

# Edmund Rice Network ~ Regional News NSW-ACT



Edmund Rice Network



[www.edmundrice.org](http://www.edmundrice.org)



Edmund Rice Education Australia

Volume 2 Issue 11 December 2009

## **FORUM AT TREACY CENTRE, PARKVILLE, MELBOURNE**

The Forum was part education, geared to person management, especially for the Cluster Leaders, OLT, and the Directors. Geraldine and Tony Robinson, formerly of Encompass, assisted for two days this aspect of the Forum. The remainder of the Forum time was spent in trying to clarify various aspects of the roles expected by OLT, CLs, Directors, and what they could expect from Brothers, and the wider ERN.

In my opinion, it was a successful Forum. Reorganisation of the Province is a mammoth task. It must be like trying to turn around a huge ocean liner in its own length. I became aware of the enormous task asked of the OLT. Even the formality of creating policies for the new age as it were, takes time, much discussion, consultation and collaboration.

Oceania is not even three years old. Yet many aspects of a new Beginning are already in train, thanks to the expertise, the goodwill and the cooperation from so many.

There is to be a formal review of the Structure to held in 2010, and we all are invited to be aware of how we understand what is happening, how we might bring new life and new ideas. No Model is set in stone. Just as the Church is envisaged as always reforming, so our Province is aware of change, and shaping, and I believe we have the courage and the capacity to bring about dynamic movement for the Mission, and for the wider network.



John O'Shea thanking Forum Presenters,  
Treacy Centre, Parkville, Melbourne

**Patrick White, Saturday, 31 October 2009**

## **GATHERING OF OUR ELDERS AT KINCUMBER**

The events of the last week or so are fresh in my memory as I write this Sunday morning.

The gathering of our Elders at Kincumber was one more striking example of what it is to be brother. The Kincumber Gathering saw the conclusion of the six gatherings for age groups this year. Each has been different; but, each has been the same.

Each gathering reinforced the words of that well known psalm: "How good, how





*L to R:* Stan Cusack, Reg Shepherd, Laurie Needham & John Griffiths in relaxed mood, Kincumber

pleasant it is when brothers come together in unity”.

At this gathering, thirty-two brothers over 70 were one in their enthusiasm, in their openness, and in their obvious joy in each other’s company. The centre at Kincumber was ideally suited and most comfortable - a beautiful property on Brisbane Waters.

The wisdom of our Elders has been gathered at this gathering and at the

previous gathering at Tugun. This will be collated and passed on to us all in the near future.

Thanks to Dean McGlaughlin, Paul Robertson, Vince Duggan, CREAT (Luke, Terry and Cyril), Health Care Coordinators (Steve Jenkins and Mary Hevern) and to Fr Max Barrett for their presence and presentations during the week.

The Programme for Brothers’ Formation has been set for 2010 and you will receive notice of this by the end of the month. Age Gatherings will feature prominently in the programme. (From Ted Magee, 9 November 2009, Fratres 40, Bulletin of the South-East and Tropical North Queensland, Northern Territory and East Timor Cluster).

## **FAREWELL**



*L to R:* Bill Hocking, Neil Richards, Barney Garvan, Gerard Buzolic & Cliff Fogarty, SPC Strathfield

A large gathering of Brothers came together today to say a farewell to Neil Richards, and to congratulate him on his new position on the Congregation website in Rome.

There were lots of tributes to Neil, not only because of his current work on the Province website, but also to thank him for his generosity, and dedication to the brotherhood.

A certain tinge of sadness, as the gathering was at SPC Strathfield, and as we know, Brothers will be leaving there in the very near future. We know Stan is off to Gosford, and Tim to Albert Road, and it must be

a mighty wrench for Athanasius as he prepares to leave the house where he has been for so many years. A bird whispered to me that he may move to Treacy on November 21<sup>st</sup> - Feast of Our Lady's Presentation.

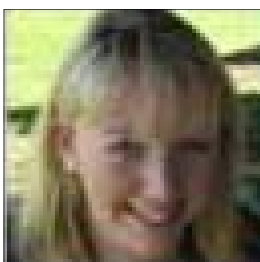
So in these times of moving and shakings, every best wish to Neil, and to the SPC Community as they leave for new ventures.

**Patrick White, 8 November 2009**

## **A NEW CENTRE FOR MEGHAN’S LIFE**

*By ACU Student Meghan Wallace*

**The Institute for Advancing Community Engagement (IACE) ACU November 2009 newsletter gives the following account from Meghan Wallace of her community engagement. IACE Director, Jude Butcher, says that students from the University’s Faculties involved with Learning Together ‘show the richness of the learning by communities and the University’-**



Placement out of her comfort zone - Meghan Wallace, a Bachelor of Social Work and Bachelor of Theology student at the Strathfield campus, looks back at her placement in Anthony Steel’s unit.

“I did change with my placement. I was challenged to do things I wouldn’t normally do, especially in relationships. At the Waterloo Salvation Army Centre there were a lot of people with mental illnesses and aged people whom I wouldn’t talk with normally.

I found myself enjoying conversations with them and the feeling was mutual because they kept asking ‘When are you coming back?’ It was definitely two-way.”

“I went into this placement feeling 50 hours is a really long time! I just wanted to get it

over and done with quickly “And I thought I wouldn’t change!” said Meghan.

“I know the difference I made to people during my placement and I know that I am a different person - a better person.”

Well, I have had a real attitude shift - now I think about when I am able to go back to the centre - when is my next visit?”

### **What I learned - how I changed**

Meghan writes: The key thing I think was the different perspectives I developed. I see people in a different light now. The people I met really touched me. The relationships they had with each other were amazing too. I was able to observe and reflect on relationships - that was a powerful experience. I would find myself talking about my time at the Centre to my family at home. My family watched me go through this placement and, although I was compassionate before, they feel I have become more compassionate and more understanding.

The relationships I developed and observed were the key for me. I think the 50 hours could maybe be longer. I worked my 50 hours over two months. However, if the placement hours were extended, you could really build more solid relationships.

### **Well-prepared for placement**

Meghan felt that the fact that the lecturer Anthony Steel covered professional boundaries, before the placement, turned out to be really important. With a responsibility to others things like co-dependence can arise, which can be upsetting for people affected if they don’t know what to do.

Anthony had set weekly readings as part of the placement. Of these, Meghan says; “I really related to these readings during my placement - I could see they applied each day in the relationships around me. They were not just readings - they were practical insights into my daily life and the relationships I was experiencing.”

## **SPC CLASS OF ‘59**

*By John Roberts*

Golden Jubilees are usually celebrations of note. On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2009 was no exception as I joined 38 of my contemporaries in Eucharist and at Dinner in Glebe to celebrate the memories and moments of our fifty years since completing the NSW Leaving Certificate in 1959 at St Patrick’ College, Strathfield.



Fr Patrick Hurley with talented pianist and soprano, Louisa Catalda, encouraged the aging men (mostly grandfathers now) to sing-up in the hymns. During the Dinner a black and white photo was produced. It showed the Grade Three choir on-stage at Sydney Town Hall in 1959 competing in what was to prove the start of many singing choral eisteddfods. There was little hesitation, therefore, that with such a legacy the men sung with surety and as one strong voice. Pat recalled the numerous Brothers and non-religious men and women who educated us and who together deepened our Catholic faith. Amidst the Prayers of Intercessions read by John Keneally were named ‘boys’ who had died. The list was enhanced by names offered by the men in the church of other deceased former classmates.

The social element of the proceedings began with a short stroll from St James’s Church to Michael O’Hara’s Nag’s Head Hotel. The Friday night pub crowd were caught peering out of the windows in wonder as a lot of old blokes walked through the doors and up the stairs to the dining room.

Following John Malone’s welcome to the Class of ‘59 and special welcome to former teacher, Br Dan Stewart, Peter Tilbrook delivered an address. Peter had held the position of Chair on St Patrick’s College Board for many years. He was well equipped then to give account of the Colleges’ growth and of its endeavours to live as a school in the spirit of Edmund Rice.

As the evening wore on and dinner was had, the energy in the room grew as former class mates mingled and chatted. The ways of old teachers and the goings-on of the boys in the back desks shaped conversation. The energy dwindled as the bewitching hour approached so with promises to keep in-touch that lot of old blokes headed home.

*This is the final 2009 issue of  
Edmund Rice Network ~ Regional News NSW-ACT.  
With John Roberts, Bernard Magill, Margaret Bourke,  
John Hills & Margaret McGee*

*I wish all our Readers and their Families a  
Christmas Season and New Year  
bestowed with abundant Peace, Joy & Good Will  
by our God Made Man, Mary & Joseph.*

*We look forward to your continued interest in our newsletter for 2010.*

*Daniel Stewart*



MASTER FRANCKE, Birth of Jesus, Kunsthalle, Hamburg