



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

News and Views from the Director - Steve Bowman

Today, May 5 is the day set aside by the Church to remember and reflect on the life and contribution to world history of Edmund Rice. Born in Ireland in 1762, Edmund became a successful business man and later married. After the accidental death of his wife and much reflection and prayer, he devoted all his time and energy to disadvantaged people especially youth in Waterford, Ireland. Edmund Rice was convinced that

"education" was a means of empowering the poor and disadvantaged and a vehicle for positive change. He set about establishing schools throughout Ireland and the Order of the Christian Brothers thus fostering a world wide movement. The staff and volunteers at the Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka continue to draw inspiration from Edmund's vision by welcoming those who are marginalised in our society.

School Holiday Activities



On the second week of the school holidays, two fun activities were arranged by ERCM and Koondoola Integrated Service Centre (ISC) and funded by the Office of Multicultural Interests. The children who were invited attend Koondoola Primary School Intensive English Centre and are from families who are clients of **Mandy Whitton** who is employed by ERCM in the role of Multicultural Liaison Officer at the ISC. On Tuesday, 9 children enjoyed making and eating a healthy lunch of pizza and banana muffins supervised by **Ros** who made learning about healthy eating a fun experience. On Thursday, 17 children accompanied by staff and youth leaders enjoyed a sausage sizzle and a very active day at Whiteman Park. Both activities were thoroughly enjoyed by children who would otherwise have spent school holidays at home.



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- Youth Leadership Development Program
- Women Together Program

Special Points of Interest

- ⇒ ISC Holiday Activities
- ⇒ Human Rights Day

Lifeskills Program

Enrolment numbers for Term 2 at both ERCM and Communicare venues remain strong. The session at Gosnells with the Kirundi group will begin on Tuesday 5 May with the help of a relevant interpreter. This new facility has a great teaching space and kitchen. During the school holidays, some students from the Koondoola ISC joined us at the ERCM for a cooking session. It was fun and very worthwhile.

Ros Frestrail, Coordinator

CBERS Redress Service

In March, CBERS Redress Service farewellled Gail Green from her role as co-manager. The service has continued to be very busy with many new clients coming in as the deadline of April 30 looms. Philippa has said "Our work with care 'leavers' has given us insight into the human face of policies and practices arising from the 'Forgotten Australians (children in care) and the 'Lost Innocents' (child migrants) Inquiries".

Philippa White, Manager

Women Together Program

During March and April, this program continued with several participants volunteering to cook each week, - thanks to Eida, Farangeez, Samira and Sharla. For handcrafts, the women made skirts, paper crepe flowers, and dolls for the children of KwaZulu-Natal. These sessions have helped the ladies enjoy some very happy times together. Average number is 28.

Sally Hertzfeld, Coordinator

News Briefs from our Program Coordinators

Computer Studies Program

Having completed a successful First Term, the Second Term programs got off to a good start with many classes showing no vacancies. Our timetable for Term 2 is as below:



| TIME | TUESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---------------------|--|--|---|
| 9.30 – 11.30 | First Click Seniors Adele Dickson | First Click ESL Tia Hattar | Unlimited Potential Nelia Elber |
| 11.30 – 1.30 | First Click ESL Adele Dickson | Second Click ESL Tia Hattar | Second Click Seniors Nelia Elber |

Teachers: Adele Dickson, Tia Hattar, Nelia Elber
 Volunteers: Herbert Green, Lee Beck, Maureen Marrows, Kueng Wong, and students from Chisholm College, Mater Dei College, and Trinity College

Fion Quigley, Coordinator

Driver Education Program

As during last term, the drive safe classes and practical driving lessons are continuing on Wednesdays.

Unfortunately we have not had much success this month with two participants failing their practical driving assessment. The driving instructor was also very disappointed because he believed both people who attempted the test were ready and capable of passing.

It is becoming more and more difficult to pass, particularly on the first time because every minor error is recorded. Nerves and not knowing what to expect add to the chances of failing.

Two clients are booked in for tests in the next two weeks, so hopefully we will have some success.

Sam has completed 25 hours of supervision of his client and will accompany him next week to the Traffic Office to hand in his logbook and sit the hazard perception test.

Chris Ward, Coordinator

Indigenous Children's Program

Due to school holidays, there are only two activities to report on this month. The first was the end of first term centre activities. This began with the unveiling of the Moorditj Koolanga Garden Sign by Carmela Scaffidi representing the Cancer Council of Western Australia – a major sponsor of the program. Then followed the setting up of the vegetable garden. Steve had the children plant some vegetable seeds in large earthenware pots that had been prepared by two Trinity College boys. Finally each child planted some seeds in their own personal pots which he/she took home to look after.

Next, Joanne showed the children how to make chocolate moulds with an Easter theme. Again the two boys from Trinity helped with the organisation. All then joined in a celebratory party. It proved to be a very happy occasion and much was learned from the experience – helpers as well as children.

The other activity was held on the 22nd April during the School Holidays, when the children were treated to a bus trip to Mundaring Weir. On arrival at the picnic spot all enjoyed a BBQ. The children were very excited when numerous birds came to enjoy their picnic also, and started eating out of the children's hands.

After a short walk through the bush the children crossed the Weir by way of a railed walk-way on top of the dam wall. The children marvelled at the height of the dam. On the way home, the bus stopped at the old Railway Tunnel. The walk through the tunnel proved very frightening to some of the children.

The enrolment remains at capacity and there is the possibility of a new volunteer, Cheryl Millard, coming to help out in the coming term. She has had much experience with children of this age and will be very welcome.

Br Phil O' Loughlen, Coordinator

News Briefs from our Program Coordinators

DSR Sports Program Refugee Program

Football has been the sport of the month for April. After a good initial session with strong attendance, the program numbers dropped over the holidays. Strategies were implemented to increase the numbers and as a result, some new youth have joined the program. These newcomers are particularly eager and really enjoyed the footy sessions, learning new skills and learning to appreciate the different aspects of the game. A possible reason for the dropping off of our regular attendees is that, perhaps, they have become more independent and able to find other activities to occupy their time and get to places. Over the coming months I will try to target youth who really need the sports program as a way to engage.

Achievements:

- A number of new youth joined the program

- Built stronger links with East Perth Football Club
- Two youth joined Balga Soccer Club through Community in Clubs

Staff: Joe, Jessie, and Br Jim
Helpers: Darren von Bergheim (East Perth FC), Chloe Agale, Kathleen Goddard

Indigenous Program

The Indigenous Program had an outing and the end of term pizza and planning sessions. Both ran smoothly with two youth leaders beginning to volunteer on the program. Once again, the youth leaders and adults were beaten comprehensively by youth who could shoot a laser gun way better!

Achievements:

Welcomed some new participants into the program

Staff: Joe, Pashtana and Br Jim
Helpers: Chloe Agale (Curtin Uni), Ezra, Peace and Lusia (Youth Leaders)

Youth Leadership Development Program

The Youth Leaders had a packed program in April. Their various **achievements** this month include:

- One Leader went on RTRFM to speak about the Every Human Has Rights Campaign Event
- One Leader coached for City of Stirling school holiday program
- Two Leaders attended World Aware preparations
- Two Leaders filmed City of Stirling's Holiday Arts Program
- Three Leaders scored at Beatball
- The Youth Leadership Group hosted an Every Human Has Rights event at the Hainsworth Centre in Girrawheen. Over 100 signatures were collected as part of the campaign, and nine Youth Leaders delivered presentations related to Human Rights issues.

Joe Moniodis, Coordinator

English as a Second Language

| Teacher Names | Classes Levels | No. |
|---------------|----------------------------|-----|
| Paula Freda | Mon. Basic Beginners | 17 |
| | Mon: Basic Beginners | 14 |
| | Mon: Conversation | 9 |
| Paula | Tues. Conversation class | 15 |
| Sr Anita | Elementary Tuesday | 9 |
| | Thursday | 8 |
| Br Phil | Frid. Intermediate (Adv.) | 7 |
| Br Jim | Tues: Intermediate | 11 |
| | Thursday Intermediate. | 12 |
| | Frid: Intermediate | 10 |
| Angela | Tues Advanced basic | 20 |
| | Thurs Advanced Basic | 16 |
| | Frid Advanced Basic | 17 |
| Kathy/ Marie | Tues Basic Beginners | 23 |
| Sr Joan | Frid. conversation.(Begin) | 12 |
| Dorothy | Basic Thurs | 22 |
| Pat | Thurs: Conversation class | 5 |
| Vicky | Frid Basic Beginners | 22 |
| | TOTAL | 249 |

It is to be remembered that many of the participants double up on classes as do the teachers. However, these figures address the numbers in each class room. I believe that participants are attending classes regularly and are receiving the benefit.

This term we have been able to move a large class over to the CentreCare building enabling another class to be established and our waiting lists reduced. We have been blessed with Edel, another volunteer teacher who is willing to teach on a Thursday.

Angela Broderick, Coordinator

SGP Generalists' Program

In April 2009 in total 68 case work services were provided to 58 clients 29 of those being first time client contacts. The main issues presented included Centrelink payments, Citizenship, Homeswest Review application and priority listing, Keystart Shared Equity housing loan

applications, Immigration referrals, applying for JET assistance through Centrelink, housing, financial and material assistance, employment applications, Fines Enforcement Registry, Proposers application and IOM Loans as well as Assistance for a homeless client with emergency accommodation. We are assisting clients with more complex issues such as dealing with Interstate Driver License disqualification, withholding of excessive amounts of money from bonds by Real Estate agents.

The majority of clients were from Sudan, Somalia, Burma, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Afghanistan and from South-East Europe. Dolly has had a marked increase of clients from Burma with different ethnic backgrounds. The Residential Tenancy Act is a cause of much concern.

Marika Kestevska & Dolly Holzinger, Co-Coordinator

**Edmund Rice Centre
Mirrabooka Inc**

Sponsored by the
Christian Brothers



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We are on the Web!

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Thank you to our Sponsors



Mothers' Day Prayer
May the blessing of the
Divine
Be an especially bright
benediction
Upon mothers
everywhere
On your blessed day -
On Mothers' Day!



A Mother and Child

Forthcoming Events

- ⇒ Staff & Volunteer Training Session, Thursday, 7 May 09
- ⇒ ERCM has been invited to set up a display at Morley Centrelink on Monday, 11 May 09

If you would like to support the Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka Inc or a particular program, your donation will be most gratefully accepted. Your donation will enable people from Refugee and Indigenous backgrounds, including young people, 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.

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