF COMPASSION for others.

*"I couldn't walk
so I just crawled
until the age that
or pain;
I could hop on
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hopped for 13
years."*

K'chin

Vietnamese Student Gets Top Award

St James College, Brisbane



A Vietnamese man who was brought to Australia for life-saving surgery as a boy has been awarded Queensland's international student of the year.

K'Chin survived for the first 13 years of his life in a remote Vietnamese village near Da Lat by crawling and hopping after breaking his leg as a newborn. The leg was never set properly and in 2002, K'Chin was brought to Australia by the Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children.

Rotary gave him an education and life-changing surgery. K'Chin, now 20, says the pain was unbearable. "I couldn't walk so I just crawled until the age that I could hop on one leg, so I hopped for 13 years," he said. K'Chin had never been to school and did not speak English.

Eight years later, K'Chin has been awarded the Queensland Education and Training international student of the year. K'Chin thought he would never have the opportunity to learn.

"I think that education and being educated is the most important part of our life," he said. K'chin was made school captain of St James this year 2011.

He wishes all children could be so lucky.

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“An Edmund Rice School has given me a future...”



“People who use war as the only way to success and power have no understanding of democracy... about people’s feelings or pain”

Child Soldier Finds New Home

St Patrick’s College, Shorncliffe

My name is Mathew Makot. I was born in Sudan, and came to Australia as one of many refugees with the assistance of the UNHCR.

When I was nine years old, children and old people were forced into the army as soldiers. My father was conscripted into the army and served in the civil war for more than twenty years. He was killed in 2001, then I was forced into the army at the age of nine. We had to walk very far all day and night; we slept in the bush just for maybe one hour because you would worry about enemies and we had to keep walking. We finally got to the army base and we trained to be soldiers.



I could speak different languages and drive so I was promoted to captain when I was ten years old. I had to patrol around our camp and the village at night. I had soldiers guarding me and my role was to help to drive ordinary people and small kids out of war to put them in a safe place. I would also drive the soldiers to war to fight. Many people were killed and tortured. The huts were burned by the enemy. I was nearly killed when I was shot and stabbed but I was lucky and went to hospital. Many people in my country suffered enormous pain because so many little children, even babies, were tortured. It is hard to forget their pain.

I have been here now for four years and there are so many differences between Sudan and Australia. Australia has democracy, no wars, no insecurities, no corruption and no political struggles which involve armies and killing innocent citizens.

In many ways you could say I am not a typical Edmund Rice boy, but in other ways I think I am exactly the type of young person Edmund Rice wanted to help. Being a student at Edmund Rice School has given me a chance to have a good life.

Being a student at Edmund Rice has prepared me to be able to grow as person to be able to manage to do something and make a difference .

(Matthew Makot, Student- St Patrick’s College)

Further information on child soldiers go to



To me being an Indigenous hip hop artist is continuing a long line of oral history.

We pass knowledge from generation to generation by just talking...

...it's like a message stick."

Fred Spreads the Word

Deception Bay FLC Indigenous worker Fred Leone has won recognition for his work as a musician. Fred a 14 year hip hop veteran, aka Rival MC and James Vincent aka DJ Returnagain are the two core members of band Impossible odds. Politically minded, with a view unique to urban Aboriginal Australia Impossible Odds brings fresh organic beats laced with intelligent and soulful lyrics.

Over the course of the past three years Impossible Odds has made leaps and bounds in establishing themselves as a force to be reckoned with. In 2007 they won the JB SEED Speak Indigenous Hip Hop Competition in which they received a \$25,000 recording grant. 2008 saw the release of the JB SEED funded EP self titled "Impossible Odds" which caused the following big waves. In 2009, Fred was approached to play The Brisbane Festival where he performed with Archie Roach a track they had collaborated on in April of 2008. January 2010 ushered in their first major collaboration when Fred Leone collaborated and recorded with Xavier Rudd for his next international release. Fred has won recognition for his work as a musician. Awards to date include:

- *Single of the Week (Time Off Magazine May 21st 2008)*
- *Release of the Week (Rave Magazine 2008)*
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Leone comes from the Garrawa, Waanyi & Butchella mobs. He is extremely proud of his heritage. "It was weird because when I was growing up and doing a lot of gigs in Brisbane I was the only indigenous rapper that I knew," he tells. "It was hard thinking that if I talked about what I wanted to talk about people may not get it. When I started doing it though

I found a lot more people listened – indigenous and non-indigenous people – everyone was supportive... Aboriginals have this thing called a message stick it gets passed on to the next generation."

On the subject of being a self-proclaimed conscious hip hop artist Leone adds, "For me it's really basic, it's nothing really fancy or sugar-coated, it's people telling it how it is and being honest and giving their point of view. You don't even necessarily have to agree with it but as long as someone's saying what they believe and getting out there and having the conviction to stand behind that then, that's conscious hip hop for me."



For more information on Indigenous being included in the Australian constitution go to Incarceration go to www.antar.org.au/

“...we are challenged to accept difference, encourage and maintain choice and places that celebrate the unique gift of each community member.”

Youth Plus Conference

July 12 -13,
Duchesne College
Brisbane



“Radical Acceptance”

“Our call is to create communities of learning and inclusion where all who choose to participate become aware of their individual, creative and civic potential. This requires environments of radical acceptance; that is, places where we are challenged to accept difference, encourage and maintain choice and places that celebrate the unique gift of each community member.”

The key message of the two day national gathering of staff across Youth+ Flexible Learning programs, including *Flexible Learning Centres* and associated *Outreaches*, the *Bridge Program*, and *Life Without Barriers*, was to consider how we continue to advocate with and for young people who for a variety of complex reasons and the impact of unjust systems, do not experience social inclusion on many different levels including education, housing, health and well-being. Participants came from across the nation from as far as Geraldton in W.A, Mt Isa and Townsville in Nth Qld, South-East Qld, New South Wales and Victoria.

The richness of sharing story was clearly established through the Welcome to Country by Aunty Vi McDermott, a well loved and highly respected community Elder in the greater Inala area and a recognized story teller in the south east Queensland community. This rich and powerful thread of authentic life stories was experienced throughout the two days from a range of speakers, who told of their work with young people.



(Young people from Albert Park FLC)

Beautiful images of place and space from Vancouver, shared by Professor Jennifer Vadeboncouer in a videoconference link, set the scene for sharing insights about her own journey with young people and her research work in education. This helped locate the work of Youth+ within an historical context of education. She emphasised that the construction of knowledge and identity needs to be informed by values and in social communities where young people feel respected and valued.

Other keynote speakers from across Australia such as Bernie Gearie, the Child Safety Commissioner of Victoria, Tim Costello, CEO, World Vision Australia, Fr Wally Detlefs, Project Officer for Marginalised Youth at Brisbane Catholic Education and long-time youth advocate, and Alan Luke, renowned international educator and researcher from QUT, shared inspiring personal stories from their work with young people over forty years in a wide range of contexts.

These speakers inspired staff to connect passion and energy, principles of social justice and inclusion and continue the work of advocating for and with young people in our nation who still experience significant social exclusion, through no fault of their own, but often as a result of systems of power and exclusion that are deeply entrenched in our society.



(Staff of Deception Bay FLC)

Thanks to the many workshop presenters from within Youth+ and other agencies across the nation, for their input and insights to support the work with young people. Special thanks also to the organisers and participants of the Whole Staff Days, whose passion and commitment to this work with young people, made the two days such a success. Finally, thanks for the musical performance by the young people from Albert Park Flexible Learning Centre, supported in their preparation by Ms Lucie Garlik. Their music created a wonderful atmosphere as staff gathered for the conference dinner.

The key questions of the first morning reflection led by Dale Murray, Director, Youth+, remain critical in the ongoing work of Youth+ Flexible Learning programs, reengaging young people. These questions must continually be considered, in the context of our learning communities:

- *What if all relationships within our communities were based on unconditional acceptance – there were no strangers?*
- *What if we were truly able to hold the difference that each individual brings to our community?*
- *What if we were able to cater for each community member's emotional circumstance?*
- *What if all Young People were accepted and loved because that's the way one treats community members?*
- *What if Knowledge is valued and learned for its own sake, not just a means to get something or go somewhere?*
- *What if being literate was viewed as a right and achieved by all?*
- *What if the bonding relationship ties helps the FLC become a community of place, mind and spirit?*

(Ann Morgan- Project Co-ordinator, Youth Plus)

Break Every Yoke

On 08 June 2011 sixteen participants gathered at the Oceania Support Centre, Indooroopilly, for the EREA Formation Program, Break Every Yoke.

This program provides those in senior leadership with opportunities for personal reflection, dialogue with other leaders, reflection on our spiritual foundations and interaction with contemporary responses to the pressing issues of our time. The participants came from EREA schools, the Flexible Learning Network and Nudgee International College.

The visit to West End for interfaith dialogue and immersion with those on the margins was described as insightful, thought provoking and challenging. The program was facilitated by Gerard Keating, Bren Douglas and Martin Kelly.

(Carolyn Doherty -Professional Assistant, Formation & Ministries)





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Tully Visit

Ignatius Park College, Townsville

Eleven of our Year 11 and 12 boys, with teachers Ms Jacky Armstrong and Mr Jason Fichera, travelled to the Tully area to give out the Home Sweet Home packages collected by our students for victims of Cyclone Yasi.

The trip turned out to be a most moving experience for all, with many of the group moved to tears by the devastation of the area and the stoic suffering of the community.



Our boys gave out packages to people who were still struggling to live in homes severely damaged, while also seeing homes so badly damaged they will be demolished. They were warmly welcomed by the students of Tully State High School and shown around by locals who are determined to rebuild their lives. Many others sadly, will never return to their homes.

The trip gave our students the opportunity to see first-hand the impact of such a life-changing event and has made a lasting impression on the staff and students who participated. We thank the College community for your generosity in donating so many goods and assure you all that it is very much appreciated. The looks of gratitude were reward enough for our efforts. (Br Jon Hansen, Dean of Identity Ignatius



Moving Forward

St Josephs, Nudgee College

At the home game versus Gregory Terrace on May 28 a simple and moving ceremony took place before the commencement of the 1st XV match.

Indigenous Nudgee College students spanned the length of the field and walked the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags across the field.

During College Assembly on May 24, National Reconciliation Week was launched. The theme was "It's time to all move forward together!" Nudgee was challenged to reflect on and embrace three actions to help the reconciliation process. These actions are:

1. **Remember** — remember that a rich culture of people lived on the land on which Nudgee College stands for thousands of years.
2. **Recognise** — recognise that the colonisation of Australia took this land away and that this has caused hardship, dislocation and disempowerment for Aboriginal people for over two centuries and that this journey continues today.
3. **Rectify** — embrace our part in the responsibility of rectifying the mistakes of the past and as a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition celebrate the presence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island students, staff and families in our community and pledge to "move forward together" in search of peace, justice and reconciliation.

(Chris Ryan, Dean of Identity, Nudgee College)



Acknowledging the Turrbal and Jagerra Peoples
As traditional owners and custodians of Brisbane.

This newsletter is prepared and published by Oceania Christian Brothers for the Edmund Rice Net-



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For more information about activities of the Edmund Rice Network in Oceania go to:

www.edmundrice.org

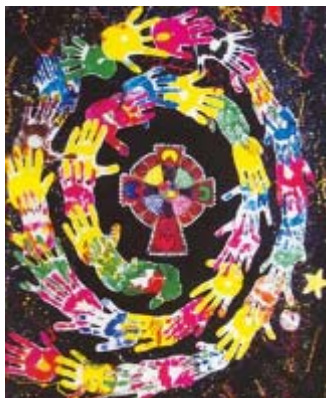
For more information about activities of the Edmund Rice Network internationally go to:

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Upoming ERN Events

FIER 2011

“Skite-ing Them Up” Festival



For the second year we will be holding the Festival for indigenous in Edmund Rice (FIER) celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait culture for Indigenous staff and young people from Edmund Rice schools, Flexible Learning Centres and ER ministries across Queensland.

Date: Friday 9 September

Gathering Time: 9.00 – 10.00am (morning tea)

Starting time: 10.00am Finishing time: 2.00 pm

Lunch is provided

Venue: Nudgee College, Brisbane

Contact: Br Jim D’Arcy bjdarcy@edmundrice.org

**Nudgee College info: Chris Ryan,
(Dean of Identity, Nudgee)**

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“NEW PATHWAYS”

**Passionate about
Edmund Rice??!...**

a facilitated dialogue to discern new forms of commitment to the Edmund Rice charism.

All are welcome!



Date: Sat 15 October

Time: 9.00 for 9.30am start till 1.00 pm

**Venue: Oceania Support Centre (Xavier)
70 K ate St Indooroopilly**

Contact: Br Jim D’Arcy bjdarcy@edmundrice.org



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