



Rice Grains

Edmund Rice Camps
VICTORIA

Number 85, October 2011



▲	Baby News	p.2
▲	EO Article/Remembering Russ	p.3
▲	African Family Camp reflection	p.4
▲	Positive Leadership and Gender/Camp Sign up	p.5
▲	Job Opportunities	p.6
▲	Mutthi Mutthi Cultural Immersion	p.7
▲	(more than) 30 Thoughts for 30 Years	p.8
▲	ERC Malawi	p.14
▲	Fundraising News	p.15
▲	disCONNECT challenge/News from the Board	p.16
▲	Board Profiles	p.17
▲	Board Profiles/ERC on the Air	p.18
▲	St Alban's Tutoring and Mentoring	p.19
▲	Calendar	p.20

Congratulations!



ERC Vic welcomes the newest members of our community:

Eden Betty Cannavan born to Emma Boschetti and Tom Cannavan

Lucas James Meadows born to Zaiga and Russell Meadows

Scarlett Faye Siddles born to Dave and Suz Siddles

Emily Margaret Moodie born to Ben and Alexandra Moodie

Gretel Mary Betts born to Kate and Peter Betts

Franky Richard Drzewucki born to Stephanie and Paul Drzewucki

Angus Robert Eskdale born to Alison and James Eskdale

And a very very special nephew **Ruben Oscar Cerreto Dillon** born to

Alicia Cerreto and Gerald Dillon

Reflections from African Family Camp –Mark Monahan

I attended the recent African Family Camp as the Pastoral Facilitator and 22-seat bus driver. I enjoyed the experience of being back on camp. The energy on camp is so unique and to witness the happy faces was brilliant. I did learn some things too:

There is anticipation on the PF to create a unique experience that is different to every camp prior to that camp. I tried to add some difference but I also went with elements that I know work. So does this anticipation add pressure to prevent people from doing the PF role? I think the main element is to provide a space for people to reflect on their experience and share with others.

I learnt that Candice is a really good cook! From now on when we conduct camps at Amberley we will have the Amberley kitchen staff (2 – 3 hours per day) helping us to prepare meals. We will still need a camp cook but you will have support to ensure the kitchen is ship shape with food handling and cleaning of the kitchen, dishes, etc.

The African Family Camp should remain as that – for families that have been through a refugee experience. Conversations began at the leaders weekend of whether the refugee camps could be combined with other camps to provide a cross-cultural element. I am open to this for the kids camp, but not at this stage for the family camp.

My decisions and mistakes can have significant effects sometimes. The African Family Camp was not held at Amberley because I booked the wrong date. This effected volunteers' involvement, bus drivers due to camp being so far away from Melbourne to travel for one day and leaders didn't know the camp-site.

Volunteers and participants are very proud of being involved with ERC. ERC Vic and other ERC's around Australia/New Zealand are about to have a face lift. A new logo and tag line (catch phrase) is being finalised that all ERCs across Australia and New Zealand will adopt as their new logo. No doubt many are attached to our logo, just as other states are to theirs, but to help ERC grow into the future we need to have one brand. Everything will remain as normal except for operating under a different logo. This logo and tag line will be made public in the next few weeks. If anyone has any responses, questions or disappointments they would like to share with me then I am happy to hear from you.

See you at the Trivia Night!!!

Remembering Russ

Edmund Rice Camps would like to express their sympathy to Maureen Zampatti, family and St Joseph's College Geelong on the sudden death of Russell Zampatti.

Russ ensured every school holidays the college 12 seat bus was booked for Edmund Rice Camps. The availability of the college bus was always guaranteed by Russ, with pick up and drop off done with such ease and flexibility. Russ's interest to support ERC was without notice but very much appreciated.

The Edmund Rice Camp community gives our prayers and best wishes to Maureen and all connected to Russ.



If you have any comments, suggestions or would like to write an article for Rice Grains, just email me (Anna) at anna.cerreto@hotmail.com

African Family Camp —*Amelia Frantz*

African Family Camp 2011. A camp that was bound to be full of adventures and new friendships.

Our adventures began with a gust of heavy rain and cold weather. This did not dampen our spirits however. We got to our new campsite and set up for what was going to be a week of fun ahead for us.

The camp had a certain movie theme, and many upcoming actors and actresses showed off their own talents, starring in many Eddie Rice Camp movies. There was face paint galore as the participants got themselves into character, ranging from butterflies, lions and tigers through to the New Zealand Haka (Credit goes to our New Zealand Camper, Dave)

I was fortunate enough to be involved in many games of soccer through-out the week. Whilst my own soccer skills are somewhat pitiful, it brought sheer delight to the participant's faces when they realised that they could out run me and get every single goal past me.

The second last night brought us a disco. Again, whilst my own dance moves are limited to the 'shopping trolley' and 'the sprinkler', I was delighted that the participants could teach me some real dance moves, including the 'Melbourne Shuffle'. The mothers joined us as we all showed off our new found talents to each other, and had a good time.

The camp ended on a fantastic high, everyone was filled with energy, joy and happiness. We said our goodbyes with smiles on our faces, recalling what a fantastic week we had just had. Credit goes to all the Eddie Ricers involved for making it such a wonderful and joyful camp to be a part of.



Positive Leadership and Gender—Ange Gibbs

Ever felt too shy to start a song on camp? Wanted to try a new leader role but weren't sure if you'd do a good job? Do you feel more comfortable participating in and leading particular types of activities on camp? Or, on the flip side, have you ever wondered why other people don't feel as ready as you to lead any activity, song or try any position?

At the leaders retreat in July, we discussed whether gender might play a role in some of the ways people participate in and engage with camps. We learnt that, while there are considerably more new female leaders than new male leaders, there are currently more male leaders taking on executive roles than there are females taking on executive roles.

We asked why this might be the case. We queried whether, generally speaking, females are just as likely as males to stand up and speak in front of a group. We wondered whether activities on camps are more suited to female or male kids and leaders, and if so, whether that makes a difference to who then runs an activity. We discussed whether female leaders are as likely to be called on by captains and group leaders to run games. We asked if experiences outside of camps, such as public speaking opportunities at school, impact on male and female leadership within camps.

Discussion flowed and people shared different thoughts, ideas and perspectives, reflecting on both personal experiences and on society in general. Most agreed that there are things ERC can do to improve the balance between female and male leadership.

Female leadership is lagging throughout the world. Out of 190 heads of state, 9 are female. Of all the people in Parliament in the world, 13% are female. In Australia, 3% of the CEOs of Australia's top companies are women. By encouraging female leadership within Eddie Rice Camps, we can have an impact on these statistics. We can help to encourage female leadership in all areas of life and society.

At the leaders retreat, we began suggesting ways for Eddie Rice Camps to encourage female leadership within the organisation. We will continue this discussion and welcome any suggestions and ideas. We also welcome any expressions of interest to help form a group with a focus on discussing and planning training to support leadership skills of both females and males.

Summer Camp Sign up!

Get in quick and sign up for Summer camps!

When is it? All four camp dates are on the back page

All volunteer registrations are due by **Wednesday 30th November**.

How do I sign up? Contact the ERC office 9439 6142.

Mark via email: ee@erevic.com

Candice via email: candice@erevic.com
OR sms 0416 105 345.



Job Opportunities



7 Amberley Way
Lower Plenty 3093
ABN: 87 615 462 889
www.amberley.org.au
Phone: 9439 8282
Fax: 9439 6909
pete@amberley.org.au

Edmund Rice Centre Amberley - Ministry Team

Full time and Part time positions available for 2012

Be part of a dynamic team that provides retreat, justice and immersion experiences for young people in secondary schools and the Edmund Rice Network in Victoria and Tasmania.

In 2012 applications are being sought for the following positions.

Coordinator of Ministry Retreats and Justice Programs

This is a full time position. The successful applicant in this role will take on the responsibility for the co-ordination and further development of the Ministry Retreat Program, the City Justice Walks, and other justice leadership and related programs conducted by the Centre.

Ministry Retreat and Justice Programs Assistant

This is a part time position (3 days a week). The successful applicant will assist the Ministry Retreats and Justice Programs Co-ordinator in the facilitation, planning and ongoing development of the Amberley programs.

Co-ordinator of the Edmund Rice Asylum Seeker Project

This is a part time position (2 days a week). The Edmund Rice Asylum Seeker Project has been operating for the last 3 years. It includes a Sunday lunch program that connects Asylum Seekers with volunteers from our own communities as well as a range of educational and supportive opportunities for both recent arrivals and local networks.

The successful applicant will facilitate the ongoing development of programs and networking opportunities as well as work in conjunction with a management group.

If you are interested in the exciting possibilities of these positions you will need to send a letter of application, the completed Application Form and a CV to Peter Hay, the Director of Edmund Rice Centre Amberley.

For more information: role descriptions and application form go to:
www.amberley.org.au

All applications are due by Friday 4th November.

Peter Hay
Director Edmund Rice Centre Amberley

7 Amberley Way

Lower Plenty Vic 3093

pete@amberley.org.au

(03) 9439 8282

Mutthi Mutthi Cultural Immersion - Brenton Carey



I've just recently returned from an immersion experience on Mutthi Mutthi Country. Vicki Clark, Mutthi Mutthi woman and old friend of the Edmund Rice Network, invites us to come and be with her and her family, to listen to and learn from them and to experience something of her culture of Lake Mungo and Balranald.

Lake Mungo is an immense desert landscape in which old man saltbush and an amazing understory of wildflowers thrive. Amongst the saltbush and wildflowers wander emus with little ones in tow, kangaroos, goannas and also, I'm told, the occasional fierce snake. The black kite and wedge tailed eagle keeps an eye on this all from above. Across the lake the wind constantly moves, carrying sand from the dunes that lie on the east of this ancient lakebed.

Lake Mungo is a place of immense cultural significance too. Vicki shares with us her Grandma's belief that this is 'the most cultured place for the Mutthi Mutthi people' and is a significant place for all Australians. Evidence of thousands of years of life has been preserved by the Mungo landscape. The moving sands at Mungo are continually revealing ancient campfires, footprints, tools and children's toys. My experiences at Mungo have left me with the strong sense that wherever we walk in Australia we are walking on land that has been walked

on for thousands of generations.

Vicki's family continue to live on Mutthi Mutthi land, in the river country at Balranald. The stories of Vicki's family in Balranald are amazing in their strength and achievement, running against the grain of dominant discourses on contemporary Aboriginal culture. These stories are shared with us by Vicki's Aunties, Uncles, Cousins and, in our case, their grandchildren. These stories and the contributions of Vicki's family to the area go, however, largely unrecognised. My experiences at Balranald continue to invite critical reflection on our broader cultural narratives and their silence on the roles of Aboriginal people.

The Mutthi Mutthi Country Cultural Immersion is a program run in partnership between Aboriginal Catholic Ministry and the Edmund Rice Centre 'Amberley'. It will be conducted again in 2012. If you or anyone you know would like more information please contact Brenton, Brenton@amberley.org.au or Katrina, katrina@amberley.org.au.



To celebrate our 30th birthday, campers past and present, as well as participants have written into Rice Grains what was going to be just 30 thoughts about camps for our 30 years. True to ERC enthusiasm, 30 thoughts turned into many more (the extra ones are for the next few years!). Enjoy the read!

(more than)30 thoughts for 30 years

It's not really a moment from a camp but a few times a year for the last 3 years I run into a family from my first family camp whilst working at Kmart. Each time they can't stop thanking me and Edmund rice camps for what we did, they can't believe that we don't get paid for what we do. They are still amazed at how much the one camp had changed their lives. Still such an amazing and passionate response three years on from a camp shows just how important what we do on camp is. *Tim*



The buddies made everyone feel unique and special and with everything so positive it brought out the best in everyone.—*ERC Parent*



In my camping experience, almost every pool and park session has seen the inclusion of kids who weren't camping with us. The young Eddy Riceers would always make these kids feel welcome and a part of the group. So much so, that when we had to leave, these kids were very reluctant to return to their parents. Clearly, we just have too much fun! *Darcey*

I'll always remember the terrified faces of the other kids in the pool when they saw the African Mamas lining up for the waterslide. *Amy*

African-Australian family camp 2007 or 2008. So you think you can dance competition. Music spanning the genres; Irish, bluegrass, heavy metal and whatever Enya fits into challenging the young hip hop dancers. A rigged voting system, hours of simple fun, eddie rice magic! *Brenton*



My favourite memory is when we took the mamas on the African Family Camp to the swimming pool, each of them told us they didn't want to swim, they hated it. After about 15mins of watching how much fun their children were having they all jumped in, one of the mamas even took over the water slide going down more than some of the children! the smiles on their faces were infectious. *Callie*

(more than)30 thoughts for 30 years

The words I put on the page never seem to quite capture that certain kind of magic that unfolds across that days of an ERC camp. It's an intangible mix of unconditional acceptance, respect for each and every individual, joy, laughter, silliness, good food (most of the time) and awesome company and somehow it just seems to work.

Our journey with ERC started as participants. We came to camp as a shattered family, lost, hurting, and alone. We left with hope, a place to begin again from, we left knowing each other as family, able to share joy and love again. The things that had brought us to camp had not changed, but our resilience had grown, our spirits were strengthened, and we could laugh again. Our first family camp will always be a landmark event in all our lives.

Now we are doubly blessed as we get to give that joy back to other campers. Each and every camp we volunteer on reminds me of our first as I watch other families relax, their spirits lift, smiles return to faces and their eyes come alive again. ERC truly does change lives, it changed mine, it changed my family's and I watch it change others over and over again.

The other blessing comes from working alongside the most amazing and caring people who dedicate their time to camps. Your heart, your willingness to share of yourselves, your acceptance of all those who come to camp, that is where that certain kind of magic, the magic of unconditional love, comes from. ERC is its people, and what inspirational and beautiful people they are!

Tracey



One of my favourite things about camps is the detachment I feel from the outside world, and my inability to accurately explain to this world how amazing Edmund Rice camps are.

Eleanor

And an even bigger thank-you for reminding me of all that is special, bright and wonderful in my son.

—ERC Parent

There are so many special Eddy Rice moments from over the years.. But my favourite, most satisfying moments are those tiny breakthroughs you have with the more challenging kids. Despite their colourful language & the barriers they continually try to keep up..when you see that smirk, or hear that laugh..it makes all the struggles worth it!!

Ash



My favourite part of camp is the sense of satisfaction you get when the kids say that they don't want to leave camp on the last day.

In the next 30 years I would like to see the leadership qualities shown on an Edmund Rice Camp present in youth around the community who are not directly involved with ERC.

Ryan



(more than)30 thoughts for 30 years

I watched a man walk through the doors of Amberley (I think he was a solo Dad). His face was pale with a permanent frown; he didn't look at anyone or speak to anyone but his kids. He certainly didn't look happy to be there. As the days passed, he was starting to talk to people, was spending time with other parents and colour was coming back to his face. On the final day of camp, I didn't think this was the same person. He was talking with everyone, smiling, he had colour in his face, but most of all he kept saying how great a time he had had with his kids on camp.

Margaret



Laughing hysterically with Louise until 4am, and having no idea what it was that we were laughing about. **Isabelle**

It's gotta be the singing! Breakfast on the last day lasting twice as long as normal because the kids were singing song after song - couldn't ask for a better sign of success **Graham**

Hearing a boy who was constipated on the toilet singing, "hmmmmmmmm... aint that funky now!!" as he eventually worked through his problem **Kane**

All in all, your exceptional and talented leaders made an impact on this week. **ERC Parent**

Celebrating my 21st birthday on my very first camp. That day I got two birthday cakes and everyone sung happy birthday to me. By far my best birthday! and generally - camps are the best weeks of the year! **Andrew**

Playing beach soccer with a handful of Sudanese kids and a few leaders who were now my newly-made friends. I'm not too sure who was enjoying themselves more out of the kids and leaders, everyone was just having the time of their lives. I bumped into one of these boys over 2 years later at St Albans Tutoring Centre who remembered who I was and he told me how much fun he had that day **Coco**

I like Edmund Rice Camps because it gives me the opportunity to meet new people that have a passion for helping out young kids who have either struggled with life or just family problems and just love putting smiles on faces that come on Eddy Rice Camps. **Boots**



(more than)30 thoughts for 30 years



I hope it helps you to know that fun and laughter was what we needed. It was like heaven on earth.

ERC Parent

I always secretly love it when my buddies get upset at buddy swap time and want to stay with me, because it means I'm doing a good job :) But my favourite moments are the break throughs you get with challenging kids and finally seeing them laugh and smile so wildly and freely, overflowing with joy and brimming with pure happiness, it's magical! **Emma**

I've seen some families and kids on camp more than once, and nothing is more amazing than seeing how they've grown over many many months. **Aaron**

On a family camp at the Back-to-Front dinner, my buddy was very energetic and no one could get him to stay still. Then "You've got a friend in me" was played, he sat still and sang the song looking up at me. **Sam**

It had been a couple of years since I had returned to Amberley. I had kept in touch with Mark Monahan in a spasmodic fashion over the years while I have been teaching at Xavier College. However, I knew that the time was ripe to re-strengthen my ties with Edi Rice Camps. As a Head of 'Cheshire House' within the pastoral system at XC and in the light of the school's emphasis on 'Service to the Community', I invited my students to experience the richness of ERC. I dreamed of creating a strong connection between Cheshire House and ERC. Last year Mark came and spoke with some of the students. 'Woody' was the only one to take up the challenge and came back bubbling with enthusiasm about his experience from being one of the summer camps. Despite Woody sharing this with the Cheshire Students, the take-up of interest remained poor.

In consultation with the Cheshire leaders, I invited the Year 10 and 11s to come with me to Amberley and let things evolve from there.

It was wonderful to once again walk on this sacred land at Amberley...it felt like coming home. The warm welcome of the gardens, bush, buildings and people there was amazing. The students were enthralled, not only by the place itself, but by the stories that Mark told. The ERC team's passion for their work was infectious. It was pleasing also to be able to contribute a donation from the Cheshire students.

I am confident that quite a few of the generous XC students will commit to ERC...and that we can develop the partnership. You never know...perhaps we may be able to run a camp at XC in the future! **Peter**



(more than)30 thoughts for 30 years



First camp. First buddy. Duck duck goose only the two of us. For an hour. Got picked every time. Loved it! *Bronia*

Being able to give back the community.

Ranga

A kid got scared by the panther story, to the point where we had to convince him we were judo masters and teach him panther self defence before he would go to sleep. *Pete*

A young girl the age of 8 vomited over my legs and the floor. She had eaten bread and milk when she had a stomach-ache.

Jo

A ten year old boy telling me my necklace was ugly, then attaching a shell to it to make it look better. I'll never ever take that shell off. *Fruma*

It was our first holiday together, ever. *ERC Parent*

This has been the best experience of my life. *ERC Parent*

Every camp has its take home story of how it affected the participants lives, but the most profound for me was meeting a family, single mum with two young daughters. When they got to camp, we found out the girls were afraid of all men, even their teachers. It was amazing to see over the course of the 5 day camp, them beginning to find that they could trust again and when they walked away they were not as afraid any more. *Emily*

I count our family very fortunate to have been chosen to enjoy this loving, caring, environment and to meet such wonderful people. *ERC Parent*

Chasing an energetic toddler for hours on end because he kept telling me "I need to run" and then getting on the bus where I thought I could teach him some songs only to have him 'shhh' me and tell me it was quiet time. *Claire*

One of my MANY fond memories of camps, is a time on a Family Camp in Phillip Island, where the young boy from a beautiful Maori family, taught a bunch of the guy leaders to do the Haka and performed it for the rest of the camp group. The gorgeous sharing of something so special to their culture was a real privilege and honour to witness. Also, the lifelong friendships made through ERC are precious and magical. *Caterina*



(more than)30 thoughts for 30 years

The power of the camp songs. When sailing on sugarloaf my buddy was feeling quite scared of the water, so I asked her what her favourite song was, and we sat in the little boat together singing "I just want some bubblegum!" and by the third verse, she had forgotten she was even scared to begin with. **Julia**

Words can never express how grateful and honoured I feel that our family has been part of this Eddy Rice Winter Camp. —**ERC Parent**

On my very first camp my very first buddy was a shy girl who found it hard to chat even one on one. As camp progressed she was won over by the Eddie Rice spirit and trusted the journey we were taking her on. 8 years later when I was working at Amberley this girl arrived for a school retreat. Her memories of the camp were still very strong and it was a privilege to hear her reflect on the experience and to learn how much the week had meant to her. May camps continue to provide such moments for so many. **Alicia**



We were at the fun park at Docklands and my buddy went on the bouncy castle for about an hour then peed in another kids shoe and then we went on the giant slide 50 times and I couldn't keep up and he was so exhausted he fell asleep in the bus on the way home. We had to wake him up at Amberley and he was not impressed and got so worked up and peed his pants in the foyer, but I gave him a bath and taught him how to blow bubbles which he loved. He went straight to bed but I played sleeping lions and his older brother came and lay down on my back and fell asleep and we hadn't spoken once during the day - it was special. **Louise**

The incredible transformation from the kids at the start of camp to when it concludes is unbelievable. Marcus a buddy of mine, and many others in older boys 2010 came to camp swearing, shouting and just generally being rude to those around him. By the end of camp he had please an thank you's, apologized when he swore, and even helped me up when I tripped over an invisible large rock, while racing backwards with him :) to know we've made even the smallest contribution their lives is fulfilling in a way no words can describe. **Caitlin**



When I first signed up for Eddie Rice, I did it because wanted to give back to the community. But after experiencing that "amazing" one week with the families, I realised that this experience had taught me a lot of things about life, about people and about myself. I met so many "amazing" people, both fellow leaders as well as campers. Now, I go into camp both willing to help the campers in any way I can as well as to learn more about myself. **Cathy**

ERC Malawi

Dear Eddie Ricers,

A happy and prosperous New Year is my wish to all of you good people standing in the gap for Edmund Rice. As they say, rather late than never.

It is without a doubt that Edmund Rice is smiling at you for what you meant to the buddies on camp. As I read through all the letters sent to ERC by the agencies and the buddies, my heart almost jumped out of my body and into the sky out of sheer joy. What a blessing it is to try to feel what they have felt when they were writing those sentimental words. In their letters, they always mention the leader who was paired with them on camp; and talk about the meaningful way in which you touched their hearts over the few days of camp. What a difference a person can make in the life of your buddy over a period of three to five days, it still seems unbelievable at times. This is precious and unique to ERC and should be preserved by all of us who have a stake in the lives of our vulnerable buddies.

I hope that you will make a concerted effort again to be part of this process by firstly, being leaders on the camp and secondly, by being willing to step out of your comfort zones to take on leadership roles. This would mean that ERC would need to step up to equip those with the necessary knowledge and skills to perform their duties in good spirit and to the best of their ability. I challenge you all on this!

In regards to funding, ERC finds itself in a challenging position in terms of funds needed for the year to operate and run all the camps, but we believe that through your prayers and support, we will make it. After all, we do all this FOR THE WELL-BEING AND PROSPERITY OF OUR VERY INNOCENT AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN.

Live Jesus in our hearts forever.

Jennifer

Excerpts from letter written by children on camp.

Mangaliso Mbali, 13 years old – "My name is Magaliso Mbali. I live in Malawi Camp and I am proud of ERC because it helps us to stay out of trouble. We as Malawi Camp Children learn a lot at the camps."

Samantha Becton, 16 years old – "I will firstly compliment ERC for doing a great job and making every teenager and buddy feels safe when they are on camp. I learned a lot on the previous Teenage Camp and would like to more because I want to motivate the Youth of Malawi Camp because there are too many teenagers who are using drugs and alcohol. I like working with children."

Sakina Mustori, Bonne Esperance – "The camp was very nice. The camp is a good place. I hope I will go again. The things I liked were the food and games. And I learned to communicate with other people."



Ever thought about camping interstate or overseas?

Camping outside Victoria can be challenging and very rewarding. Camps are run differently in the Oceania network and internationally. This gives you a chance to experience the many ways a camp can be run, as well as make some interstate and international friends! For more information visit the ERC Oceania website (below), which has all the information about interstate and overseas camps and links to their websites.

<http://www.edmundrice.org/Camps-Introduction>

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 Fundraising news—*Candice Brittain*

We have had a number of fundraising reasons to celebrate over the last few months. I want to take a Rice Grains moment to celebrate Eddie Ricers who have taken the time to make fundraising for ERC a priority in their busy lives.

Emma LaMari – Who knew ordering a Happy Meal could turn into a \$5,000 donation to ERC? Emma saw an opportunity to nominate camps as a recipient in McDonalds promotion to find and support organisations that were "Community Heroes." THANKS Emma, that \$5k will help pay some of the bills from our 2011 Winter Camps.

The 12 Eddie Ricers who nominated us – We recently received a phone call from the Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund informing us that we had been successfully nominated as a beneficiary of their Winter Days of Giving program, and that we would receive a \$5,000 donation. To the twelve Eddie Ricers who took the time to nominate us – THANKS, these funds went towards our African Family Camp .

Commonwealth Bank of Australia – The CBA has been the ERC bank for a number of years. Our loyalty to them has been repaid as our grant application for \$7,500 has been successful. CRA – THANK YOU, these funds will go directly to covering the costs of Summer Older Boys camp.

Parade College – The boys and staff of Parade College have a long history of supporting camps and that continued with a donation of \$3,900. This regular annual support is essential to our financial planning. THANKS, Parade College.

Star of the Sea – The enthusiasm for camps is infectious! Volunteers from Star were able to wield their influence and encourage their school to support camps with a \$1,000 donation. THANKS to Star of the Sea.

Xavier College – Peter Duckworth, a teacher at Xavier was able to convince the year 10 and 11 boys to pass the hat around for camps and we gratefully received from the boys a donation of \$320. THANKS Xavier College and our mate Peter.

Yarra Valley Grammar - Anthony Hay, an Eddie Ricer and teacher at Yarra put ERC forward as the school's charity of choice, which resulted in an \$800 donation for camps. THANKS to Anthony and Yarra Valley Grammar.

Wendy Stone – Wendy was able to put forward camps as the benefitting charity from a staffroom lunch event. A donation of \$675 was the result. THANK YOU Wendy.

Our first Regular Donor – You may remember in the last edition of Rice Grains, we asked you to consider becoming a regular donee to ERC. One of our Eddie Ricers had chosen to make ERC part of his regular giving. THANK YOU, your regular donation will put extra resources into the training and support of young volunteers.

Jo Vu and Ev O'Neil – A Marathon Effort! – As this article is being written both of these incredible Eddie Rice legends are recovering from completing the 42km Melbourne Marathon. Ev, having returned to Australia from volunteer work in Africa within days of the event, finished with a time of 3 hours 23 minutes, smashing his goal of under 4hours and raising \$\$ for camps at the same time. Jo took completing the Marathon as a personal challenge. Respectfully it is safe to say that Jo may have been a little under prepared for the event. Some of his Eddie Rice mates, who will remain nameless, were even running a sweep on exactly which km Jo would pull out! Proving the doubters wrong, Jo completed the marathon in a time of just under 8 hours! He may have been the last competitor on the course but Jo crossed the finish line unassisted and at last count had raised over \$2,700 for camps – truly an inspirational effort. THANKS Jo and Ev – the funds you raised will go towards the 2011 African family Camp.

ERC is excited to announce its newest awareness and fundraising event, the disCONNECT challenge. In a first all of the ERC's in Australia will be working together on this national campaign. On the weekend of **March 23rd 2012** we challenge participants to disCONNECT from technology for 48 hours and re-CONNECT offline with family, friends and community. That means a weekend of no mobile, facebook, twitter, computer, Wii, Xbox, TV, MP3's or whatever else you feel disconnects you.

There are two goals for this campaign. We hope that we can raise awareness of the value of offline face to face connection and how ERC uses the power of these relationships to make a difference to thousands of Australian kids and young people each year. We also encourage our "disCONNECTors" to gain sponsorship for their sacrifice and raise funds for ERC in their state.

If you are passionate about camps and think you can help spread the word and recruit "disCONNECTors" in your school, college, company, sports team or network of friends then please let me know. If you have a great idea or an "in" with an organisation that you think would be helpful for the campaign, again please drop me a line. I look forward to disconnecting with you!

Stay tuned as more details will be released early next year.

Contact Candice – ERC E: candice@ercvic.com or Ph: 03 9439 6142



News from the Board—*Stephen Barnes*

The ERC Board of Management complete many tasks to ensure a safe and financially viable organisation. One method of this is having an Audit & Risk Committee (ARC). This committee so far is comprised of the following board members; Stephen Ellich, David Siddles, Trevor Dray and Stephen Barnes.

The responsibilities of the ARC include assisting the Board fulfil its fiduciary responsibilities by:

- Reviewing the integrity of the Edmund Rice Camps Victoria's financial and external reporting;
- Reviewing and where applicable assessing external auditors, activities, scope and independence;
- Reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of the Edmund Rice Camps Victoria's risk management program;
- Reviewing and assessing the adequacy of management information and internal control structures;
- Provide assurance that Edmund Rice Camps Victoria is providing adequate controls against fraud; and
- Maintain a list of committee tasks, and ensure compliance with that list on a timely basis.

Essentially its role is to oversee the financial and operational risks and ensure they are prudently managed.

Board Profile – *Trevor Dray*

Where did you grow up? Noble Park, but moved to the West in my early 20's to Melton then on to Altona Meadows, I'm a western suburbs man now.

Considering all sports what team do you barrack for? North Melbourne, go Kangas!! Love all sports, but horse racing is my passion.

Where is your favourite travel / holiday destination? Love travelling through South East Asia, Phuket, Penang, etc. Love Noosa in Australia, love to access self contained cottage accommodation in Victoria, places such as Healesville.

What do you do at the moment in terms of work/study/parent? My areas of study have been Arts, Social Work, and Management. I have worked for MacKillop for 15 years. I have experience managing out of home care programs, family and community services, and now Refugee Services. I'm married with one little girl, she turns 1 in November this year.

How long have you been on the Board of Edmund Rice Camps? Have been a seconded member to the board for about the past 4 to 5 years (I think).

How do you aim to help Edmund Rice Camps? I have some expertise in the client group that accesses camps, so I can assist with policy direction/risk management and advise on how to meet the needs of clients, I can also help strengthen the partnership between MacKillop and ERC.

What social issue currently interests you? The disgraceful way that we treat Asylum Seekers in this country, the mass medias hype and fear campaign against newly arrived, particularly via boat, it saddens me deeply.

Board Profile – *Cleona Feuerring*

Where did you grow up? Far north Queensland and Sydney

Considering all sports what team do you barrack for? I always go for the underdog and I love the tennis and watching heavy weight boxing fights (weird combo!)

Where is your favourite travel / holiday destination? Asia

What do you do at the moment in terms of work/study/parent? Trying to do it all....full time work with Victoria Legal Aid assisting in breaking down barriers to justice whilst also attempting to be the best wife, mother, daughter, sister, niece and friend I can be to those I love.

How long have you been on the Board of Edmund Rice Camps? Since mid-2009

How do you aim to help Edmund Rice Camps? By continuing to assist the Board in steering the ERC ship into the positive future ahead and by spreading the word to as many people as I can about the amazing grassroots work that ERC does with children and families

What social issue currently interests you? Everything to do with promoting fair access to all the essentials in life. But mostly, I am passionate about getting more funds put into early intervention, preventative and therapeutic programs for the children who are doing it tough. Ultimately, I wish all children could just be children and that those living with the stress of poverty, violence, illness and family break down day in and day out could be relieved of the burdens of their world in a positive and sustainable way.

Board Profile—Stephen Barnes

Where did you grow up? Dunedin, New Zealand

Considering all sports what team do you barrack for? All Blacks (rugby union) - and any team playing Australia :)

Where is your favourite travel / holiday destination? Antarctica but don't get there very often - so I usually settle on Queenstown, New Zealand

What do you do at the moment in terms of work/study/parent? I'm the Director and Chief Financial Officer of a group of companies including a large international hedge fund, a residential subdivision development, an IT software development company here and in Hong Kong, a cafe, a commercial property company, and a horse stud which is home to Kingston Town and Kingston Rule (Cox Plate and Melbourne Cup winners), and a couple of other interests and companies. I'm not studying nowadays - I stopped when I had as many letters after my name as my (then) age. I'm married to Liz (who is a doctor) and we have two lovely little daughters, Laura aged 4 and Amy aged 1.

How long have you been on the Board of Edmund Rice Camps? Just over a year now.

How do you aim to help Edmund Rice Camps? I hope to add some value and rigour around the strategic direction and the governance of ERC.

What social issue currently interests you? Equity - everyone has a story that shapes them but doesn't need to define them. A fair go for all and all have a contribution to make.

ERC On the Air—Corey Gardner

Hi guys, Corey Gardner here. I am thinking about doing some podcasts with some of you awesome Eddie Ricers.

I do a radio show on SYN and want to do some podcasts about some of our ERC volunteers and their interests.

When: One Saturday a month

Where: SYN FM
16 Cardigan Street, Carlton VIC 3053

Time: 1pm-2pm

Want to get involved? Email Corey at -
forkman.bon.aede@gmail.com



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St Alban's Tutoring and Mentoring

Edmund Rice Refugee Services- St Albans

Volunteer Tutor and Mentor positions available

Homework Club Tutor

We are currently looking for enthusiastic, patient and committed individuals to provide one-on-one homework support to a primary/secondary student of a refugee background for the bulk of term 4. Minimum commitment, once a week for 8 weeks comm. 12th Oct.

Peer Mentor (You Be a Pro)

We are also looking for young people (under 25) who are interested in becoming a mentor/friend to a young girl between the ages 12-16. Meeting a deeper need for greater connection and relationship between student and tutor, You-Be involves a deeper level of one-on-one academic and social support and includes fortnightly excursions and experiential learning adventures. Every second Sunday-ongoing until Dec.

NO
TEACHING
OR ESL
EXPERIENCE
REQUIRED;
TRAINING,
ADVICE
AND
SUPPORT
PROVIDED



For more information about the roles, or to inquire about an induction tour please contact;

Dane Stammers
Program Coordinator
Edmund Rice Refugee Services
354 Main Rd West
St Albans VIC 3021
P: 0386 6436
M: 0439 970 002
E: refugees.vic@edmundrice.org

Meet great people and have fun!



**November****14th November**

Board of Management Meeting

26 November

ERC Trivia Extravaganza

December**4th December**

New Leader Training Day

Where: Amberley

Time: 11-4

Cost: Nothing!

Lunch provided

5th December

Board of Management Meeting

14th December

Pre-Summer Camp Exec Meeting

Where: St Ignatius Church,
326 Church St Richmond.

When: 6-9

Dinner Provided

If you think pancakes
are lovely, check out
page 18

**January****2nd-6th January**

Kids Camp

5-7th January

Kids Transition Camp

8th-13th January

Family Camp

15th-20th January

Older Boy's Camp

www.ercvic.com



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