



**Edmund Rice**  
 FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA  
*Liberating Lives Through Education*

# REACHING OUT

PRESENCE | COMPASSION | LIBERATION

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## A Place for All

The Kurt Fearnley Special Needs Unit was opened by Australian High Commissioner to Kenya. Kurt, gold medal wheelchair racer at Paralympic and World Championship Games, led the Foundation Gone Fishing immersion of 20 Australians to Nairobi. Kurt was praised as a great Australian, who empowers others, and the Ruben Centre as an Oasis in the heart of Nairobi, a place of inclusion for people with disabilities, and for all people of Mukuru Slum who come to Ruben for support and hope.



# NEW GUINEA



## Papua New Guinea

### Callan Services National Unit

CSNU performs a quite remarkable operation for the young people of PNG with disabilities. Of the 23 centres offering such services in PNG, 19 are those of Callan Services. The Special Education Resource Centres (SERCs) are scattered over the rugged geography of PNG and provide opportunities for many hundreds of children and others who have disabilities that have largely not been identified, let alone addressed in an effective manner. Hearing, sight, muscular co-ordination and speech problems are the main areas for remediation. It is CSNU that maintains the thrust for development, training, expansion, monitoring and evaluation of these widely dispersed centres. Last year those who benefited from screening for disabilities, identification of such, provision of rehabilitation and appropriate special education numbered over 4,000: 3,200 children and 1,150 adults. For this to occur in the 19 widely dispersed centres, the training and quality controls provided by CSNU were vital.

## Philippines

The centres of ministry in the Philippines that are supported by the Foundation are situated at Kabankalan and Maasin. The main works of the Maasin project are capacity building of parents and the prevention of primary school children dropping out of education because of poverty. This especially targets children with disabilities. An alternative learning scheme enables rapid catch up for re-entry to public schooling. Parents of primary school children are assisted with training in food growing, enabling them to properly support and feed their children. Working in partnerships with government agencies, this training includes pig and poultry raising and vegetable production. Much disability is overcome by the training of teachers, local officials and community members in eye and ear screening and treatments.

Significantly, 50 professional health care staff have been trained and over 180 volunteers. This has enabled 1,400 children to be screened as well as 800 adults. Cataract surgery has resulted for 125 and physical rehabilitation for 80. Without the intervention of Edmund Rice Ministries these people would have battled through life with untreated disabling ailments. However, it is planned to conduct longer term assessments of these programs. Hygiene is a widespread problem. Lack of fresh water, waste segregation and a lack of toilets in this heavily populated area give rise to disease and chronic health problems. Edmund Rice Ministries has provided interventions to educate villagers, establish continuing learning programs and the development of low maintenance public toilets.

# WESTERN ZAMBIA

The Community Engagement Program (CEP) was established in western Zambia by the Christian Brothers in 2016. Project sites were established in 3 districts based on the high levels of poverty in the western province, with 74% of the population living in extreme poverty.

The program was initiated after intensive consultations with local communities through a listening survey in the three different districts of Senanga, Luampa and Limulunga. The three project sites are run independently with coordination of efforts from a central location in Mongu. Distances from Mongu are respectively - Senanga 120km, Luampa 200 km and Limulunga about 15 km away. The roads are in very poor condition. The Brothers who oversee these projects in the three districts live among the community members they work with and community engagement is a key pillar in running the projects.

Much of the early focus had been on education, training and formation of the CEP's personnel to enable them to begin engaging with their target communities utilising a community engagement methodology. Now the projects are underway and in the target communities many people's lives have begun to change.

The needs in these districts were identified as – training in use of clean water and hygiene, poverty relief through food production, empowerment of disengaged youth, education in reproductive health and nutrition. Engagement of the relevant government ministries of education, health and livestock & fisheries in partnerships was sought. Project teams were established with the local people, and planned objectives were established. While these differed in the different districts, there was strong commonality as poverty, poor health and a lack of education were common to all.

Over 200 locals were given training in agriculture crop production, fisheries and poultry production. This group was also trained in entrepreneurship. The training in chicken rearing and vegetable production to improve livelihoods was very well received.



VEGETABLE GROWING AT LIMULUNGA



FISH PONDS FOR FOOD PRODUCTION



SENANGA POULTRY PROJECT

In one district farm land was acquired from traditional leadership and a community farm established. A poultry project was run in support of the targeted beneficiaries. Some who are incapacitated and unable to actively participate in the community project chose trusted representatives. Beneficiaries or representatives acquired increased knowledge and skills in agriculture crop, livestock and fish production. The choice of poultry as the major livelihood activity was based on the potential quick turnover of hybrid chickens. About 600 birds were reared at the community farm.

The Senanga project committee, which includes community representatives and technical officers from the Department of Livestock and Fisheries, had procured food supplements from funds realised from the sale of chickens. These are being distributed to targeted vulnerable households, some of whom, are elderly, ill and malnourished.

The project also partnered with the Ministry of Health to distribute High Energy Protein supplements to address urgent nutritional needs.

In another district land was allocated and youths participated in clearing the land and in the construction of 6 fish ponds. The beneficiaries were also given the opportunity to acquire practical skills in agriculture crop, poultry and fish-production.

The establishment of the community poultry farm which included construction of a poultry house was well achieved.

Another successful outcome was the program for training of caregivers. Their graduation ceremony attracted high level senior government officials. A public commitment was made by the District Health Director to the effect that caregivers trained by the program would be integrated into the Ministry of Health care system.

# SOUTH SUDAN



NEW SURGERY AT NZARA

## St Therese Hospital *Nzara*

The construction and set up of new operating theatres, surgical and maternity wards are well underway. In fact, construction is almost complete and early this year Dr Daniel Doyle and members of the Catholic Medical Missionary Board (CMMB), the American charity with whom we are partnering, met in Nzara to negotiate the fit-out with the necessary medical equipment. The blood bank and associated facilities are not too far behind with construction commenced. Meanwhile the hospital is functioning very well, serving a catchment population of over 350,000 people within South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo and Central Africa Republic. The number of patients admitted last year was approximately 5,000; there were a further 17,000 who attended the Outpatients services. Funding from ERFA has gone largely to supporting the hospital grow capacity by educating students from Nzara at the Wau Nursing Institute. The majority of these now work in the hospital having graduated with a Diploma of Nursing. Many now offer nursing leadership in a range of departments.

Others have qualified as laboratory technicians who diagnose diseases, enabling the doctors and nurses to treat and care for the many patients coming to the hospital.

The local community is empowered through on the job trainees with some eventually being selected to study in Wau in a field of need for the hospital.

A fragile peace has come at last to this fragmented new nation. While much is in disarray, our two projects in the west of the country are thriving in their work of providing hope to the peoples most in need.

## STAR *Yambio*

Star Support Group offers its members Clinical services, a Tailoring programme, English adult learning, Awareness workshops, a Microfinance programme and Orphans gatherings. The number of beneficiaries exceeds 1,500 men, women and children.

The microfinance programme has been very successful. The anecdotal evidence from the beneficiaries backs up how significant these loans have been for them, in terms of starting up their small business operations and enabling them to grow, making them less dependent on financial support from others. The first group of 61 people in 2016 were given loans of 10,000 SSP. During this year, these people all paid back their loans, apart from one person because of serious sickness. Some took out further loans for expanding their businesses. With repaid loans it is hoped to bring on board a new group of 100 members in 2019. The Tailoring and English classes are not large in numbers (20 completed the tailoring course out of 24, and 15 completed the English course out of 20). Those who benefit from these courses learnt skills in dress-making, clothing repairs and machine maintenance. They will be given a machine for their use when leaving the course, which will help them become more self-sustainable. The class began making school uniforms for local children. This has produced a benefit for the community of Yambio. Those learning English will gain skills that will make it easier for them to get jobs.



STAR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS



**KENYA**

MARY RICE STUDENTS

## Mary Rice Centre (MRC)

The excluded in Africa are those with disabilities. This is especially so for the slum dwellers. The welcome, development therapies and education offered for the disabled of the Kibera Slum at the Mary Rice Centre are outstanding life changers.

This year development of staff has resulted in even more effective work for the children. Accurate identification and early intervention for placement for education in the centre led to the increase in school enrolment. Parents were encouraged to actively participate in therapy sessions to learn simple exercises and activities they can do with children at home to enhance, maintain and improve physical and cognitive health.

Motivation is used to encourage the children to want to do better and then to learn faster. Colour and a variety of objects and freedom to manipulate excited the learners, hence making them innovative and to understand their environment better. Lack of facilities was overcome by modifications to classrooms. A classroom was modified to serve as the therapist room and another classroom as the parents training room. The garden was used to practice urban farming by the Centre where were grown vegetables that served as main source of vegetables and greens throughout the year. Great support has again come from St Virgil's College in Hobart and the Mary Rice Luncheon in Melbourne. The local community and its leadership are very supportive and offer themselves as volunteers.

## Edmund Rice Advocacy Network (ERAN)

ERAN with its 3 staff and 10 volunteers works to enhance the quality of life for vulnerable groups through social transformation, care of the environment and protection and promotion of human rights. ERAN together with other partners recently held a combined community clean-up in the Embulbul community. The event which was organised by ERAN and Embulbul Water and Waste Management Project was very successful as it brought on board local supermarkets, business men and women, primary and secondary schools and African Nazarene University, who participated as well as provided refreshments for participants. Prior to and post the clean-up exercises, participants were taught on the best practices of keeping the environment clean. Today if you walk around the Embulbul community there is an improved cleanliness as a result of the awareness given to the community members.

At Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School (ERSSS) in Tanzania, ERAN trained student leaders on leadership, communication, group dynamics, conflict resolution and child protection. Students learnt that they need to be eyes and ears for their fellow students and teachers in promoting human rights welfare and holding themselves and others accountable and that in every action they need to reason out the implications of their actions before they act. Following this training ERAN was requested to conduct a two day workshop on the effects and mitigation against alcohol, drugs and substance abuse, in which 68 student leaders took part.

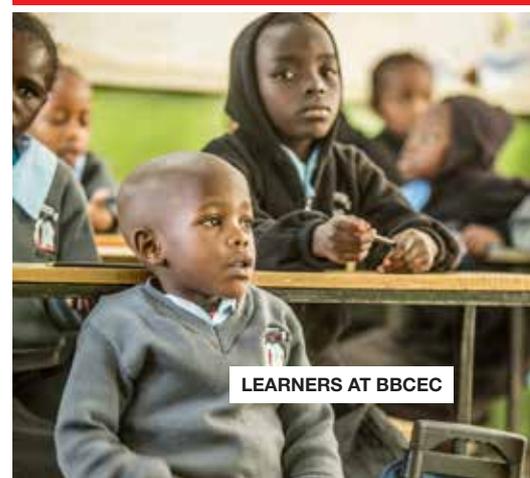
## Br Beausang Catholic Education Centre (BBCEC)

BBCEC's new Advisory Board has a critical role in building organisational sustainability into the future and in enabling the local community to take ownership of and responsibility for their school. It is taking up issues such as the school's expectations and the parents' responsibilities, including fee payments as little as they are.

The sporting and social Exchange with Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School (Arusha, Tanzania) which is sponsored by Zimele was again a great success and is anxiously anticipated again this year. Development of relationships between participants and across school and national borders is an important outcome.

During the term break a special camp for 22 children from Lower Primary was held. Those selected were from needy backgrounds and who had performed very well in their school work during the term. The activities varied from talks on personal health, hygiene and grooming, daily reading sessions to role playing games based on possible future career choices! The group also took part in a community service clean-up of the local neighbourhood, developing a sense of awareness and responsibility for the local environment. Their enthusiasm for the clean-up prompted some local villagers to join in.

Winnie spent some time teaching in Somalia and has now been in the junior school for 8 years as an inspiring teacher. She is the driving force behind the Arts & Culture program, taking it to national recognition. As well as inspiring children, Winnie inspires other teachers.



LEARNERS AT BBCEC

# GIVING TO THE END

## KEVIN WILLIAMS



Kevin was trained as a Christian Brother to be a teacher with his specialty in Physical Education. After some years teaching within the Christian Brothers, he decided to leave and return home to Brisbane.

Until the end of his working life Kevin remained a devoted and enthusiastic teacher, receiving a Papal Award for his 50 years of teaching within Catholic schools. Physical education, teaching religion, music and raising money for the missions were the memories of Kevin, even at the last school on the Gold Coast. He was the first person to be invited by Channel 10 to put on a TV physical education programme in the early 1970s. He went to USA to learn more about equipment to assist physical education and came back with the wheel, which was used each Saturday on the show. Many mornings before school Kevin was seen gathered with a group of primary school students. They would discuss ways of raising money for young children at school in Papua New Guinea, in those days referred to as children in the missions.

When his home was being cleared before he went into care, his family found many receipts for donations he made to the missions and to the work of the Christian Brothers working with young people. In talking with him about his Will, it was clear that his continued love for education of the young, especially those in PNG who need it the most, was how he wanted his money to be used into the future. All the money he had left at the end of his life, he left to those working in Papua New Guinea with young people who needed help to receive a good healthy education. Kevin left this as a bequest to the Edmund Rice Foundation with his intention to support PNG.



## PERTH LUNCHEON

The inaugural Western Australian *Liberate Lives* luncheon was held in September last at Perth's beautiful *Frasers* restaurant in Kings Park.

Expertly hosted by AFL Hall of Fame member Peter Bell, 140 guests were highly entertained by Peter's humorous interview style, gaining insights into the careers of former West Coast Eagles stars Quinten Lynch and Andrew Embley. We are extremely grateful to Peter, Quinten and Andrew.

Former Head of Aquinas College and current Principal of Great Southern Grammar, Mark Sawle, provided a firsthand account of the daily challenges of our friends in the Kibera & Mukuru slums of Nairobi.

Ending the great day was a high energy and very funny auction of a range of donated items by Channel 10 sports commentator Tim Gossage, and message from Channel 7 Newsreader, Rick Ardon. We are very grateful to our supporters, guests, generous talent and especially our sponsor, *Paywise* and its CEO Neil Allison.

## COMING EVENTS

### May 22

*The 500 Supporters' Group AFL Luncheon – MCG*

### May 24

*Sydney Long Luncheon*

### June 2

*St Therese Hospital Dinner – Abruzzo Club, Melbourne*

### September 6

*Liberating Lives Luncheon – Perth*

### September 7

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

### September 20

*Mary Rice Luncheon – Treacy, Melbourne*

### October 13

*Villa Verde Garden Party – Melbourne*

### October 29

*The 500 Supporters' Group Spring Racing Luncheon – MCG*

For booking details visit [www.erf.org.au/events](http://www.erf.org.au/events)

## THANK YOU SUPPORTERS

On behalf of those spoken about in the earlier pages we express thanks and gratitude for the generous responses that came following the last edition of *Reaching Out*. To all our supporters, please accept our heartfelt gratitude.

The individual donors, schools and events are the pillars upon which the aid given depends.



Edmund Rice Foundation (Australia) is an accredited member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)