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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”

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Newsletter

Issue 49

March 2018

From the Director

The spirit of Easter is about sharing hope, renewal, love and peace. I believe this is what we strive to foster in the spirit of Edmund Rice at the Centre each day and throughout the year.

About this time, back in 1998, we began our programs to provide essential settlement services and community education activities. Interestingly, our annual budget was approximately \$28,000 and we opened with volunteers working three days each week. Since these small beginnings, we have expanded our services throughout the metropolitan area and assisted thousands of people from refugee and migrant backgrounds, as well as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Today we offer 19 programs of an educational nature to adults, children and youth with the assistance of some 40 staff and 46 volunteers. Inspired by Edmund Rice, our vision is to enable people to feel included, be active participants and make a positive contribution to society.

I want to wish everyone a Happy Easter: our staff and wonderful volunteers, our funders and supporters, and most importantly, our many thousands of participants who access the services of the Centre.

Throughout 2018 we'll be celebrating our 20th anniversary at various events and I hope you will join us at some of these. But in the meantime, enjoy a happy, peaceful and safe Easter.



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Barbershop Chronicles Workshop

In collaboration with the Perth Festival, the Edmund Rice Creative Arts program had the opportunity to present a theatrical workshop with actors from the Barber Shop Chronicles.



The group has performed all around the world, using the socializing aspect of visiting a barber shop as a platform to deliver messages about politics and culture.

Participants engaged in designing and painting their own barber shop signs. They also learnt about traditional African music and took part in improvisations alongside the actors.



We were invited to the dress rehearsal of the Barbershop Chronicles show which took place in the Octagon Theatre at the University of WA. It was great fun and a terrific learning experience for everyone.

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Vale Mandy Whitton

On the 25th January 2018, we were all greatly saddened to learn that Mandy Whitton had passed away after battling cancer over a number of years.

Mandy joined our staff in June 2008 when she began working as the Multicultural Community Liaison Worker at the Integrated Services Centre at Koondoola Primary School. She resigned from this position in June 2017.

We will always remember Mandy as a very dedicated staff member who showed great compassion towards the many migrant refugee families who came to the Centre. Because of her efforts and dedication she helped to transform the lives of many.

Mandy was a passionate advocate for the disadvantaged in the community and will remain an inspiration to all.

The day after her passing, staff and volunteers from ERCWA joined her family and friends and the community of Koondoola Primary School for her funeral service at Karrakatta cemetery.

May Mandy rest in peace.

Our Settlement Services

The program supports humanitarian entrants who have lived in Australia less than five years. It facilitates access to mainstream services and supports successful settlement. We have been very busy providing a diverse range of settlement services. We also provide advocacy and referral assistance on issues related to immigration and citizenship, finance and income support and family issues.

We have organised a number of information sessions that we identified as very important topics affecting the CaLD community. One focused on consumer issues including scams, credit cards, interest and credit history hosted by the Northern Suburbs Community legal Centre. Another important session titled 'How to save money on utilities' was very informative and popular.



Sculptures By the Sea

On a warm and sunny day a group of women from the Life-skills Program travelled to Cottesloe Beach to enjoy "Sculptures by the Sea" which showcases the art work of 73 artists from 18 countries.

Mikaela Castledine who participated in the exhibition spent time with us. She explained her work, "Feral", which attempts to make a point about humanity's relationship to animals and the ideologies people project on them.

This exhibit was an important conservation lesson for us all.



Arts Project with Jeremyville

Four young artists from the Edmund Rice Creative Arts program attended the Harmony Art Collective workshop with International artist Jeremyville from New York.

Each participant created their own original art work inspired by Jeremyville himself. The works were displayed at the Herb Graham Recreation Centre. Then they traveled to Sydney for a public exhibition and back to Perth just in time for Harmony week.



Common Goal World Cup

The Common Goal World Cup attracted a variety of teams from different cultural backgrounds and the Police department also fielded a team.

Common Goal Academy fielded two teams. Both teams wore Australian colours (Gold and Green). In the first round, "Australia Gold" defeated WA Police while "Australia Green" was defeated by Syria. "Australia Gold" went on to play semi-finals but at the end of the day Afghanistan won the Common Goal World Cup.

Thanks to Ballajura AFC, Football West, WA Police and Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre for help on the day.



Come and be part of it!

The Six Seasons mural project is nearing completion with workshops wrapping up and designs being finalised. We're really excited that for spray artist, Lawry Halden from White Lion will work alongside former Edmund Rice employee, Peter Farmer to paint a Waigal around the building with youth from Cullacabardee Aboriginal Community.

In early April we will be having three community days at the site where everyone is invited to come along and help paint the rest of the mural.

We will be at Fragrant Gardens Reserve in Honeywell, Saturday 7 April, 10am - 2pm.

Come and make the mural yours!

Banksia United Swimming

Banksia United was originally an all indigenous soccer program. However at the end of last year, as a result of feedback from the participants and many others, it was relaunched as a multisport program.

In partnership with the Royal Life Saving Society, ERCWA has agreed to run a swimming program for Banksia United.

Participants were put into groups according to their swimming ability and were accompanied by a qualified swimming instructor.



One of the goals of the program is to encourage team skills and engagement with others.

The program has had a great start to the year and we hope to include sports like basketball, netball, rugby and tennis in the future.



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