



REACHING OUT

PRESENCE | COMPASSION | LIBERATION

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CEO'S MESSAGE

Dear Supporters,

Welcome to the final edition of the Reaching Out magazine for 2013. You will note that this edition is a little earlier than in previous years. The reason for this break in tradition is that we are very keen for you to consider the purchase of products from our East Timor Christmas Catalogue. In all our projects around the globe we are continuing to look for meaningful ways that we can provide a 'leg up' to the people we serve. Traditionally the Edmund Rice Foundation has provided this 'leg up' via engaging support for vital education and health programs in Australia, Africa and the Oceania region. An emerging form of support is the establishment of micro-finance programs that encourage and provide sustainable development in the regions we reside. From this point onwards each edition of Reaching Out will highlight a

micro-finance program that is taking place in one of our areas of support.

In this Christmas edition we would like you to consider making a donation to the Foundation or supporting the Coffee and Christmas card programs that take place in our East Timor projects (for further information please visit our website www.erf.org.au). The Justice Coffee Program in East Timor supports approximately 950 families. These families also have students who attend the eight primary schools that we support in the districts of Railaco Kraic, Samalete, Railaco Leten and Deleco. The Christmas Cards are made by the women of these districts. Once again, the sale of these cards provides income and encouragement to over 60 families.

I truly believe the Coffee and Card programs are great examples of how we can move from a charity response to a

development response. As a Foundation we are determined to support programs that provide sustainable development and your purchase of these products will encourage further micro-finance activities to take place in our projects around the world.

This year has been a wonderful year of growth for the Foundation. We now have Chapters in each state of Australia. These Chapters have been vital in raising the awareness of our work with the disadvantaged. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our supporters throughout 2013; in particular I would like to acknowledge the support of Edmund Rice Education Australia.

Have a wonderful and safe Christmas.

Kind regards,

Anthony Ryan
 Chief Executive Officer

PROJECT REPORTS OCEANIA

Edmund Rice Services

Maasin City, Philippines

Br Roshan D'Cunha from the Christian Brothers' Indian Province leads a team of 4 local staff who comprise ERS' Back-to-Schooling Service (BTS) and Livelihood Training Team. The BTS supports local, community-based agencies taking the lead-role in delivering alternative learning programs for out of school children and youth. Currently, more than 300 children from poor families are being supported to attend school. Similarly, networking with local government agencies and NGOs enhances ERS' Livelihood Training Program. In 2013 more than 450 adult members of poor families have participated in training

in Integrated Crop Management and Rope Twining, which enable participants to acquire income generating skills.

Australian Christian Brother, Graeme Leach, leads a team of 5 local Health Officers who comprise ERS' Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Team. In the June quarter eye and ear screening sessions were conducted in 7 elementary schools and 2 communities. 751 children were screened and operations arranged for 3 with congenital cataracts. 809 adults were screened. 178 vision problems were identified and 48 cataract operations were conducted. The CBR Team also provides education in health, nutrition and hygiene for parents and children. During screening in one barangay (rural village) a 5 year old boy

was found with cleft lip and palate and a 12 year old girl with cleft lip. Corrective surgery will be arranged through a program at the Provincial Hospital.





Edmund Rice Services

Kabankalan City, Philippines

ERS Kabankalan's Back-to-School Service (BTS) is now into its 7th year. A review was held with the assistance of the City Social Welfare Department and clear criteria for assistance developed. Using these criteria, a house to house survey of five of the poorest areas in Kabankalan was conducted. The outcome has seen the program expanded with 228 children being assisted to attend elementary schools and 74 to attend high schools. It is anticipated that the number of program participants will rise as some of the poorest areas not yet surveyed are included in 2014-15. For children not attending school the BTS conducts morning classes in the Alternative Learning System. In the afternoon the classrooms are used for children who have never been to school in a program called Balay sang Nagakinahanglang Pagtuon or BNP (The House of Basic Learning). A proposal for a new administration and classroom centre has been framed and three architects have submitted building plans. ERS has also continued to support the Diocesan Schools' Building program with 17 of the 19 high schools receiving small assistance grants.

Progress in the goat breeding project, an income generating venture for the Anawim Foundation for the Deaf, has seen approximately 350m of fencing added to expand the grazing area. The herd now consists of 2 bucks, 19 breeding does and 10 kids. An observation hut is to be built for the goatherds and a deep well will be sunk as the project will not be able to carry the number of stock needed without a secure water supply for the dry-season. The number of children accessing the services of the Anawim Foundation has increased with the introduction of arrangements enabling hearing impaired students to access secondary education. 61 children now attend Special Education classes. 36 of these are accommodated at the Anawim Centre.

Callan Services National Unit

Papua New Guinea

The Catholic Archdiocese of Port Moresby has leased a building in the Port Moresby suburb of Gerehu for the establishment of a Special Education Resource Centre (SERC), which will function within the Network of Callan Services. Foundation funding is enabling the refurbishment of the building. In 2013 Foundation funding has also supported the Callan Services National Unit (CSNU) National Conference, which was attended by Principals and Program Co-ordinators from the 19 Callan SERCs across PNG. The conference worked towards the development of a common understanding of the purpose of Callan SERCs and the development of a framework for the future delivery of Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) training. Foundation funding has also enabled continuing professional development in the area of child protection. In 2013 child protection training workshops have been held for CSNU staff and the staffs of the Callan SERCs at Kiunga, Rabaul, Mingendie, Kimbe and Madang. The Foundation is also supporting work that is underway for the development of an in-

country governance body for CSNU.

A particular challenge for the future is funding of education for the visually impaired, which includes the purchase of braille related equipment for two braille services, a key component of a larger plan to develop an improved model for the education of visually impaired students within PNG. An ongoing challenge is the funding of the capacity building of Callan SERC personnel through Callan Studies National Institute (CSNI) the professional education and development arm of CSNU. This includes the training of CSNI lecturers. Further challenges include the financial sustainability of Callan Optical Services that provides eye screening, refraction services, referral for eye operations and prescription spectacles and low vision assistive devices in a Goroka based clinic and through outreach services. There is also a need to develop a multi layered pricing of spectacles in order to subsidise purchases by the poorer people in the country.





PROJECT REPORTS AFRICA

Comunidade Edmund Rice

East Timor

The provision of professional development opportunities for the teachers in the 3 highland village primary schools supported by CER remains an ongoing priority and challenge. A highlight in the June quarter was the visit of Jennifer Earle, who has given generously of her wide experience and expertise on a number of occasions to assist the teachers and has now spent somewhere in the vicinity of 2 years with CER. Jennifer has taught in several Australian States and currently holds a Mathematics teaching position in TAFE, Tasmania. She is also employed by the Tasmanian Department of Education to lead the development of school-based curricula. The visit of "Mana Jen" was widely anticipated by CER's teachers who were aware of her expertise in helping them with their lesson preparation and teaching methods.

After a few days reconnecting with the teachers in the schools in the villages of Deleco, Railaco Kraic and Samalete 3, Jennifer planned a training program with them. 17 teachers participated in workshops. Topics addressed included the ethos of an Edmund Rice School, effective teaching and lesson planning, Mathematics teaching methods and resources, methods of teaching reading and human rights in the village and classroom.

Mary Rice Day Care Centre

Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya

The Mary Rice Centre (MRC) for children with intellectual and physical disabilities has had quite a few "homes" in recent years, on account of compulsory land acquisitions by government for road construction. For the past year MRC has been renting space in the Charles Lwanga Primary School. In 2013 Foundation funding has assisted with the purchase and installation on a concrete slab of 3 shipping containers, which have been converted into 2 classrooms, a kitchen, an occupational therapy room and an office. This has freed-up the former space for the establishment of a micro-finance program and gathering space for parents' meetings.

The new MRC micro-finance scheme is available for the parents and guardians of the children registered and participating in MRC's programs. These are families who live in Kibera, the largest urban slum in Africa situated around 5km from central Nairobi. The scheme makes available small, interest-free loans to enable people to initiate their own income generating livelihood activities. Upon acceptance into the program participants receive formal training and a copy of the Operations Manual, which sets out the conditions and criteria of the scheme. One of the conditions is that participants form cluster groups of three for mutual support. The initial scheme was made up of 10 clusters each representative of 3 family groups. An ongoing challenge is the accessing of funds to maintain and expand the scheme.

Ruben Centre

Nairobi, Kenya

The integration of the seven departments that the Ruben Centre now operates is well illustrated in the Save Children from Child Labour Program, whose objective is to eliminate child labour in the Mukuru slum for which poverty is the driving force. Many of the families residing in Mukuru are headed by single mothers or older children. Many children never commence school or are withdrawn to work as house helps, collect scrap metal and other 'valuable' garbage for money or engage in petty productive work in and around the slums, which exposes them to exploitation, disease and crime.

In response, Ruben Centre has formed several Child Labour Committees whose membership includes village leaders and representatives of local authorities. These undertake education and awareness-raising to mobilize the Mukuru community. Ruben community workers conduct home visits to identify incidences of child labour and children at risk and arrange for their withdrawal and admission into Ruben Primary School (whose enrolment has now topped 2,000). Older children can be enrolled into Ruben Vocational Training Program. Any identified health issues are referred to Ruben Clinic. Parents and caregivers are supported to join Ruben Microcredit Scheme where they can acquire skills in self-help income generating activities and small interest free loans, to improve their livelihoods and eliminate the need for their children to join the child labour market. Visit: www.rubencentre.org/

FUNDRAISING EVENTS 2013

For booking details visit www.erf.org.au/events

October 27

Zimele Walkathon

October 29

*The 500 Supporters' Group
Spring Racing Lunch*

November 9

Edmund Rice Dinner Rockhampton

December 6

*Edmund Rice Race Day –
Doomben Racecourse*

2014

*Edmund Rice Dinner Melbourne
(inaugural event – date to be advised)*



Star Support Group

Yambio, South Sudan

With assistance from the Foundation, Star Support Group continues to enable people living with HIV/AIDS to live positive, dignified lives with access to medication, nutrition, social support and awareness raising workshops. There are currently 1270 adult members enrolled in STAR, of whom 75% are female. 110 are bedridden. There are also more than 200 children who have been orphaned by the disease. A monthly social gathering is held for these children, which includes games and a meal. They are also assisted with school uniforms, stationery and school fees. STAR counsellors and carers undertake visitation of bedridden members in their homes and in the Nzara Hospital and provide food. 5 day HIV/AIDS awareness raising workshops are conducted. A workshop held in the June quarter, focused on behaviour change, was attended by 150 participants across the week.

Work is underway to establish sustainable livelihood self-help programs for STAR members, which will include expansion of the STAR farming and market gardening scheme and the revival of the former textile training program. This initiative is being enabled by networking with relevant diocesan and local government agencies. The recognition of STAR within the wider community is considerable. The causes and means of infection are better understood, sufferers are now accepted more positively in the wider community and their general health is much better as a result of medication and nutrition.



Comboni Sisters' Hospital

Nzara, South Sudan

The months from June to October are always quite special for life at Nzara Hospital because of the increase in cases of malaria, which reach their peak during the rainy season. All the hospital departments become involved in fighting the complications which often accompany malaria, affecting especially children under 5 years of age. Immune suppressed patients are also affected as well as expecting mothers. Nzara Blood Transfusion Service and the availability of effective antimalarial drugs have greatly contributed in reducing the life threatening consequences of this terrible disease. In the last few months, the number of newly diagnosed HIV positive clients has remained constant with an average of 50 per month. The Antiretroviral Therapies Department has been serving about 60 patients every day, from both Nzara Clinic and Star Support Group at Yambio. These patients are also provided with counseling and treatment for opportunistic infections.

TB infection control has also been a priority with the aim of reducing the spread of the disease through early diagnosis and effective treatment. Three children who were found with Tuberculosis and now on medication are improving. Through the generosity of its supporters the Nzara Hospital staff is able to meet and overcome many of the challenges they encounter amongst some of the poorest people in Africa.



Br Beausang Catholic Education Centre

Embulbul, Kenya

Professional development for key personnel is an essential element in building sustainable futures for projects in developing countries. BBCEC's Deputy Principal and Head Teacher (Primary) attended workshops sponsored by the Ngong Diocese in financial management, compliance with Kenyan education and employment acts and insurance. Teaching staff have been involved in workshops in curriculum, child protection and children's rights. Sports coaches and some students attended a workshop sponsored by the school's Edmund Rice Justice and Peace Club on HIV/AIDS awareness in sport. The Kenyan Human Rights Commission visited the school in early June and ran a workshop and performed a drama based on relevant local issues such as tribalism and corruption. Secondary and primary student representatives attended the Ngong Diocese Education Day in June. BBCEC received an award for Most Improved School in the Diocese in the Secondary National Exams (2nd in diocese), History (2nd in diocese) and in Geography, Civics and Kiswahili.

A recent highlight has been the appointment of Faith Karuma as Bursar's Assistant. Faith was Head Girl at BBCEC in 2008 and has now completed her tertiary studies. Visitors from Australia have included the St Bernard's College, Essendon, and Zimele / St Kevin's College, Toorak, immersion groups and Br Bill Wilding, General Manager, Edmund Rice Foundation (Australia) and John McKenna, Director of Project Kenya, located in Melbourne.

Visit www.bbcec.org/



Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School

Arusha, Tanzania

Foundation support in 2013 has enabled completion of the refurbishment of ERSSS' School Hall as a multi-purpose facility.

The redevelopment was completed in time for the annual Edmund Rice Day celebrations in August at which Br Bill Wilding (General Manager, Edmund Rice Foundation) was *mgeni rasmi* (special guest) for the day. In conjunction with the hall redevelopment has been the construction of a multi-purpose outdoor courtyard adjacent to the Hall, which is being utilized for assemblies, recreational activities, physical education and basketball away from the dust bowls where these activities had previously taken place. Another recent development has been the construction of a dormitory to replace the one destroyed by fire at the end of February and which is now ready for the influx of Form 4 and 5 students who have been waiting patiently for its completion. In recent months a group of past students has run special assemblies for current students to encourage them in their studies and highlight the possibilities that are awaiting them once they have completed their secondary education. Visit www.edmundricesinon.com/

Education for Life

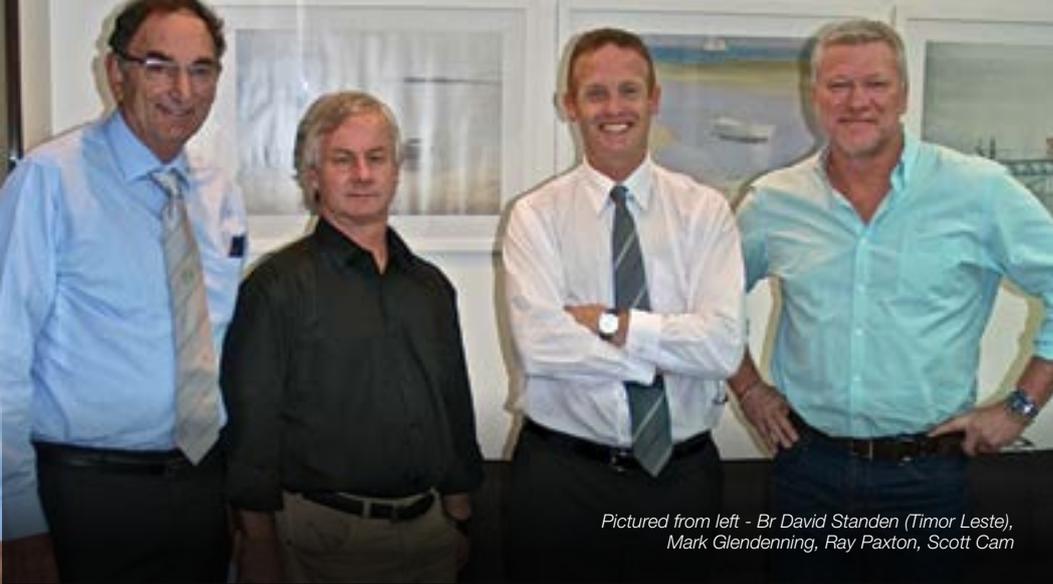
Eldoret, Kenya

In Kenya, HIV/AIDS is estimated to affect about 6.3% of the population. The EFL project supports sufferers and affected families living in the slum areas of Eldoret and works to create awareness and protect their rights and dignity. Nutritional support in the form of beans, porridge and milk is being provided to around 300 families. EFL is currently assisting 75 adult clients to initiate sustainable income generating activities such as tailoring, production of cultural artefacts, poultry farming and market gardening for which small interest free loans are provided through a microfinance scheme. To promote economic empowerment EFL has 9 groups of 20

participating in the Saving & Internal Lending Communities (SILC) scheme whereby group members work together to save for their mutual benefit.

Zainabu, an EFL member, is HIV+, a widow, mother of seven and a grandmother of six. After her husband's death she was abandoned by relatives and left to take care of her family alone. Due to stigma Zainabu was not allowed to share meals or meet other people in her community because of their unfounded fear of infection. As a result she lived in fear. Connecting with EFL has brought Zainabu a huge sense of relief and acceptance and support for her family and her children are being assisted to attend school.





Pictured from left - Br David Standen (Timor Leste), Mark Glendenning, Ray Paxton, Scott Cam

Waverley College

Sydney, New South Wales

Waverley College's plan for engaging with Timor Leste was formalised with the announcement by Headmaster, Ray Paxton, of ENRICH.

The plan involves **encounter** through the provision of **rice** for school lunches in the villages of Samalete; **immersion** experiences for students and staff; provision of **computers** for the 5 villages in the Ermera District and the building of a **house** to accommodate the Christian Brothers in Dili. (The title combines the first letters of each word: ENRICH.) ENRICH is the cornerstone of Waverley's outreach to communities supported by the Christian Brothers in Timor Leste.

Waverley's engagement with Timor Leste began with an invitation from Edmund Rice Foundation Australia CEO, Anthony Ryan, to Ray Paxton, to visit the country as a guest of the Foundation in August 2012. "During that visit I began my assessment of what was possible for Waverley," Mr Paxton said. "This year in early March I revisited with staff members Cathy O'Sullivan and Brad Thompson, who have committed to designing an immersion experience for 10 students where the Brothers conduct their education and health ministries. In consultation I determined that there was also an opportunity for Waverley to assist with improving the accommodation of the Brothers in the capital. This would be a longer term project which would be important to the ongoing sustainability of their work in East Timor. I have been in discussion with a reference group that includes ERFA CEO, Anthony Ryan, parent and old boy, Scott Cam, our Business Manager, Bryn Gregerson, and College Architect, Mark Glendenning."

In May the College Parents' and Friends' Association hosted a Parent Briefing on ENRICH and ERFA Chief Executive, Anthony Ryan, provided details on the history and development needs of Timor Leste. In a moving presentation, Mr Ryan pointed out that Australia is part of a wealthy minority of the world's population, commenting that, "in the majority world, 80% of humanity survives below the poverty line on less than ten dollars a day."

Edmund Rice Camps

Australia

In June ERC New South Wales welcomed new EO Anneke Pike. Anneke reports that while heading into the unknown she loves the challenges, working with children and meeting and working with the many wonderful volunteers. Anneke says that her early months have been an absolute highlight and she can't wait for what is to come. In September ERC Brisbane headed for Bribie Island for its always popular beach camps. ERCB held its second ever family camp and is very keen to develop its family camping program. News from the south is that ERC Tasmania is expanding its horizons in Spring to connect with the community as a whole through a camp that will be a major community event involving parents, social workers, university students, schools and key community personnel. The genesis for this initiative came from participation in a community forum.

At the ERC Victoria post Asylum Seeker Family Camp reflection day, camp volunteer Miranda shared some of her experience - "I never thought that one weekend could change my outlook on something as much as the Queen's Birthday weekend did. It wasn't until last week when the new asylum seeker policy was announced that I realised

how important it is to go on camps like this. This camp equipped me with information and gave the boat people faces, names, stories and voices. Their stories of survival were inspirational and moving. If only everyone could have the opportunity to meet such amazing people, then as a nation we wouldn't be turning our backs to them when they need us most."

ERC Western Australia's mid-year camps featured middle kids (11-12) and early teens (13-14) trekking to Camp Kelly in Dwellingup, while younger kids (8-10) and late teens (15-16) made Tuppin House in Moore River their fun-filled home. These programs included the participation of staff and volunteers from ERC South Australia. In return, a WA staff member attended a South Australian program in August. These networking opportunities proved to be hugely beneficial. ERC WA programs are given themes - younger kids Dr Seuss camp, Wild West camp for early teens, Space Camp for middle kids and Travel into Space for late teens while the Reality TV camp had a visit from Batman and Superman.

Visit www.edmundricecamps.org

