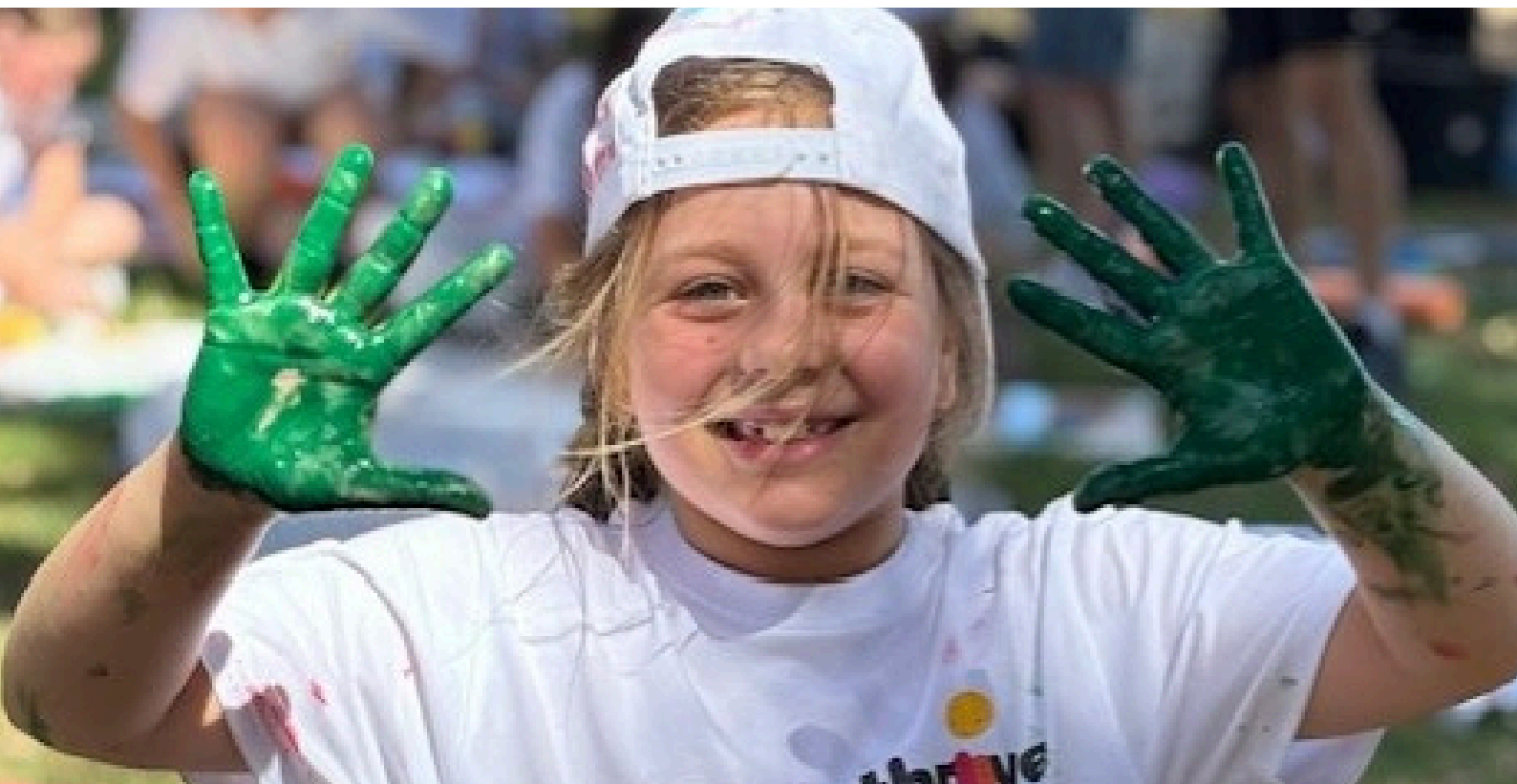




ANNUAL REPORT 2024



FROM EDMUND RICE CAMPS TO THRIVE WA

Same Mission, New Name

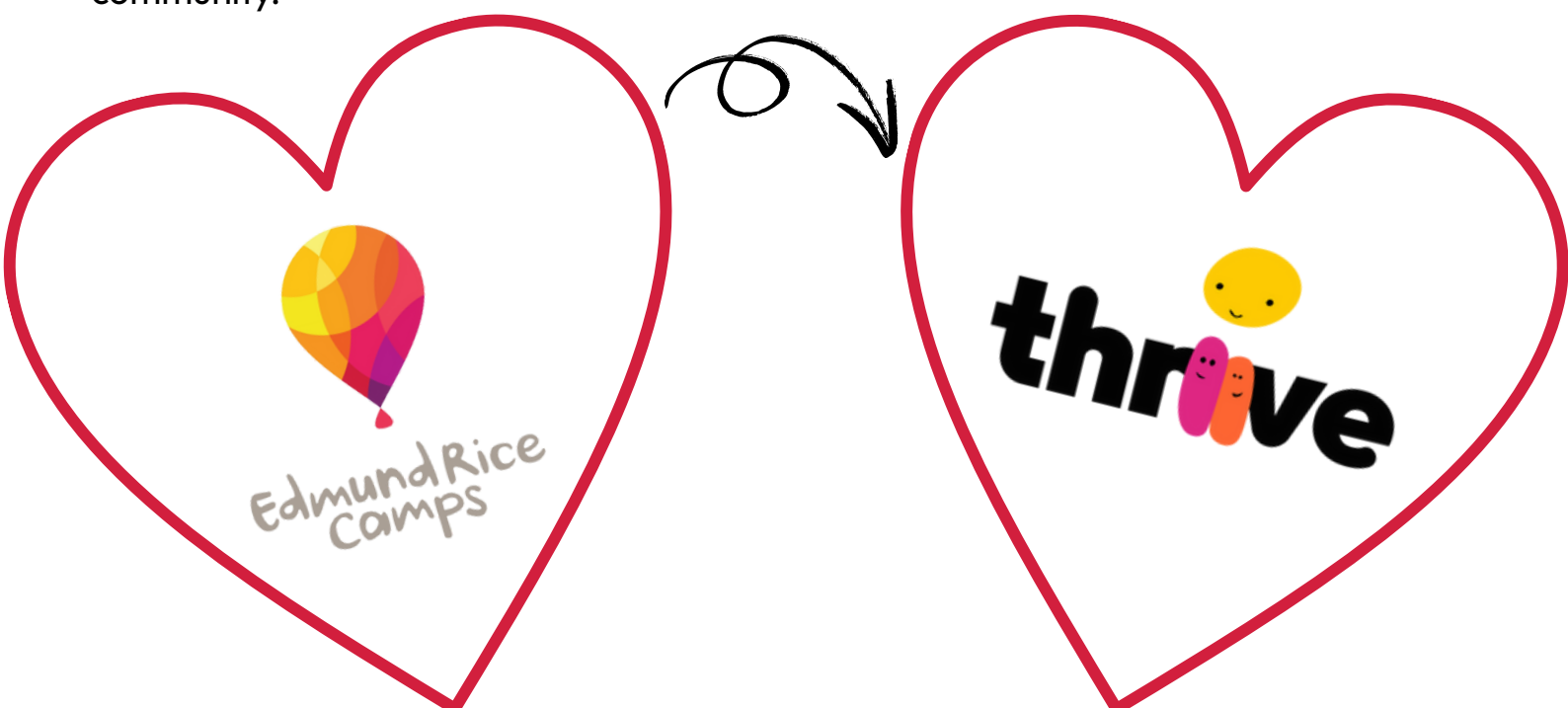
Welcome to Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA Inc.'s (ERCKWA's) 2024 Annual Report, which provides an overview of our organisation's activities throughout the previous year.

We provide life-changing respite programs for 'at risk' and disadvantaged WA children and their families – many of whom would not otherwise have such opportunities.

Our programs are fun and engaging while also being developmentally-focussed and educational. Most of all, we help children feel seen and heard in a safe space.

As part of our specialised programs, we also foster the ongoing personal development of young adult volunteers who serve as friends and mentors to the children in our care.

In 2024 our Board made the decision to change our name to Thriive WA. We are as committed as ever to enriching the lives of WA kids through genuine connections and mentorship. Bringing the kids and young leaders together is powerful, creating a positive ripple effect for everyone involved, their loved ones and our wider community.



CHAIR & CEO REPORT



ROWENA O'BYRNE-BOWLAND – BOARD CHAIR
MEG HUITEMA – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2024 has been a big year for us!

Some of our highlights include our 2024 Remote Community Programs to the East Pilbara region of WA, our seven flagship Mega Camp programs and our enormous December Family Fun Fest held at the Murdoch Telethon Community Cinemas.

A huge thank you to all of our supporters, volunteers and stakeholders who helped us achieve these wonderful programs!



Whilst a great deal of focus has been on running our annual calendar of programs, there has been an opportunity for self-reflection and research about the future direction of ERCKWA.

This year, a decision was made, with the help of our network, to change our name from Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA to Thrive WA.

This is such an exciting and imperative change for our organisation as we travel the path of growth and opportunity. All of our current stakeholders have wished us well, excited to be part of this new chapter. Though our name has changed, the essence of who we are, what we do and how we do it has not.

As we look to the future for exciting changes ahead, we also look to the past to honour our history and support from a great number of organisations and individuals who are connected to our cause.

A special mention goes out to our wonderful volunteers and stakeholders, who have not only supported these changes, but celebrated them with us. For over 25 years this organisation has supported the WA community – we cannot wait to see what the next 25 years looks like!

OUR BOARD

In 2024, the ERCKWA Board came together cohesively to support and govern our organisation with a great sense of energy and direction. Thank you to all of our Board members for your continued dedication to our cause.

The following people occupied positions on the Board in 2024:

Board Chair – Rowena O’Byrne-Bowland

Deputy Board Chair – Kris Behets

Board Treasurer – Aaron Dominish

Board Secretary – Beth O’Regan

Board Members – Thomas Coltrona; Belinda de Corti; Natalie Taylor; Jonathon Russo; Ron Jones (resigned September); and Adam Neal (resigned February).

OUR STAFF

In 2024, staff have been busy reflecting on program development, which included a revision of training, recruitment strategies and volunteer engagement. Meg Huitema continued in the role of Chief Executive Officer, with Kymba Cahill’s continued support as Ambassador.

Melissa Raich continued on in her role of Community Engagement Manager and we farewelled long-time Philanthropy Manager Nicole Mancini, and Volunteer Coordinator Luke Alderslade. We are so appreciative of their respective contributions. Dion Primerano took on the role of Volunteer Coordinator mid-2024 and the organisation brought Laura Thorneloe on-board as our new Marketing & Events Manager in January 2025.

A great team and an exciting year of programs for at-risk and disadvantaged kids!



Laura Thorneloe
Marketing & Events Manager



Kymba Cahill
Ambassador



Dion Primerano
Volunteer Coordinator

OUR SUPPORTERS

In 2024, the Channel 7 Telethon Trust and Telethon Community Cinemas have been incredible champions of ERCKWA, playing a key role in supporting our Remote Community Programs, as well as our summer, winter and weekend initiatives.

Thanks to their generosity, we have been able to extend vital mental health support to children and families across Western Australia.

We are also deeply grateful to our major supporters — Lotterywest, Edmund Rice Foundation Australia, Fat Burners Only, Back in Motion Como, A&O Shearman, the Behets Family Foundation, Beyond Bank and Edmund Rice Community Services. Your belief in our work has had a direct and meaningful impact on what we have achieved this year.

A special thanks to Paul and Fiona Wigger from Fat Burners Only for sponsoring our volunteer hoodies for the 2024 Winter Camps — your ongoing support means so much. We would also like to acknowledge Geoff Baker MLA for his ongoing advocacy and encouragement of our work throughout the year. See page 8 for some pictures.

Finally, heartfelt thanks to Trinity College, Aquinas College, Lawley's Bakery Cafe, Brot Bakery, and The Write Words Communications for their continued support in 2024. Your contributions help bring our mission to life.



BEHETS FAMILY
FOUNDATION



A&O SHEARMAN

PARTICIPANT & VOLUNTEER REPORT



**MEL RAICH – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER &
DION PRIMERANO – VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**

OUR PROGRAMS

The 2024 ERCKWA program calendar was incredibly busy, with 16 programs run throughout the year. Thousands of volunteer hours went into planning, delivering and reflecting on the camps, and creating the wonderful ERCKWA memories for and with our kids and families.



140 participant referrals were accepted in 2024 from 165 applications. 319 program places were taken up by participants across programs held in the metropolitan area.

Our End of Year Family Fun Fest was a highlight for our families and a huge success. The event was held at Telethon Community Cinemas (TCC) Murdoch and was sponsored by TCC. The event saw the families enjoy activities such as a dunk tank, inflatable basketball ring, arts and crafts, and sports.

Presents and gift vouchers were generously provided by Aquinas College for the kids and their families to enjoy. The families were invited to stay and enjoy a free screening after the event. However, due to inclement weather, the screening did not go ahead.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our camp programs were facilitated by 310 ERCKWA volunteers. This includes the management team members, catering and driving volunteers and our fabulous leaders. Over the year, 120 young adults were trained to attend and help facilitate ERCKWA programs.

There were four non-program volunteer events throughout the year, including the post-January camp celebration and awards ceremony; a pre-July camps catchup and fundraiser at Grill'd Applecross; post-July celebration; and end of year event.

The Volunteer Leader Committee (VLC) was incredibly active in 2024. The VLC hosted two Bunnings sausage sizzles; spearheaded a fundraising partnership with Yo-chi; supported a City of South Perth Containers for Change cleanup event and ran resource clean-up days at the ERCKWA Headquarters and main camp venues.

Due to his exceptional dedication to ERCKWA, his initiative as a volunteer leader, coach, VLC member, and support around the office, Mitch Crook was again awarded the 2024 Volunteer Leader of the Year. Mitch has been an outstanding member of the Thriive team and leaves us to travel America in 2025.



Dylan and Carina



BR; Jack, Carina, Leo, Abby, Lara, Dylan, James, FR; Dion, Chloe & Callum



Grace and Lara



Staff member Aimee



James, Callum and Leo

We could not Thriive without our amazing volunteers!

FUNDRAISING REPORT



LAURA THORNELOE
MARKETING & EVENTS MANAGER

TELETHON COMMUNITY CINEMAS

Another incredible season thanks to the sensational support and tireless efforts of our volunteers and the WA community. The 2024 TCC season resulted in a cash donation to ERCKWA of \$147,495.96, with an additional \$9,521.89 of products and in-kind support – a total donation of \$157,017.85! This support is of huge value to us and goes directly to the programs and events calendar run for WA kids. Over the past 11 years, TCC has made a huge contribution of \$1,416,919.08 to ERCKWA!

A massive thank you to TCC and Chief Executive Officer Ken Gibbons for this remarkable opportunity.

GALA BALL

We held our stunning 2024 A Night at the Masquerade Gala Ball at the Hyatt Regency on 4 May, which was attended by over 200 guests. The ballroom looked beautiful, the 3-course dinner was delicious and the dancing, ever so popular!

Kymba Cahill from Mix 94.5 continues to champion the ERCKWA cause as our generous Ambassador and once again made sure that our Gala Ball ran smoothly as the host.



CEO Meg Huitema and supporters Chava & Fiona



Board Member Thomas Coltrona and fiancée Daliborka



QUIZ NIGHT

On 23 November 2024, our annual Quiz Night took us Back to the Future... or should we say Back to the Quiz Night! It was a night of neon lights, retro vibes, and serious brainpower as 160 guests came together to raise over \$10,000 for ERCKWA. The crowd brought their A-game and their best outfits – shout out to the fabulous teams at ERCKWA Ambassador and Mix 94.5's Kymba Cahill and Honor Cass' tables for nabbing Best Dressed Tables and absolutely owning the theme!

The excitement did not stop there — four high-energy quiz rounds kept everyone on their toes, with bonus games in between that had the room roaring with laughter (and maybe a little friendly rivalry). From trivia triumphs to dance-floor-worthy costumes, it was a night to remember.

Thank you again to FBO and Geoff Baker MLA!



Sponsors and alumni, Fat Burners Only owners Paul and Fiona Wigger with Chris Huitema (middle)



MLA Geoff Baker of WA Labor presents the 2024 Lotterywest grant to ERCKWA CEO Meg Huitema

FINANCIAL REPORT



AARON DOMINISH
BOARD TREASURER

FINANCIAL STANDING

2024 saw ERCKWA successfully return to a surplus as strategic execution and financial diligence were paramount. With a net surplus recorded for the period (\$8,808 in 2024), we strengthened our financial foundation while continuing to deliver impactful programs to both remote and metropolitan communities.

This reflects ERCKWA's commitment to prudent financial management, operational efficiency, and steps towards income diversification. We are well-positioned to enhance our long-term sustainability and expand our outreach efforts.

INCOME SOURCES

ERCKWA again extends our sincere gratitude to our sponsors, donors, supporters, and leaders whose contributions have been instrumental in our success. Our established relationships and ability to foster strong partnerships has enabled us to increase income levels in 2024 (\$452,357 in 2024 and \$359,591 in 2023).

Grant funding revenues returned to historic levels (\$280,335 in 2024 and \$256,843 in 2023) and ERCKWA extends our gratitude to Telethon, Lotterywest, and the Edmund Rice Foundation for their continued support.

COST MANAGEMENT

ERCKWA remains committed to delivering life-changing experiences in a cost-effective and sustainable manner. Despite the external environment, we successfully implemented cost-saving initiatives without compromising program quality or accessibility (total expenses reduced from \$461,176 in 2023 to \$450,772 in 2024).

Employee expenditure remained the largest cost component (\$256,214 in 2024), reflecting a commitment to retaining and supporting our valued team. The Board has played a crucial role in securing the organisation's financial stability and provided a foundation for ongoing developments.

We look forward to building on this momentum in the years ahead, ensuring our mission continues to positively impact children, leaders, volunteers, and staff for generations to come.