

2020 EDMUND RICE CAMPS FOR KIDS WA ANNUAL REPORT



Making a difference by rising above

Inspired by the spirit of Edmund Rice and committed to justice, we support kids and families in need and provide young adults with personal growth and development opportunities.

Welcome

Welcome to the Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA (ERCKWA) 2020 Annual Report, which provides an overview of our activities throughout the last year.

ERCKWA serves the needs of disadvantaged and 'at risk' children aged 7–16 and their families by offering a variety of developmentally-focussed recreational programs, including camps. Without us, these families would not otherwise have such opportunities.

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

While not a 'traditional' measurement, much of ERCKWA's success is measured in the smiles, laughter and new-found confidence of our 'Eddie Rice kids', as well as the growth and advancement of our young leaders.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT BY TONY MANO

30 Years of ERCKWA

2020 marks 30 years since the start of ERCKWA and we owe much gratitude to our past and present Board members, employees, volunteers, supporters and stakeholders who have guided and elevated us over this time towards the organisation we are today. One that has not wavered in fulfilling our core purpose, whose reputation continues to flourish, that has kept our sense of tradition and which has continuously built on our foundations of Presence • Compassion • Liberation. Our 30th year is an opportunity for us to pause and quietly reflect on these and so many other achievements, whilst also proudly celebrating.

2020 also marks the commencement of our journey for the next 30 years and, as we have successfully done so in the past, such plans will take shape one year at a time. From an operational viewpoint, a measured approach to strategic planning and

implementation, prudent financial management, diligent risk and governance protocols, and committed and conscientious staff and volunteers are largely the traits that have enabled us for 29 years. In some ways, I see no reason to alter this formula. In other respects, we need to keep evolving in order to keep delivering on the benchmarks we set and the vision we aspire to.

Although 2020 was unprecedented due to the devastating impact of COVID-19 globally, we count our blessings since its impact on us was, at worst, a deviation from our regular operations – in that we sadly were not able to deliver all our programs. However, our creative and dedicated staff and volunteers found other means of providing some respite and cheer to those who were unable to participate in our camps or other activities.

Many fundraising activities were also cancelled, although I'm pleased to inform that our finances remained strong, through the support of new and existing donors and sponsors, together with government grant programs.

A highlight of the year was the manner in which we came together as an organisation to reach out in support of our community during the height of the pandemic. We did what we could to keep people safe, save jobs and check in on the wellbeing of others. For this I am both immensely proud and grateful.

A massive well done and thank you to everyone who helped make 2020 a year of achievement amongst the backdrop of the challenges we faced.

Your Board

Although our Constitution allows for a maximum of 10 Board members, the number of appointed members has historically been below this capacity. Accordingly, there was a decision and a concerted effort to move towards a 10-person Board, allowing us to introduce additional skill-sets and capability to serve the growing needs of our organisation.

During the 2020 year we welcomed three new board members in Aaron Dominish, Maria Lo Presti and Courtney George and I am pleased to announce that the addition of one new member is planned for early in 2021 with a further expression of interest being followed up by the Board at present.



Aaron Dominish



Maria Lo Presti



Courtney George

I take this opportunity of thanking Jacci Williams and Ira Gibbs for their contributions during their ERCKWA journey and wish them much health, happiness and prosperity in the years ahead. Both Jacci and Ira have contributed greatly to the growth and stability of the organisation.

In Jacci's case her tenure ended due to having completed her second and final three-year term – although her association with ERCKWA stretches much further, commencing as a camp leader in 2000 some 20 years ago! Ira stood down due to work and family commitments and her energy and professionalism when it came to finances will be missed.



A sincere and heartfelt thank you to all my fellow Board members for your enthusiasm, responsiveness and wise council throughout the past 12 months. There is a considerable responsibility and investment of precious personal time when committing to a Board position and, without reservation, each and every one of our Board members fulfils this obligation with aplomb.

Thank You & Acknowledgements

I'd like to acknowledge the professionalism and passion of our people, who worked tirelessly across all facets of our organisation – from delivering programs, through to events, partnerships, finance and administration. Although the level of traditional activity across the organisation was subdued during 2020, our people found new ways to remain relevant, make a difference and rise above.

By committing to our values they ensure we can deliver the best outcomes for those we serve and it is this commitment that seems to have cascaded across the first 29 years of our existence, allowing us to provide the respite, enjoyment and hope that so many marginalised children and families in our community crave.

We once again owe an enormous amount of gratitude to our Chief Executive Officer, Kevin Knapp, for the seamless manner in which he guides and leads this organisation and his dedicated team of staff. As a Board we deeply value their insights and enthusiasm, together with the determined manner in which they seek to achieve the sometimes lofty benchmarks and targets we set.

To our volunteers, sponsors, partners, supporters and stakeholders, I offer you the simple but powerful message that we would not exist without you. I acknowledge your contributions go well beyond the hours you devote or the financial support you may provide, and comes in forms such as the energy you bring, the inspiration you provide or the empathy you deliver. Once again thank you and once again we couldn't do it without you.

I trust the year ahead will be a little less challenging than the last, as the Board and I look forward to the ERCKWA community working and standing alongside us in fulfilling the aspirations of this wonderful organisation.

Thank You to Our Sponsors for 2020



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT BY KEVIN KNAPP

Our Programs

Well, it has been another very successful year here at ERCKWA despite the huge challenges created by COVID-19!

During the course of 2020 we were still able to deliver all of our planned Mega Camps in January at our new venue at Edmund Rice College in Bindoon before everything was shut down.

Instead of sitting idle, we sourced some funding through a fantastic grant from Woodside and delivered over 120 hampers to the kids and families we support. The hampers provided much-needed essentials, as well as positive messages and themed gifts from our volunteers to celebrate Easter and then Christmas in July.

We also secured JobKeeper support and thankfully our event sponsors came through for us even though we were not able to run our planned fundraising events during the year.

After restrictions eased later in the year, we finished strongly with a leader formation experience in Bindoon in July, an Eddie on the Road visit to the south-west and our wonderful Sticky Rice Christmas Party for our kids and families on 12 December.

For Sticky Rice, over 100 very excited and grateful Eddie Rice family members attended our headquarters in Salter Point. The weather even held off for us, with the event bookended by rain that didn't interrupt us in the slightest!

Our fabulous volunteers made our families feel very celebrated, running crafts, sports and taking care of Santa's grotto. The bouncy castle and face-painter were big hits, as of course was Santa, who paid us a visit with two of his lovely elves.

There was some great feedback from families attending, remarking especially on the enthusiasm of the volunteers and the generosity of our community in the wake of COVID-19. It was a festive and fitting end to a challenging year.



Hamper Run 1 for kids who missed out on April Camps – Brittany (seated at the desk), Wesley (in the basket) and Bec prepare the first hampers containing games, food and household items, including of course toilet rolls!



Hamper Run 2 for kids during Easter Holidays – Easter bunnies, chocolates, hot cross buns and lots more toys and games!



Hamper Run 3, 4, 5 and 6 for kids who missed out on May and July camps – picnic and Christmas in July theme with rugs, picnic foods, games, Warm Fuzzy messages from our leaders and a trolley to transport it all in!

Our Staff & Board

To Board Chair Tony Manso and the other members of the ERCKWA Board in particular a big thank you for your tremendous support. Having a skilful, engaged and dedicated Board is critical to the effective functioning of management and to the establishment of processes and procedures that ensure the sustainability of an organisation. ERCKWA is very fortunate to have such a great team in charge of our governance.

Our small team of staff have again worked hard to maintain our standards of operation and I am very proud of what they have achieved, including so many successful camps.

Coordinator Volunteer Leader Services Megan McKenna departed to pursue a new opportunity and Manager Operations & Risk Management Chris Dix left to take on a teaching position at CBC Fremantle, having significantly improved our processes and procedures around logistics and risk. I would like to wish them both well and thank them for being such excellent members of the team.

Xavier Mitchell joined us in April as Coordinator Volunteer Leader Services and Brittany Hawker took on the role of Manager Community Engagement in December while Meg Huitema is on maternity leave. Both Brittany and Xavier have already made their mark and are very worthy replacements for the two Megs.

Manager Profile, Fundraising & Events Nicole Mancini is close to having completed five very successful years with ERCKWA and once again was the driving force behind our prosperous events and fundraising initiatives. Thank you, Nicole.

I would like to make special mention of Beth Goode, Sam Sanginiti and Curtis Novacsek who volunteered their time to assist with our administration and spent several days in the office at Westcourt helping the staff deliver on a number of projects.

Thank You & Acknowledgements

To our community partners and sponsors, thank you for your contributions – all of which make a tangible and very important difference to the lives of at-risk kids in Western Australia and to young adults who are committed to bringing about positive change in our community.

Thank you in particular to our major partners – Christian Brothers Oceania Province, Edmund Rice Foundation Australia, Telethon Community Cinemas, Aquinas College, Trinity College, CBC Fremantle, Garden City Booragoon (now Westfield Booragoon), Beyond Bank Australia, Lawleys Bakery & Café, the Behets Family Foundation, Fat Burners Only, Landcorp, The Write Words Communications, Thomas More College, HS Acoustics, Lotterywest, Ernst and Young, HBF and Northern Minerals. Also a big thank you to the countless individual donors and sponsors.

I believe it is worthy of note that Telethon Community Cinemas has contributed over \$800,000 to ERCKWA over the past seven years. This organisation has done wonders to raise awareness and funds for our programs, as well as those of several other charities dedicated to the wellbeing of children. Their amazing team and volunteers are agents of positive change in our community and we are very proud and grateful to have been a successful partner of theirs for several years. We look forward to an ongoing relationship with this wonderful organisation.

A special thank you to our committee members who lead, cook and/or drive on camps and who also find time to assist ERCKWA in our planning, operations and events.

There are many ways to connect with the vision and charism of Edmund Rice and I am proud to be part of an accredited Edmund Rice Ministry that provides a contemporary expression of the charism in Western Australia.

Lastly, thank you to Edmund Rice for sharing his vision and values with us and for establishing a network of ministries that are dedicated to positively impacting the lives of the disadvantaged, as well as developing us all as role models, mentors and leaders.

PROFILE, FUNDRAISING & EVENTS REPORT 2020 BY NICOLE MANCINI

Post January Camps Function

On Wednesday 12 February over 50 volunteers and supporters came to an evening under the stars at Telethon Community Cinemas Burswood to celebrate a sensational 2020 January Mega Camps season. ERCKWA is a Telethon Community Cinema Charity Partner so 100% of the \$20 ticket was donated back to us!

Camper Hampers

With many of our ERCKWA programs being cancelled due to the pandemic, we decided to reach out to our ERCKWA families in other ways, by creating personalised hampers for key points throughout the year.

A huge heartfelt thank you to the major sponsors of our Eddie Rice family hampers, including Woodside through their COVID-19 Community Fund, Telethon Community Cinemas and Lawley's Bakery Cafe.

April Eddie Rice Camper Hampers

In April, 30 ERCKWA families who were scheduled to go on our April program were each gifted a large 90-litre storage box full of donated food and essential items, plus an activities tub, \$100 worth of gift cards and stock donated by Telethon Community Cinemas (water, candy, soft drink, sausages and bread). Our volunteers also included personalised messages, which are known as 'Warm Fuzzies', to give them a little bit of our camp experience.

It was an incredible success and the families really appreciated having the extra support during this difficult time. Here are some words of thanks from the families to everyone who made this drive happen:

"Thank you so so very very much, what a lovely hamper! Certainly put a big smile on my face. Thank you team Eddie Rice you're all AWESOME! Stay safe everyone."

"OMG I can't believe the amount of items you have left us. Thank you so much, it's better than Xmas."

"Hi there. Just would like to say thank you for the hamper and gift cards. It certainly has already given us smiles and cheering us up a lot. Thank you."

"Thanks so much for the amazing hamper we received today. Thanks from the bottom of my heart. J also sends his thanks for the parcel which he loves."

"Thank you so much for the beautiful hamper for us. The kids are very excited and your kindness is greatly appreciated."

Easter Holidays Hampers

For Easter, 20 of our ERCKWA families were each gifted two baskets. They were filled with hot cross buns that were generously donated by Lawleys Bakery Cafe, along with community donations of chocolate eggs, activities and toys.

May Mini Camp Picnic Pizzazz Hampers

In May, 20 ERCKWA families were gifted picnic-themed hampers to add a little sparkle due to missing out on their May Mini Camp program. Telethon Community Cinemas donated fabulous picnic rugs to accompany the hampers and the community donated funds and items so the hampers could be filled with picnic-style non-perishable food and outdoor activities, games and puzzles.

Xmas in July Hampers

75 'Xmas in July' sleighs were gifted to ERCKWA children and families. The Woodside COVID-19 Community Fund sleighs were filled with food, essentials and Christmas gifts plus vouchers for food and petrol. ERCKWA volunteer elves and staff worked around the clock to decorate and deliver the sleighs to our ERCKWA families.

End of Year Celebration

On Sunday 20 December volunteers and supporters were invited to Telethon Community Cinemas Burswood to celebrate the end of a tough year for many. Over 50 ERCKWA guests watched Tim Burton's award-winning classic *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. As a Telethon Community Cinemas Charity Partner, 100% of the \$20 ticket was donated back to ERCKWA to run our 2021 programs.

TREASURER'S REPORT BY AARON DOMINISH

Financial Standing

2020 presented setbacks for the world ravaged by the COVID-19 pandemic and our thoughts are with those continuing to face immense adversity at this time. Despite this external environment, ERCKWA continued a disciplined operating approach to record a net profit of \$76,416, representing an increase of 51.3% from the previous year's figures.

Whilst health restrictions impacted the organisation's ability to deliver certain core programs, ERCKWA tapped into our supportive community to develop alternative initiatives to assist those in need. The responsible management of these initiatives has solidified previous positive results and strengthened ERCKWA's position.

Revenue Sources

Once again, ERCKWA extends its sincere gratitude for support received from Telethon Community Cinemas (\$91,678), Edmund Rice Province (\$67,000) and Edmund Rice Foundation (\$19,756) in 2020. The organisation secured a number of new sponsors and is excited to continue fortifying relationships by implementing further initiatives and synergies.

Prudent Cost Control

In light of the uncertainties faced in early 2020, ERCKWA tightened financial monitoring and implemented appropriate cost reduction measures, which led to material decreases in event and vehicle expenditures.

Employee expenditure continues to represent the largest cost item with the organisation maintaining five permanent staff members (with one currently on maternity leave). The Board acknowledges the support received from the Australian Government's assistance packages (JobKeeper and Cashboost receipts totalling \$174,714), which have been integral in retaining the organisation's hardworking staff during the pandemic.

The Board is continuing to actively monitor the financial position and performance of the organisation as the Australian economy continues its recovery.

Outlook

The organisation's financial strength is a testament to the planning and governance strategies implemented in the preceding years. The Board looks forward to leveraging the organisation's strong financial position into the future, with a view to returning to a full schedule of excellent camp programs supported by our fantastic community.

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