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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 to benefit from our educational programs. The Edmund Rice Centre Western Australia is a registered charity.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. As we are required to issue a tax receipt for all donations, please send an email to info@ercwa.org.au when you donate, including your *full name, postal address, email address* and *donation amount*. You may also choose to make your donation to a specific project.

Please make cheques payable to “Edmund Rice Centre”

Donation via Website, Paypal and Direct Deposit

www.ercwa.org.au

Account name: Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka Inc

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

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Newsletter

Issue 46

June/July 2017

From The Director

In coming weeks we celebrate two important national events in our calendar, namely Refugee Week (18-24 June) and NAIDOC Week (2-9 July). Both events aim to raise awareness and celebrate the diverse and rich cultural heritage that is Australia. We are all encouraged to use these opportunities to increase our knowledge and appreciation for the diversity of our community through sharing stories and eradicating racism.

Every day at the Edmund Rice Centre, we all work to enable people to feel included and to be empowered particularly through education. All staff and our many volunteers continue to work very generously in the provision of services. This year our English and computer classes are again in high demand along with Driver Education, Lifeskills and casework services. Our ‘grassroots’ youth and leadership programs continue to expand throughout the metropolitan area reaching out and bringing about positive change in the lives of Aboriginal, Refugee Migrant and ‘at risk’ mainstream youth. We very much value the support of many in our community and this edition of the newsletter gives an outline of some of the activities in recent months.

Fundraising Film Afternoon

A big “Thank You” to all those who supported our recent fundraiser held at Cinema Paradiso.

The film entry, afternoon tea and raffle raised approximately \$3,800 for our Women Together Program. It was also a very successful social event for all who attended.

The funds will be used to purchase materials for the program and subsidise local excursions to various Perth venues for the group of ladies from diverse backgrounds who regularly participate in this weekly program.

You can help us to save money!
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Common Goal

Soccer Academy

An expansion of the Common Goal Soccer Academy was launched in Cannington on May 1st, building on the earlier success of the program launched in Mirrabooka 12 months ago. Common Goal uses soccer as a way of engaging youth from diverse backgrounds and provides leadership and other development opportunities. The program began in early February and has been building ever since. It currently boasts a juniors program, a female program and a youth academy.



After formalities, hosted by the Canning Mosque which included speeches from Senior Police, members of parliament and ERCWA Director Steve Bowman, and a reading from the Quran, it was on to business for the Academy team as they looked forward to their encounter with the WA Police soccer team at the Queens Park Primary School Oval.

This was an eagerly anticipated game by the players and their community, and they did themselves and everyone else present very proud, with an attacking brand of football that left the Police team constantly on the defensive. The Common Goal team broke through late in the first half to score the only goal of the game and held on for a 1-0 victory.

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Edmund Rice Centre WA’s Director Steve Bowman said “The weekly Monday afternoon session here at Queen’s Park is a time to make new and respectful friendships, build and strengthen partnerships and celebrate all that is good in our diverse multicultural community.”

Common Goal is a partnership between the Edmund Rice Centre WA, Football West and WA Police and the Cannington chapter is supported by the Perth Turkish Youth Association, Canning Mosque, Queens Park Primary School, and the City of Canning.

Computer Training for Online Services

This program aims to teach students from CaLD communities basic computer skills in order to enable them to use online services including government services linked to myGov. The program started in February this year, with two teachers (Tia and Martha) running both individual and class sessions. It is funded by the Office of Multicultural Interests.

To date we have had a total of 36 registered clients, who have attended 43 classes and 18 individual sessions.

While we aim to teach students about a variety of services, the most popular requests by students have been how to navigate the Centrelink online services website and to access job search websites including Seek and Job Active. Students learn how to upload resumes and cover letters to these websites.

“It is a very successful start to the program and I look forward to new students registering in the following months.”



Martha Alvarado, Online Services Trainer

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Vale Br. Phil O’Loghlen

On the 10th May 2017 Br Phil O’Loghlen passed away after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer almost 2 years ago. Besides many years of generous service as a Christian Brother working in schools in New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia, Br Phil reached out with great generosity by teaching and working at the Edmund Rice Centre in Mirrabooka. He taught arts, crafts and conversational English to newly arrived



refugee migrants on a weekly basis for almost fourteen years. His efforts assisted many to acquire the English language and integrate into the community.

Br Phil is also remembered for introducing a weekly program for Aboriginal children and their families named “Moorditj Koolangka” (Noongah language for ‘Strong Children’). This program, which commenced in 2003 continues to the present time and over the years has realized many positive outcomes for all those involved. Br Phil was much loved by all at the Centre and his presence will be greatly missed. Rest in Peace, Br Phil



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Sculptures By the Sea

Lifeskills Program

On Wednesday 15th March 2017 our Lifeskills group headed to Cottesloe to view Sculptures by The Sea. We were met by Elyssa, one of the artists exhibiting their piece at this year’s event. The ladies thoroughly enjoyed the experience of wandering around viewing various interesting sculptures. Elyssa explained about her piece titled **Alliance Amongst Adversity**.



Humans need to support each other
ALLIANCE AMONGST DIVERSITY



Elyssa explaining about the sculptures to the group

“The two figures are made from recycled bits of timber, suspended by high tension wires on that building. I’ve attempted to portray that always in our lives whoever we are, wherever we are, regardless of our age, sex, religion, skin colour or country of birth, we are all human and always need to reach out to others.”

Upcoming Events

Refugee Week

18-24 June

World Refugee Day 20th June

For more details go to

www.refugeeweek.org.au

Edmund Rice Centre (ERC) Quiz Night

Wednesday 2nd August 2017

Gibney Hall at Trinity College

2 Trinity Avenue

East Perth 6004

NAIDOC Week

Monday 3rd July 2017

10am-2pm

Local Event at Herb Graham Recreation Centre

38 Ashbury Cres

Mirrabooka 6061

www.naidoc.org.au

ERC Harmony Weekend Family Camp

1-3 December 2017

Camp Kelly

Dwellingup

For more information:

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