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Welcome to the Inaugural Edition of the Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka Newsletter

The Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka was established in 1998 by the Christian Brothers to service the needs of newly arrived refugee and humanitarian entrants on Temporary, Permanent and Bridging Visas.

It provides classes in English as a Second Language and Computing Skills as well as such innovative classes as “Women Together” and Lifeskills where recently arrived refugee women are taught cooking, sewing, household management and family care, while they have the opportunity to socialise with women of different ethnic origins.

Limited Computing classes are also offered to Seniors.

The Centre also provides activi-

ties for Refugee and Indigenous Youth, for women’s groups, and social events for families.

The Centre enjoys the presence of a full-time community settlement worker who provides generalist casework, referral and advocacy services for the humanitarian entrants and migrants in the north metropolitan area.

The Centre has an administration area, five classrooms including a computer laboratory, and a large kitchen and recreational area.

Classes are of two hours duration each week over ten weeks. The Centre Office is staffed on Monday to Thursday from 9.00 to 5.00, 4.30 on Friday.



The Future
Belongs
To those who
Believe in the
Beauty of
Their dreams

Eleanor Roosevelt



Two bus loads of our Edmund Rice Refugee families were taken to Darlington to enjoy the festival atmosphere, the various colourful stalls and the captivating entertainment including camel rides, magic castles, and a free BBQ.

ur families were bussed to the venue by the Festival Coordinators as arranged by Sally Herzfeld who coordinates the

Over the two days of the Festival, the ERCM team mounted a plant stall to raise needed funds for the Centre. In all, they made over \$2,300! Congratulations to all! A wonderful effort.



Special Points of Interest

- Darlington Arts Festival - Family Social Event
- ERCM Plant Stall
- New English Library acquisitions
- Halal BBQ Lunch at the North Perth Monastery
- The renovations at 18 Brewer Place are almost completed! It has been a long haul!

Refurbishment of Building and Settling In

Director: Stephen Bowman

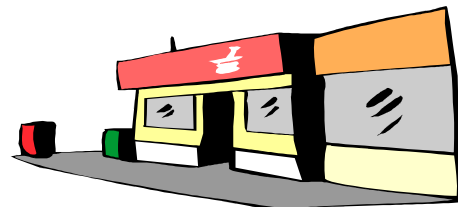
At last, the refurbishment of 18 Brewer Place is almost completed. We now have four new teaching areas, a multipurpose room with a "state of the art" kitchen facility, and a multipurpose office. The outside work is yet to be done, that is, the patio and bus bay. We are waiting on the final approval of the building

plan by the City of Stirling. The architect has done his inspection and has sent a list of jobs yet to be completed by the builder.

A new telephone system has been installed and the new security system yet to be installed will include duress alarms for the Front Desk and the Community Settlement Worker's office.

After our several moves over the past year or so, we are delighted to be settled in to a steady routine in our beautiful, clean, much-improved premises.

We are planning to have an "official opening" early in 2008.



Lifeskills Program

Coordinator: Ros Trestrail

In the Classroom

The Lifeskills modules are again being offered through Centre-care and Communicare. Enrolment numbers in each group remain strong with newly arrived Burmese joining the group

Out and About

On Wednesday, 5 December, the ERCM Lifeskills group will travel to Mullaloo Beach for an off-site excursion. The aims of this excursion are to:

- ⇒ Demonstrate sun safety
- ⇒ Experience a safe spot for families
- ⇒ Learn about beach safety awareness

- ⇒ Enjoy social interaction
- ⇒ Practise their English conversation
- ⇒ All in a beautiful, healthy environment.



Women Together

Coordinator: Sally Herzfeld

The average number of participants in the Women Together Program during November has been ten including three helpers/interpreters.

On Monday, 5 November, the women were still excited about their family day at the Darlington Arts Festival.

During each class session, in

November, there were cooking demonstrations with the preparation of various menus, including pickled vegetables, basic salads, grilled cheesies, chicken and chickpea curry, khaimehrise, a dish prepared with



potato and meat balls accompanied by tomato and onion sauce, and burghl, another Somalian dish.

Other activities that took place during these sessions over the month were quilting, tapestry, card-making, and crocheting.

SGP Generalist Report

Community Settlement Worker: Nihal Iscel

During November, 36 services were provided addressing such issues as housing, applying for childcare through Centrelink, finding childcare places for our clients' children, immigration referrals, financial and material assistance, and employment. These services often necessitated interpreting and constant calls to and

negotiations with other agencies.

The SGP service at the ERCM is currently being evaluated by a Central TAFE student on work placement. He has completed his interviews with selected clients, and is now writing his report. We look forward to reading his findings and recommendations.

Computer Department's Report

All First Click and Second Click Classes both for ESL clients and Seniors have been in very high demand, and promise to be as popular next year. Salah Edres, our TAFE student-on-placement has been a tremendous asset in this department. Thank you, Salah.

Coordinators: Eoin Quigley

English as a Second Language Program

Coordinator: Angela Broderick

Our English as a Second language program continues to be popular particularly in the Basic and Elementary grades due to the influx of refugee and humanitarian entrants from the Horn of Africa. The numbers in the Pre-Intermediate, Intermediate and

Advanced levels tend to vacillate remarkably.

One of our aims in the teaching of English is to incorporate everyday experiences into the lessons, such as making telephone calls or understanding the history

behind Armistice Day. The recent federal election provided just such an opportunity.

Youth Leisure Program

Coordinator: Jim van der Zalm

The weekend of November 3 & 4 was devoted to the ERCM plant stall at the Darlington Arts Festival. Some of the Youth involved enjoyed the Festival with their families on Sunday.

Other Saturday morning activities enjoyed by the group were rollerblading/skating at the Morley Roldome, and swimming and other beach activities with a BBQ at Mullaloo.



DSR Sports Program

Coordinator: Joe Moniodis

This month's sport was touch rugby, and the sessions ran very well considering the lack of any firm grounding in the game amongst the staff! After two weeks of "panic passing", the team eventually scored their first try in the third week!

The influx of new youth continued. Links were established with TouchWest, and HandballWest have agreed to fund the cost of transportation for our youth to a

handball tournament to be held at Cottesloe Beach in February.

The focus of the December program will be swimming, basketball and an end-of-year party!

After two weeks of "panic passing", the team scored their first try in the third week!

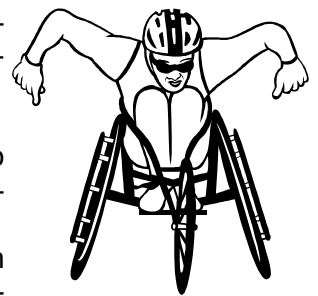
Indigenous Program

In November, successful badminton, wheelchair basketball and touch rugby sessions were held, with particularly high attendance in the wheelchair basketball sessions. The focus for December will be the "Great Escape"!

Youth Leadership Group

November began with one of the Youth Leaders and his younger brother helping to cook the barbecue for the ERCM families at the Darlington Festival. Over a hundred people were served.

The monthly meeting focussed on public speaking. The confidence of the Youth Leaders and their willingness to take on more responsibility has been very encouraging. In December, they will run sessions at the Hainsworth Centre's Christmas Barbecue.



Indigenous Children's Program Coordinator: Phil O'Lughlen

The outing to Faulkner Park in Belmont was a big hit with the unusual playground equipment. It is a joy to watch the children interacting happily with each other and applying enormous energy to everything they do. While feeding the birds, one

eight year old boy exclaimed "This is paradise".

Br Jim has been very generously filling in as bus driver while the regular driver has been away. Thanks, Jim.

The Ogaden Community:

Maryan Ibrahim is a Community Settlement Grant Worker who gives one-to-one service about issues dealing with Australian Citizenship, document assistance and many other aspects regarding settlement in a "foreign" country. More about this service next time.



Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka Inc
18 Brewer Place
Mirrabooka WA 6061

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 613

Mirrabooka WA 6941

Phone: (08) 9440 0625

(08) 9440 1920

Fax: (08) 9440 0629

Email: ercmwa@westnet.com.au

Season's Greetings

Peace and Joy during this
festive season
From all of us at the

We are on the Web!
www.edmundricecentremirrabooka.com

Volunteers Needed

The Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka is an incorporated, not-for-profit, charitable organisation managed by a Committee of Management. The day-to-day operation is managed by a full-time Director, part-time Program Coordinators, a full-time Community Settlement Worker, and a team of volunteers. Many of these volunteers are qualified teachers.

The Centre continually develops programs in response to expressed needs and in accord with the various skills offered by the team of volunteers.

As classes increase, there is an ever-growing need for more volunteers to help us to serve the needs of our refugee families so that they may settle happily in their new country.

Forthcoming Events of Interest

- ⇒ Albert street Productions will be filming at the Centre on Tuesday 4 December, as part of a DVD/film on the activities of the Christian Brothers in "Oceania".
- ⇒ End of Year Christmas Function is being held on 6 December commencing with prayer at 5.30, BBQ at 6.00 pm.
- ⇒ Classes will conclude on Friday 14 Dec.
- ⇒ The office will close on Friday 21 Dec. and will re-open on Monday 7 January 2008.

If you would like to support the Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka Inc, your donation will be most gratefully accepted. Your donation will enable people from Refugee and Indigenous backgrounds, including youth, to continue to gain benefits from our educational programs.

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

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

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Donations can be made by cheque or by direct deposit.

Please make cheques payable to "Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka Inc" or deposit directly into "Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka Inc", Account BSB 066 183, Account No: 1009 1408.

Reference: *Your Surname & Don e.g. Smith Don*

Title _____ Given Name _____ Family Name _____

Address _____ Post Code _____

Phone () _____ Fax () _____ Email _____