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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](mailto: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.

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# Newsletter

Issue 47

November 2017

## News and Views From The Director

On the weekend of the 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> December, staff, volunteers and participants at Edmund Rice Centre WA together with the wider Edmund Rice Network will hold the annual Harmony Weekend Family Camp at Camp Kelly near Dwellingup.

For the last few years staff of Aquinas College in Manning have taken on the organisation of the weekend activities which present an opportunity for all to come together to get to know and learn from each other.

We will learn the Aboriginal Story of the area and take time to share cultural and faith stories. There will be fun activities for the children attending as well as the sharing of a multicultural meal, music and dance.

From past experience it will be a very enriching and enjoyable weekend and an opportunity to celebrate the richness of our diversity and what we share in common.

## Federal Government Gift

We were delighted that the federal Member for Stirling, Hon Michael Keenan, recognized the community work ERCWA does and secured a federal grant for us to purchase a 12 seater bus. The new bus is in constant use transporting our clients around Perth to attend various programs and events.



“The new 12 seater bus enables us to help more clients and expand our program.”

You can help us to save money!

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## Nic Naitanui Academy and Cup

ERC were invited to enter a team in the 2017 Nic Naitanui Academy. The team combined the best players aged 12-15 from the Lions and the Falcons and training was conducted over a three week period.

The culmination was the Naitanui Cup, a round robin event, with teams from East Perth, Perth, Swan Districts and Subiaco Football Districts, played on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November at Leederville Oval.

Our boys showcased their skills, talent and abilities and although they lost the first two games (the second by only a few points) the third game had a very impressive comeback win against the Perth Demons. The win showed great endeavour by the boys who learnt from their mistakes in the first two games.



The boys and the coaches showed great character and commitment throughout the training sessions and the ‘Cup’ and impressed spectators with their courage and footy skills. We look forward to seeing our boys accomplish great things next year.

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## Commissioner for Children visit

We were pleased to welcome Colin Pettit, the Commissioner for Children and Young People, to the Centre at the beginning of November.

He met with a number of youth staff and leaders. Among the topics we discussed was the commission's introduction of the on-line App 'DigiMe' which aims to enhance communication between the government and young people.



## Darlington Arts Festival

On Sunday 5th November 2017, a lovely spring day, two busloads of excited families joined our family excursion to the Darlington Arts Festival.

The families, who were all from a refugee background, loved the chance to travel to the hills area of Perth, enjoying a barbeque lunch and fun activities was a first time experience.



This year volunteers from the Burmese Community, took on the task of setting up, cooking the barbecue and serving lunch. This gave them the opportunity to show the skills they have developed from being involved in the programs offered at the Edmund Rice Centre.



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## Common Goal Program

'Common Goal' is an Edmund Rice Centre WA program in partnership with Football West, WA Police and Cannington and Mirrabooka Mosques.

The Common Goal Academy played in the Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre's Multicultural Indoor Soccer Tournament. We had two teams in the competition, league and reserves.

The league team topped their group, winning three matches. Their discipline and sportsmanship was the highlight of the tournament.



The reserves Team performed admirably, winning one of their three matches. They showed great passion and heart in all their matches and their tenacity and determination were noticed by everyone.

The Common Goal League made the finals of the Tournament and won their semi-final easily.

In the Grand Final, Common Goal faced the Habibis in the most intense match of the tournament. One of our players won 'Top Scorer' and another 'Goalkeeper of the Tournament'.



## Improving Access to Online Government Services

This project involves the development and piloting of a computer and online literacy program to help individuals from different backgrounds. It includes learning how to independently access government services such as, Centrelink, Medicare, JobSearch and The Australian Taxation Office. Our program is also customized to fit each individual's needs.

The project is funded by The Office of Multicultural Interest (OMI). It is in high demand by our clients because it enables them to be more independent and to access available services in a timely manner.

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## Hip Hop, Photography, Dance, Comedy and Radio Workshops

Earlier this year, we welcomed well known Aboriginal artist Peter Farmer and Duncan Wright to lead our Aboriginal Youth Arts Program. The program operates across three centres - ERCWA, Wadjak Aboriginal Resource Centre and Sudbury House.

To date, 121 children and youth have participated in activities such as music, photography, comedy and media workshops.

A very successful Hip Hop program was held at the Wadjak Centre, led by a boys mentoring group, over a five week period on Tuesday afternoons. We engaged local Hip Hop artist Tom 'Mathas' Mathieson to work with the boys and mentor them. They created their own Hip Hop song and learnt about rhythm and music.

Camera Story ran photography workshops with the girls in the Tree of Life Program, also at Wadjak Centre. The girls worked in teams and learnt how to tell stories with images.

The Moorditj Koolangka program introduced an experimental music and youth radio workshop supported by Sibling Music and MY Radio. The children were engaged with composing songs, creating a beat by using a variety of synthesisers, loop stations and recording various eclectic instruments. They have also completed an Improvisational Comedy workshop with Esther Longhurst and are going to be working on a mural at Sudbury House.



The programs are funded by the Crown foundation.

## The Harmony Camp is on Again!

From the 1-3 December at Camp Kelly, Dwellingup If you would like to join us please call us on (08)94400625



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