



EdmundRice
FOUNDATION
AUSTRALIA



ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

LIBERATING

EDMUND RICE
FOUNDATION
AUSTRALIA

LIVES

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

One of the most significant indicators of the worth of any endeavor is its ability to engage with people, so that others recognize and take up the vision and passion of the original dreamers and planners. This is so because the great endeavours that change the world are organic and dynamic and they come to life through the people who make them so. An idea can inspire, a vision can motivate but it is a human story, a personal connection that carries the energy and endurance that makes change for the better possible.

During 2013 your Foundation Board did more work with our facilitator Simon Lockyer on developing ERFA and shaping its identity. It is not what we do that defines us but who we are and ERFA is evolving from its roots in the Christian Brothers Foundation for Charitable Works, focused principally on overseas aid, to a new reality – an engaged movement of people liberating the disenfranchised through collaboration health and education.

The Board acknowledges Simon's great generosity and enthusiasm in undertaking this work; it goes well beyond normal facilitation into a relationship with us by someone who believes in Liberating Lives and wants to help us make it happen.

Simon's methodology led us to articulate our identity and purpose in three paragraphs.

"As the world continues to develop, sadly many people are left behind. Two simple yet uncontrollable realities of life, location and circumstance conspire to leave many of these people impoverished and disempowered. We can't sit by and let this happen, yet how do we help? While the injustices are obvious the solutions are not.

At the same time people do not want to be alone. They want to be a part of the community of life, part of something which makes their own life better and makes the lives of others better. Individuals want to know they can be involved in bringing the smile to the face of others, a smile that says "its great to be alive", a smile that they can feel themselves. People need and want to celebrate life. Edmund Rice Foundation is conduit between this desire to connect and make lives better and the lives of the disempowered and impoverished.

Edmund Rice Foundation Liberates the Lives of the impoverished and disenfranchised through health and education so that they may take responsibility for their own lives. We deliver these programmes because an educated and healthy child can liberate their family and liberated families transform communities. What makes Edmund Rice different, transformative and sustainable is that we are present with these people and remain sensitive to and informed by their experiences and hopes. Our programmes and solutions are not designed in far off countries framed by different realities. They are co-created, empowering and real. In doing so we best harness the goodwill of those who desire to help and support us. We reduce the separation between peoples and the reality of their lives and we show how even the smallest engagement can transform ourselves and others."



All this of course does not diminish the significance of what we do and this year's annual report and the presentation of our accounts documents the success of ERFA now raising more than \$3 million per annum to support project throughout the world. I commend these achievements to your consideration. As supporters of ERFA you can be confident that you have been Liberating Lives and our world is better in some small but significant ways.

Such outcomes take great work and I acknowledge the vision and enthusiasm of our CEO, Anthony Ryan and his staff, the commitment and work of our Chapter Chairs and their teams across the country and the dedication of my fellow board members.

The Board is committed to ensuring that best practice continues to be the hallmark of ERFA's performance. In 2014 we will give close consideration to the implementation of our Policies, now all developed and documented. Recognizing the benefit of having external rigorous validation of our endeavor we will continue our dialogue with ACFID to gain accreditation and membership of this respected and standard setting organization.

And knowing that our greatest resource is our people we will carry forward the interaction between the Board and the leadership of the Chapters to integrate our efforts and to support and acknowledge their work.

Given all this I feel very confident in proclaiming that just as we did throughout 2013 our future will assuredly bring a smile to the face of others, a smile that says "its great to be alive", a smile that we can feel ourselves.

P Dean McGlaughlin cfc
Chairman





CEO'S REPORT

In my role I have the wonderful privilege to visit the various projects that we partner in Australia and overseas. Each trip always provides a powerful lens to view a different culture and to witness firsthand the impact that the projects we partner have upon the local people.

In one of my trips to Africa I had a moment that I believe will change my own lens on life. It took place in one of the rural schools we support. As I walked around the school I was 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 had in his hands Peter Pan and seemed to be transfixed by the words. He reminded me so much of my own son. I called out 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, whether rightly or wrongly, that the adventure books aided in his escape from reality. The books took him to a place where he could be a carefree child living out an adventure in Neverland.

These challenging encounters act as a constant reminder that the work the Foundation focuses upon is so vital. It is the hope of the Foundation that we are able to educate each supporter and potential supporter of the Foundation that the world in many ways is not as it should be! This realisation is at the heart of all our operations and we take seriously the challenge of breaking the cycle of poverty in its various forms with all of our partnered projects. Throughout 2013 the Foundation introduced many people to this reality, either through hand on encounters in our immersions or by providing a communication framework that allowed the Australian public to hear and see the reality of poverty. The Foundation has clearly stated that our most important point of difference in the development sector is that we endeavour to not only liberate the lives of the communities that we partner but also ourselves. It was the late Nelson Mandela that explained this dualistic notion of liberation so well. Mandela defined this liberation by the African term Ubuntu. In essence, Ubuntu states that all of humanity is interlinked in some way. The Edmund Rice Foundation is the link to this reality. Throughout 2013 the Foundation partnered with many schools, donor groups and individuals to help liberate lives. This is why we are attracting great interest by the Australian public because we do not view ourselves at all as a fundraising agency but rather as a transparent development agency that nourishes and liberates the human family.

Kind regards,

Anthony Ryan

CEO Edmund Rice Foundation (Australia)



EDMUND RICE SERVICES *Maasin City, Philippines*

PROGRAM LEADER: Br Paul Coster

The main focus of the Maasin Project in 2013 has centred upon the Edmund Rice Service Back-to-Schooling Service (BTS) and Livelihood Training Team. The BTS networks support 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 families to acquire income generating skills.

In 2013, the BTS received a welcome boost with the completion and construction of the Piggery Project which had commenced in March. Land was provided by the Diocese of Maasin and Foundation funding has enabled the establishment of the project. At full capacity the scheme will produce about 90 piglets annually. The income generated from sales will support 18 poor children in school for a year.

Throughout the 2013, the staff of Maasin collaborated with teams of 5 local Health Officers in Edmund Rice Services Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Team. This collaboration focused on eye and ear screening sessions in 7 elementary schools and 2 communities. 751 children were screened and 3 congenital cataract operations arranged. 809 adults were screened with 178 vision problems identified and 48 cataract operations conducted. The CBR Team also provided education in health, nutrition and hygiene for parents and children.

Toward the end of 2013, Typhoon Yolanda struck the region where the Maasin project is situated. The Foundation was able to assist our project leaders to combine resources with the Diocesan Social Action Centre which shares the same building as Edmund Rice Services. This response centered on the implementation of emergency human needs for the population on the Island of Leyte, focusing on the needs of Tacloban and other areas seriously damaged by the typhoon and the related sea-surge. 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.



CALLAN SERVICES NATIONAL UNIT *Papua New Guinea*

DIRECTOR: Br Kevin Ryan

One of the highlights of the Foundation support for Callan Services in 2013 was the refurbishment of a building in Port Moresby, in the suburb of Gerehu, for the establishment of a Special Education Resource Centre (SERC).

This building will act as one of the key hubs of for the network of Callan Services. In 2013 Foundation funding supported the Callan Services National Unit (CSNU) National Conference, which was attended by Principals and Program Co-coordinators 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. v

The Edmund Rice Foundation has established that the training and professional development of staff in Papua New Guinea is one of the key strategic platforms for the Foundation over the next three years.

Foundation funding has also enabled continuing professional development in the area of child protection. In 2013 child protection training workshops were 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 in 2014 and beyond will be the 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.

It is hoped that the New South Wales Chapter of the Edmund Rice Foundation will be able to raise funds to support this important component of Callan Services. The Foundation will continue to work with Callan Services in providing funding for 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.



EDMUND RICE SERVICES

Kabankalan City, Philippines

PROJECT LEADER: Br Rod Ellyard

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 of this study led the program being expanded with a further 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 by the ERS Back to School team 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 planned for 2014 and the Foundation has agreed to support the full cost of this building to the tune of \$125,000. ERS and the Foundation have also continued to support the Diocesan Schools' Building program with 17 of the 19 high schools receiving small assistance grants.

In 2014 the Kabankalan project will focus on increasing the number of children accessing the services of the Anawim Foundation for the deaf. In particular the project will introduce steps to enable hearing impaired students to access secondary education. 70 children now attend Special Education classes. Many of whom are accommodated at the Anawim Centre.





COMUNIDADE EDMUND RICE

East Timor **PROJECT LEADER: Br Frank Hennessy**



In 2013 Comunidade Edmund Rice continued to provide an exceptional education and health service to the people of the Railaco Kraic, Ria Mori, Railaco Leten, Samalete, Deleco and Teraco districts. In particular there was a focus placed on the ongoing formation of staff in Timor Leste.

Two highlights of this formation took place with the Foundation supporting the seminar of Edmund Rice International on human rights and advocacy. This is particularly relevant in Timor Leste as the people are still coming to terms with their often violent political history. The second highlight was the visit from Jennifer Earle who was able to continue her training program with Primary School teachers, especially in the area of lesson planning. The Foundation supported a study by Katrina Powell that examined the impact of the Comunidade Edmund Rice education programmes for the families of the Ermera region. This study indicated an extremely high level of satisfaction with the education services offered by CER and more importantly the impact that this education has played in building future sustainability and capacity within each district.

The future sustainability of the programs in Timor Leste will rely upon the development of leadership and proficient educational teaching among the East Timorese teachers. In 2013 the Foundation supported CER in establishing a primary schools committee to address daily issues and planning for teacher training days. This process was effective in achieving the goal of giving the teachers ownership of their schools and the programs undertaken.

In 2014, the relatively new addition of electricity to the villages will provide an opportunity to enhance the teaching and learning environment but will at the same time offer the challenge necessitate the need to introduce computer skills for students and staff. CER sees that the training of computer skills as a vital tool for individuals to enhance their chances of employment in the coming years.