



REACHING OUT

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CEO'S MESSAGE

Dear Supporters,

I recently visited the Changi Changi Community School in Zambia. There I was confronted by many experiences but I would like to share one with you. One morning we entered the school and I was immediately struck by the energy and attentiveness of the children. In particular one young student caught my eye. He was sitting outside the community library surrounded by a pile of children's adventure books. He reminded me so much of my youngest son Finlay. I spoke to him a couple of times but he was oblivious to my presence. Later that morning I quizzed the teacher about the young boy's story and

I was informed that he was an orphan. He had lost both parents to HIV and he was living in very poor conditions in a shanty next to the school. Most mornings he was the first to school and the library was his favourite place in the school. I came to the conclusion that the adventure books aided in his escape from his situation. The books took him to a place where he could be a carefree child living out an adventure in *Neverland*.

These experiences act as sobering reminders that all of the Edmund Rice development projects within Australia, Africa and Oceania

provide crucial support to the world's poor. We ask that you continue to partner the Edmund Rice Foundation in enhancing and enlivening our education, health and advocacy programs. I hope that you will be impressed by the professionalism, vitality and growth of all our projects outlined in this edition of *Reaching Out*.

Thanking you for your continued support.

Anthony Ryan
Chief Executive Officer



AN EXPERIENCE

Many of us read about the struggles of the developing world and are sympathetic to their situations. We then often support the efforts being made there. But those who have the opportunity to actually experience the situations in Africa, East Timor, PNG or the Philippines are drawn into the lives of the people. After an initial shock from vast contrasts with our privileged advantages of wealth, visitors are won by the smiles of the young and their enthusiasm for life.

With good preparation and appropriate cultural sensitivity visitors are affected and deepen their appreciation of the wider world. Such are the experiences of those involved with the Gone Fishing, Zimele, and a range of visiting groups from schools around Australia. Enquiries for Gone Fishing are welcome at the Foundation office.



PROJECT UPDATES: OCEANIA

Comunidade Edmund Rice *East Timor*

The professional development of teachers in the hill district serviced by CER has been a prime concern. One consequence has been that these teachers are then seconded by the Education Department to teach in other areas. Recently 4 teachers left and while it was a disappointment for CER, it is good for them individually and for the wider Timor Leste community. The engagement of four new people to replace those who have moved on was completed by the committee in quick time.

The keenness of the pre-school teachers never abated as they did their four planning days for this year. An exciting time was organized for the primary teachers by Br David Standen at the Mary MacKillop Centre in Dili. In the four days they studied & practised teaching method, mathematics and music. These training sessions are such an important part of the development of locals in knowledge and confidence. Total number in the CER supported schools: Primary students – 417; Pre-school students – 220.

CER received a fully equipped Toyota 4WD (2003) ambulance through the generosity of the Knights of Malta, Australia. This enabled a huge step forward in health care standards. The health team has been training in its use. The new ambulance has been a boon for the locals. It is used to ferry sick patients and pregnant women to hospital. Locals built a shelter for it to be housed in Railaco Kriac.

Edmund Rice Services *Maasin City, Philippines*

Following the disaster of Typhoon Yolanda, the Maasin Diocesan Social Action Centre which shares the same building as ERS, immediately sprung to action to respond to emergency human needs of the population on the of the Island of Leyte, focussing on the needs of Tacloban and other areas seriously damaged by the typhoon and the related sea-surge. The shared office facility continues to be a hub for storage and trucking to Tacloban of relief food, medications & clothing supplies provided by Caritas and other international and local donor agencies. Volunteers continue to work generously around the clock in packaging for transport to distribution sites. ERS staff have assisted when and as opportunity allowed. ERS has participated in two major follow up assessment visits to enable a determination of the services needed for the survivors, including community mental health and trauma relief.

The ERS programs for screening children for eye and ear problem continues in full, together with the program to assist large numbers of the poorest children obtain enough basis learning to access the mainstream schooling system. Meetings with parents of those assisted in these programs are a priority. Assisting in development of capacity of locals to deliver these services is given high priority. Hence, many trainees come to ERS for placement experience. The Child Assistance and Livelihood Promotion Service includes sessions on human rights for both parents and high school students.

Edmund Rice Services *Kabankalan City, Philippines*

The program of building projects in the Diocesan Schools of the region has been very successful. Allocation of funds for most schools was intended as stimulus money to enable much needed major repairs or new buildings. The amount given to most schools was half the cost of a single stand-alone classroom. The school buildings were all designed and built by local school authorities. All the schools co-operated well and acquittal documents have been received.

The Diocesan Education System has been strengthened. Freedom of choice in education enhanced. A successful transfer to a lay woman of the position of Schools' Superintendent has occurred. There is growing confidence among diocesan school leaders as they face the introduction into the nation's schools of Years 11 and 12 in the near future, that they can handle this introduction. The students, their parents and the teachers have all benefitted.

The major objective in 2014 will be support for the Anawim Foundation for the Deaf continues to be tenuous as they live on the edge of insolvency. An application for funding for a needed dormitory is in process. 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. 70 children now attend Special Education classes, many of whom are accommodated at the Anawim Centre.



PROJECT UPDATES: AFRICA

Callan Services National Unit *Papua New Guinea*

Callan Services National Unit endeavors to increase the capacity of PNG people to deal effectively with disability. It assists the 19 individual Callan Centres spread throughout PNG to provide a range of services for people, especially the young, who suffer from hearing, sight and other physical disability.

This involves assisting with the professional training of those who can deliver such services. Also it involves the formation in their roles those who lead each Callan Centre. Last year the National Conference of the Network of Callan Services was a great success. The Conference focused upon developing and refining the model that clarifies the purpose of Special Education Resource Centres and what is needed to support the achievement of that purpose.

Other achievements were: program planning and data collection, and consultations on a draft framework for the future delivery of community based rehabilitation training and on what needs to be the priority for the advocacy activities of Callan Services National Unit.

Concurrent with this main conference, a 2 day conference of Board Chairpersons from the Callan Special Education Resource Centres was held. The continuing work in the areas of child protection training was advanced with Child Protection Foundational Training Workshops conducted at various regional centres. Completion of the refurbishment in Port Moresby was achieved. This project will provide a more appropriate base for the operations of the Callan Service National Unit.



Ruben Centre *Nairobi, Kenya*

A Micro Finance project has been operating at Ruben for some years. Last year a formal appraisal of its performance was undertaken with some very pleasing results.

In the last quarter of 2013 the number of new groups formed went up by 20% while the number of community members joining the project went up by 61%. The decline in number of individual members would point to a growing preference for membership in solidarity groups as compared to individual borrowing. This trend indicates a higher inclination to goodwill and unity of purpose among the community members as well as the recognition of the need to stand by each other. All the loans went into starting or into strengthening existing micro-businesses. With women and youth forming the bulk of the marginalised groups, this is a welcome trend with

the hallmarks of a social-economic renaissance among the slum community.

As the success of the businesses and the solidarity groups hinges to a large extent on the ability of the members to manage the businesses and the groups, the project continued with beneficiaries' capacity development. Training workshops were conducted on entrepreneurship, financial, leadership and value addition skills. A total of 256 community members were trained in modules on entrepreneurship. 384 members benefited from training on Financial Literacy. Focus was also paid to gender issues, HIV and AIDS, human rights and environment as critical development concerns



Mary Rice Day Care Centre
Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya

The construction last year of offices, classrooms, kitchen and therapy room using shipping containers has made a great difference to the services offered in enabling the care and feeding program as well as the provision of health care and physiotherapy to the children.

We had an opportunity to take our children to Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE) for assessment to enable us identify the different types of disabilities that our children have. This helped us work more efficiently and effectively in order to meet the needs of each child. The outcome of the assessment showed that our students have the following disabilities: Autism, Cerebral palsy, Learning disability, Mental retardation, Hearing impairment, and Fetal alcohol syndrome.

The assessment was very important to the Centre and the parents because the Centre is now recognized by the Kenya Institute of Special Education which makes the transition of our children to other areas of learning easy as KISE recommends appropriate schools and offers referral letters. In the case of our parents it gave them the knowledge to help them to understand their children's conditions and how better to handle them from a medical perspective eliminating the myths and taboos that mental illness is either caused by witchcraft or a curse.

We also organize workshops for the parents. Parents see themselves as part and parcel of the development of their children through Mary Rice Centre.

Br Gerald Mgalula, Project Manager

Star Support Group
Yambio, South Sudan

The current conflict in some parts of the country has caused a huge displacement of people and much death and suffering.

While the area around Yambio has not yet been largely affected there is much fear and a further slowdown in people's lives. The situation is tribally based and politically instigated. It has contributed to an increase in the cost of living with the inflation rate very high and the prices of the products greatly increased. It will set back any improvement in the road network which is very poor.

Br Fredrick Otieno has been appointed as the Director of the Star Project. Having spent time some years back with the project he is well acquainted with the challenges and the needs of the people. He has made efforts at collaboration and networking with other NGOs working in Yambio and this has enabled the project to be supported in some ways, especially the supply of drugs for the dispensary. There is an initiative to ensure that the farm is well utilised. Currently there is constant cultivation in the farm. Members of Star come on Tuesdays and Fridays to work in the garden and under the guidance of the director. Once a month the members meet in the garden to discuss issues and concerns aimed at improving the activities, objectives and realizing the mission and vision of the project.

Comboni Sisters' Hospital
Nzara, South Sudan

Three unusual people were gathered in Nzara Hospital South Sudan in January. Fortunately that area was peaceful. We were a young Italian dermatologist, a young but experienced German electronic technician and myself an older Australian cardiologist.

I had been assisted by an Australian expert in ultrasound to choose and obtain a portable machine to allow imaging in a hospital, which had no prior imaging facilities to deal with the most complex of illnesses and difficult decisions in pregnancy.

A group of Australian experts in solar energy had advised regarding future provision of sustainable solar energy to the hospital. I was to explore that possibility and observe Martin's progress with the Edmund Rice Foundation Australia (ERFA) funded provision of sustainable power to the hospital laboratory.

The aim of the trip was to assess how best to assist development of capacity of the Tomburo-Nzara Diocese Hospital managed by the Comboni sisters. This capacity supports the Nzara Rainbow and the Christian Brothers' Yambio STAR HIV/AIDS groups of over 2000 people as well as their communities.

On the first day of the ultrasound's use, four patients with bleeding complications of pregnancy were assessed and assisted, later 2 litres of pus could be drained from a distressed dying man only because the diagnosis was now made obvious. The ERFA funded ultrasound had an immediate impact on clinical care.

It was a deeply humbling experience to see the dedication and commitment of the Comboni Nuns, the Christian Brothers, and the nurses and staff of Nzara Hospital. The resilience and patience of the people with their severe illnesses was inspiring. The changes brought about by funding through ERFA were also a source of great satisfaction and an incentive to do more.

Dr Daniel Doyle, a long time Board member of the Foundation and now a member of the Victorian Chapter.



Daniel Doyle and supporters



Br Beausang Catholic Education Centre

Br Beausang Catholic Education Centre *Embulbul, Kenya*

Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre, now with 10 years of service to the local people, has the entire school – primary and secondary – located on the same campus.

The demand for positions in the school remains strong and reflects the reputation Brother Beausang has gained over these years. It welcomes students of all tribes, cultures and religions from neighboring communities. There are 765 students (Primary 370, Secondary 395, Boys 423, Girls 342). They are cared for by 64 staff (Teachers 35 and Other staff (administration, kitchen, library, science and security) 29. All classes are full.

The school is vigilant in keeping the fees as low as possible whilst providing a quality education with good resources and this has been achievable through the ongoing support of the school's supporters and sponsors. The operational budget for 2013

was \$470k. Average teacher salaries are \$4,600 p.a. 2013 Income Sources were: School fees 27%, Edmund Rice Foundation Australia 50%, Other Donors 23%

The BBCEC Strategic Directions 2012 – 2015 has five key areas: Community, Resources and Facilities, Pastoral Care, Excellence and Sustainability. Priorities for 2014 are a review of the school's building Master Plan, the formation of a school advisory board / council, community involvement and the identification of local funding sources. Investigations took place regarding a bore hole and an application for funding from ERFA was submitted last year and was approved for 2014.

Education for Life *Eldoret, Kenya*

Among the development activities undertaken in 2013, EFL rated educational workshops as the most successful.

The participatory approach enables the participants to assess their risky behavior and choose alternatives of improving their livelihood. Through the caregivers workshop the beneficiaries have been able to accept their circumstances and learn new ways and positive coping mechanism. Since the focus is HIV and AIDS prevention the stigma reduction and acceptance of people living with HIV and AIDS, this enhanced development in many aspects.

The youth are the backbone of development in every society. The workshops have empowered the youth to make good choices and focus on their goals in life. The pre-survey that is done before the workshops indicates that the young generation are

victims of poor parenting and negative role modeling. The workshops in the teachers training colleges help teachers in training work on their attitude and learn skills of handling pupils in schools. This is in line with the Child Protection policy that promotes concern for the child at all levels.

Each Monday EFL provides beans and porridge flour to close to 300 families with over 500 vulnerable children. To empower the clients economically, there are the Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) groups. EFL trained 100 clients on small Income Generating Activities (IGA). EFL also offered educational support, including fees, uniforms, books and sanitary pads for 300 Orphans and vulnerable children.



Education for Life - Eldoret

Edmund Rice Sinou Secondary School *Arusha, Tanzania*

Refurbishment of eight classrooms used by Form II students was undertaken between the close of school last year and the opening in January this year.

Each room has been transformed from dark and dilapidated into a bright welcoming space with notice boards and the provision for data projection. The changes will heighten the teaching and learning processes in line with the development of new curricular requirements from the government agencies. The refurbishment took place at the same time as the teaching staff underwent a series of workshops addressing essential changes in teaching and learning.

The aim of the school has been to address both alleviation of poverty and access to education. These have been attained by the support through fee reduction for students unable to access education otherwise. A number of past students who were supported through the school have now completed their tertiary education and are now able to support their families in accessing secondary education through their financial contribution. It is a clear cultural expectation that one is obligated to support the family after achieving personal goals and success. About 15% of the students at each year level are supported by the ERFA. The policy of the school is that sponsorship is not offered to students in boarding so emphasising the efforts of the school to support local students, generally from the surrounding Maasai villages.

EDMUND RICE CAMPS *Tasmania*

In addition to some dramatic growth of camp numbers, during 2013, Edmund Rice Camps Tasmania, has actively explored a number of program variations to enhance its' general sustainability into the future.

Using the successful camp model as a "movable framework" ERCT as has been able to establish new co-operative partnership programs with both Catholic Education Tasmania in addition to the Tasmanian police, beyond the traditional holiday camps. The in school "Head to Heart" leadership transformation program, involves targeting a particularly vulnerable local community and incorporating the Eddie Rice camp structure in a "mini" format so as to encourage a co-operative response between the school and their community. These programs saw schools opening their doors to local youth for an "overnighter" so that the student leaders could experience the human faces behind the word 'disadvantage'. Rather than just a theoretical and intellectual understanding of what poverty looks like, the students participated

in this journey from head to heart, whereby they were able to experience an emotional connection to the local kids who for a variety of reasons are doing it tough. In such a short period of time, students transformed from the "head space" of guilt and obligation to the "heart space" of passion and empowerment.

The success of the program, enabled us to take this concept to the next level, by involving the new Tasmanian Police recruits, as part of their training. With the police academy located on the doorstep of one of Tasmania's most vulnerable suburbs, a similar style of program to that of the schools was replicated at the academy, with the recruits being required to experience an overnight "mini-camp" as part of their training. As many of these children's families often have negative contact with the police, this mini-camp was both a positive interaction as well showing the new recruits the human face of disadvantage. Apart from being extremely cost efficient, this innovative movement of the established Eddie Rice framework has raised our profile as a positive networking partner beyond our traditional clientele.

Mr Andrew Blackett



FUNDRAISING EVENTS 2014

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

March 14

The Ladies Rainbow Lunch- Queens Arms Hotel

April 29

The 500 Supporters' Group AFL Luncheon – Melbourne Cricket Ground

May 24

Edmund Rice Dinner Brisbane – Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

May 31

Edmund Rice Dinner Sydney – Doltone House, Darling Island Wharf

July 4

University of Queensland MBA Dinner – Customs House, Brisbane

August 23

Zimele Dinner – St Kevin's College, Toorak, Melbourne

August 23

Edmund Rice Dinner Rockhampton – Rockhampton Leagues Club

October 18

Terrace Timor Network Annual Fundraiser

October 26

Zimele Walkathon – Yarra Bend Park, Melbourne

October 28

The 500 Supporters' Group Spring Racing Luncheon – Melbourne Cricket Ground

December 5

GOA Edmund Rice Race Day – Doomben Racecourse, Brisbane

Date to be announced

Edmund Rice Dinner Melbourne – Melrose Convention Centre

ST PAUL'S COLLEGE *Adelaide, South Australia*



St Paul's is a school of 580 students from Reception to Year 12.

From its beginning in 1959 it has understood how to struggle. It began small and has grown through its own hard work. St Paul's is a broad catholic community, educating Catholic students and also boys of many other backgrounds and faiths, each on their own spiritual journey. Its people are working people with a significant number of lower income families. It embraces many who are single parents and those who are unemployed.

Last year its parents were asked to contribute to the wider underprivileged world through the Edmund Rice Foundation. This was done through the school fee account with opportunity for parents to opt out from contributing. However few did and the St Paul's parents made a very valuable contribution to the developing world. Their generous attitude is most appreciated.

The year ahead will be full for St Paul's. Apart from the number one priority of teaching and learning, and the multitude of additional programs for students ranging from camps and retreats, sporting, musical and other activities, a number of other ventures will be unfolding, including: the move to a House based vertical care program which presents a greatly increased opportunity for the boys to develop relationships across year levels, experience leadership and build a sense of pride and belonging; and the College Renewal visit to be conducted by Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA), to look at the commitment to the Edmund Rice ethos. A survey will be used to gather parent, student and staff views on St Paul's mission as an Edmund Rice school. The results of the whole Renewal Process will be shared with the school community at the conclusion and will be used in future planning. This process is part of the commitment to continuous improvement and authenticity as an Edmund Rice school.

Mr Daniel Lawler, Principal