

Newsletter

Issue 44 August 2016



A New Look for the Edmund Rice Centre WA

This newsletter showcases our new branding. We all love how it looks now under the name “Edmund Rice Centre WA” to better reflect the breadth of our work. The featured Boab tree is a symbol of strength, wisdom, health, long life and beauty. It is a sacred link to the past and is associated with the beginning of creation and new beginnings. The tree is composed of various figures from different backgrounds all joining as one. With the line “reaching out, changing lives”, we feel this captures our goals as an organisation. We welcome, respect and value each person regardless of colour, race, creed or ability and we aim to enable social change and learning.

Read more about Edmund Rice Centre WA on our new website: www.ercwa.org.au

Who Visits the Centre?

Each year the Centre interacts with around 3,000 people of all ages and backgrounds. It provides programs in English, computer studies, life skills, driver education, specialist housing assistance, settlement assistance, a women’s group and very popular youth sports and youth leadership training programmes, as well as leisure and cultural programmes.

Did you know that 60 students a day come to the Centre to participate in the Language for Living programme alone? 300 young people a month participate in programmes that include AFL, basketball, soccer, art classes and a highly successful local parks programme that encourages children to come and “have a go” at different sports. The program also transitions young people to mainstream sporting clubs through the assistance of the Kidsport initiative.

Difficult Times Mean Funding Cuts

However, these are difficult times for those of us helping new arrivals and vulnerable people in our society. Our funding from the State and Federal Governments has been severely cut and we are finding it harder and harder to maintain all our programs. Sadly, we have already had to let some of our staff go due to these cuts. Vital programmes like our English language classes and our “Women Together” group desperately need more funding.

If you know of any organisation, group or individual who would like to support our work financially, don’t hesitate to contact me directly. If you would like to make a donation to the Edmund Rice Centre now you can go to our new website at www.ercwa.org.au and click on the red donate button at the top of the home page or complete the donation slip at the end of this newsletter.

With warm regards,
Stephen Bowman, Director

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A Brief Message from our Patron, Ken Michael AO

I was delighted to visit the Centre again recently and then be part of the launch of the new branding and positioning for the Edmund Rice Centre. I am so proud to be Patron of this wonderful organisation. The Centre works with wonderful clients who trust and rely on it and we have fantastic staff and volunteers who help us every day. What I love most about the Edmund Rice Centre WA is its family focus and the manner in which it welcomes everyone no matter what religion or culture. I look forward to staying involved with the Centre in coming years.



Photo 1: Jim Elliot (Board Chairperson), Dr Ken Michael (Patron), Rosemary Sayers (Board Member), Joe Moniodis (Youth Special Projects Coordinator), Stephen Bowman (Director)



Photo 2: Andiya Paul, Brenda Amito, Sandra Paul, Aker Athoi, Monica Yengi

REACHING OUT, CHANGING LIVES

Common Goal

One of our newest initiatives in the youth special projects program is called “Common Goal”. It aims to foster positive relationships between young people from diverse communities and strengthen police engagement with the community by providing fun and structured soccer activities that target young people between 8 – 18 years of age.

Common Goal is a community initiative managed by Edmund Rice Centre WA in partnership with Football West, WA Police and the Mirrabooka Mosque. It also has the support of the City of Stirling and is funded by the Department of Sport and Recreation.

The police fielded a great team against our Common Goal Soccer Academy forces in a match on 31 July. Joe Moniodis, our coordinator, has a fantastic SBS you tube video about the program featuring comments from Police Commissioner Karl O’Callaghan and some of the many participants. I urge you to have a look at it. You can also find it on our website.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJtb7AosP84>

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Refugee Week

The theme of this year's Refugee Week celebrations in June was "with courage Let us all combine" which is taken from the second verse of our national anthem Advance Australia Fair. We celebrated the vital contribution and wonderful diversity that refugees bring to Australia. It was also a time for us to reflect about the courage and resilience of all refugees and those who speak out against persecution and injustice.

The UNHCR reminded us in a recent report that there are more than 65.3 million displaced people refugees and asylum seekers around the world, half of whom are women and children.

We were thrilled that three young women who participate in our Butler Falcons AFL team were chosen to feature on the national Australian poster!



Photo 3: Aker Athoi, Monica Yengi and Sandra Paul from the Butler Falcons

NAIDOC Week

We recently celebrated NAIDOC Week recognising the achievements of our first Australians. NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across the country each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. Thanks to Brother Jim and Donella Brown, our youth pathways coordinator, who accompanied a group from our Moorditj Koolangka (Strong Children) program on an outing to Sacred Heart School in Sorrento. A great visit!



Photo 4: Moorditj Koolangka visit to Sacred Heart School

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So Many Good News Stories!

There are so many good news stories every day at the Edmund Rice Centre across all our programs. The figures for our highly popular and important Driver Education Program were outstanding for 2015. There were 67 clients enrolled in the driver programme and 43 passed their practical driving assessment. Our Driving coordinator, Wahida Aziz, says we still have a waiting list of more than 30 clients.

Personal stories and successful highlights from all our programs will be featured regularly on our new website in the coming months so make sure you follow us and check it out regularly.
www.ercwa.org.au

We Need Your Help



If you would like to support our work, your donation will be most gratefully accepted. Your donation will enable people from refugee and Indigenous backgrounds to continue benefit from our educational programs. The Edmund Rice Centre is a registered charity.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Donations can be made by cheque or by direct deposit. By providing your contact information, you enable us to send you a tax receipt.

Please make cheques payable to "Edmund Rice Centre"

Account name: Edmund Rice Centre Western Australia
BSB: 066 183 Account number: 1009 1408
Reference: your SurnameDtn (e.g. "SmithDtn")

I enclose a donation to assist the work of the Edmund Rice Centre WA:

\$20 \$50 \$100 \$500 Other

Title Given Name Family Name

Address Post Code

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