

2021 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) 2021 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 continued growth and advancement of our young leaders.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT • BY TONY MANSO

Introduction

Although the latter part of 2021 brought a semblance of pre-COVID normality back to our society, Western Australian families faced existing and emerging challenges throughout the year.

As a result, we've needed to evolve to find new ways of supporting the children within these families. Although we were somewhat hampered in being able to maximise our impact, what we did deliver is testament to the dedication and commitment of the entire ERCKWA community. Reinstating programs, managing our 'day-to-day' activities, maintaining our motivation, purpose and vision, whilst working in a turbulent regulatory environment, where constant and sudden changes seemed to be the norm, was achieved with the minimum of fuss.

No doubt, keeping the Edmund Rice Charism at the centre of our thinking has supported us during the disruptive two years we've just experienced – a journey which has led us to being a better and stronger organisation.

Achieving better and stronger is largely the hallmark of operating with a proactive and focussed strategic plan, having access to a professional and engaged Board, leaning on devoted and loyal sponsors, donors, volunteers and supporters and, of course, the dedication of our staff. The outcome is often seen in the delivery of quality programs, activities and events, as has been the case in 2021.

Amongst all the positives, we're also conscious that 2021 has been isolating for many ERCKWA families. While we (thankfully) did not experience the full weight of the pandemic seen in other parts of the world, we have been mindful of the emotional toll that COVID-19 has taken on our people. Accordingly, there has been and will be a continuing focus on supporting our ERCKWA families, stakeholders and wider community.

Financially, ERCKWA has remained strong in 2021 thanks to the continued support of sponsors and donors, although our financial performance was also due to restrictions curtailing our activities which contributed to reduced spending. Our Treasurer's Report on page 8 provides further insights on our financial results.

In many respects, 2021 has been a very rewarding year and, though we would have liked to have done more, we'll challenge ourselves to make up any ground lost in subsequent years.

Your Board

In 2021, ERCKWA welcomed Ron Jones and Thomas Coltrona to our Board. Ron and Thomas bring invaluable human resources and legal skills and experience to the Board and continue our emphasis on attracting strong and committed contributors. I and my fellow Board members have greatly appreciated Ron and Thomas' involvement to date, and look forward to the insights and advice they'll bring in the years to come.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of our Board. It has been a fruitful year in many respects, which could not have been achieved without the dedication and knowledge these members bring to discussions, debates and decisions. Presence, Compassion and Liberation has been a central theme within our Boardroom; it has been a pleasure to work alongside such caring, thoughtful and wise individuals.

Finally, as part of our agreed succession plan, I intend to stand down as Chair at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM), although will continue as a Board member in the final year of my tenure. Our intention is to install current Vice Chair Rowena O'Byrne-Bowland as my successor, which will be voted on at the AGM.

Rowena is an exceptional individual and I have no reservation in endorsing her for the role. If appointed, I have total confidence in her ability to lead this wonderful organisation – one that I've had the privilege and honour of leading over the past eight years. I look forward to fulfilling my final year with just as much enthusiasm and passion.

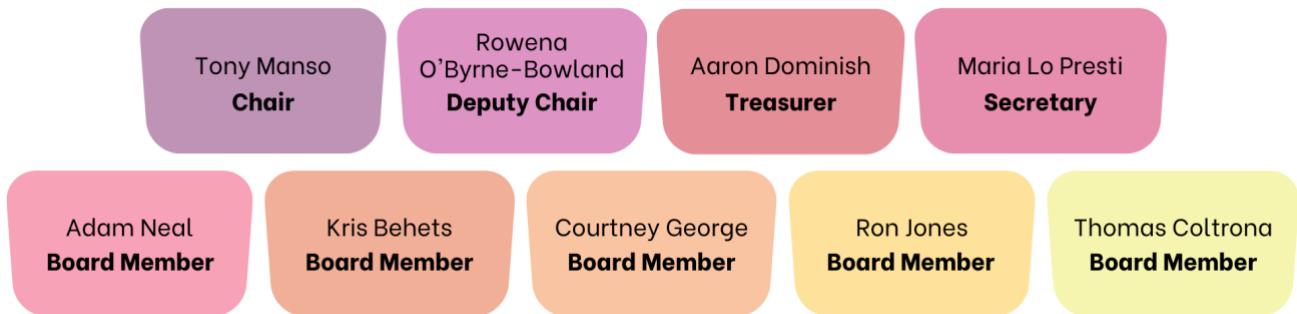


Ron Jones



Thomas Coltrona

The following people occupied positions on the ERCKWA Board in 2021:



Thank You & Acknowledgements

A heartfelt thank you to the staff at ERCKWA, who once again have been superbly led by our enthusiastic and dedicated Chief Executive Officer, Kevin Knapp. Over the past eight years, Kevin has been a constant source of unwavering leadership to the organisation, providing the guidance, counsel and mentoring to his team in what have been testing times.

As always, he and his team, through their hard work and dedication have managed our operations and activities with the utmost efficiency and professionalism. They play an enormous part in our achievements and success.

There are a number of stakeholders and supporters that continue to make this organisation what it is, one of which is the volunteer cohort. I'd like to acknowledge all of our volunteer leaders and ancillary volunteers who give up their valuable time to attend our various programs, care for our participants and families, serve on our committees, support our events, respond in times of need – the list goes on. All of which they do with bounding energy. It's inspiring to witness and so appreciated by all of us.



Top left: Volunteer leaders Emily Berson and Michael Lamborn after being playfully covered in shaving foam and cheesy corn snacks on the south-west Eddie on the Road.

Top right: Some of our amazing volunteer leaders who positively impacted the lives of kids on our July Camps.



Left: The Westfield Booragoon Local Heroes finalists, which included our very own Curtis Novacsek.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT • BY KEVIN KNAPP

Our Programs

It seems that every year I sit down to write something for the Annual Report and try to think back to the previous year's achievements while already immersed in the next year's activities!

2021 of course started with our Mega Camps in January that were followed by numerous other camps throughout the year, thousands of volunteer hours spent planning, delivering and reflecting on the camps, and wonderful Eddie Rice memories created for the kids and families. Behind the scenes, a dedicated team of staff supported by a wonderful group of Board members led as always by Board Chair Tony Manso.

I will leave it for others to provide some of the statistics that demonstrate our impact in community, but for me the main message is about *how* we do what we do and not so much about *what* we do.



James Loughnan playing on the beach with two Eddie Rice kids during our December Mini Camp.



(Left to right, back to front) Michael Lamborn, Bee Hawker, Beth Good, Arden Sicard, Aimee Deane, Emily Berson, Steph Behets and Kris Behets; Jenna Lamborn, Maddy Haines, Alessia Maio and Marcus Taylor getting ready to travel during our south-west Eddie on the Road.

We are an organisation that engages and empowers people within our community to do wonderful things for others. When you speak about the values of an organisation, you often just list a few words that appear on your strategic plan, vision statement and website.

At ERCKWA, we witness a 'lived experience' of our values of Presence, Compassion and Liberation, and, critically, we invest in this lived experience through our focus on personal formation and reflective practice.

From our Board members to our staff and volunteers and to our Eddie Rice kids and families, our ability to give of ourselves unconditionally is what has made us successful and what will sustain us into the future. It has also made us very robust and capable of handling adversity through a can-do approach to everything we do.

As an example of this, ERCKWA nominated Curtis Novacsek for the Westfield Local Hero of the Year. Curtis is an excellent mentor to the children of our ERCKWA programs and has been attending camps in a volunteer capacity for many years now. Despite having completed over 60 programs, he is still very active within the volunteer community.

I am deeply indebted to my team of staff, the Board, our sponsors and supporters and the volunteers and kids for enriching my own Eddie Rice journey and for contributing to what was once again a great year for ERCKWA. With another big January Camp season on the horizon, I am confident that collectively we will once again start another year on a high.

Our Staff & Board

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tony Manso, our dedicated Board Chair, for all of his hard work and guidance. 2021 has marked a very successful year for ERCKWA with a well-balanced and encouraging Board. The Board are the biggest supporters of the work we do here at ERCKWA and I would like to thank them for their efforts. I would also like to thank the volunteers who sit on the Board subcommittees for their contribution in 2021.

There were a few changes in our staff team this year, including the return of Meg Huitema as our Community Engagement Manager. I thank Bee Hawker for her time and commitment to the role while Meg was on maternity leave. Welcome back, Meg.

Xavier Mitchell left the position of Coordinator Volunteer Services to dedicate his time to his university studies and Eva Quattrini took on this role. Thank you, Xavier, and welcome to our team, Eva. Miranda Mitchell also covered the Coordinator Volunteer Services role during a staff transition period, as well as being Eddie on the Road Facilitator. Thank you, Miranda, and good luck with your international career plans.

Melissa Raich also became Eddie on the Road Program Development & Strategy Manager, while Nicole Mancini excelled in her role as the Profile, Fundraising & Events Manager and I continued to enjoy working at ERCKWA as the Chief Executive Officer in my ninth year.

Thank You & Acknowledgements

A big thank you to all of our sponsors and supporters in 2021. Every one of our supporters is greatly appreciated and contribute to the overall work that is achieved at ERCKWA.

Thank you in particular to our major partners – Edmund Rice Community Services, Edmund Rice Foundation Australia, Telethon Community Cinemas (TCC), Beyond Bank, Lawley's Bakery & Café, Fat Burners Only, Lotterywest, Allen & Overy, The Write Words Communications, Behets Family Foundation, Another Colour, Wanslea Grandcare, Aquinas College, Trinity College, CBC Fremantle, Westfield Booragoon, Herring Storer Acoustics and St Thomas More College. Also, a big thank you to the countless individual donors and sponsors.

I want to once again highlight the immense support received from TCC, whose donations over the years has totalled over \$1 million. Thanks to the hard work of everyone at TCC, there are a number of charities that have benefited from their efforts. We thank our volunteers who have attended sessions with TCC and our fantastic staff group for the continued support.

I would like to say a special thank you to our team on the ground – the volunteers who attend our camps in leadership and ancillary volunteer capacities. The time and generosity of our volunteer cohort is hugely appreciated by ERCKWA and we know that the work you do is life changing.

Thank You to Our Sponsors for 2021



PROFILE, FUNDRAISING & EVENTS REPORT • BY NICOLE MANCINI

Our 2021 Events & Fundraising Initiatives



Post Program Volunteer Events

Due to COVID, our post January and July program volunteer events were celebrated a little differently. ERCKWA treated our volunteers and supporters to a barbecue in February and pizza picnic in August, which were both held in the beautiful Westcourt grounds. We are beyond proud and thankful for the support of the many volunteers who help create and implement our respite programs throughout the year. What a team!

Telethon Community Cinemas (TCC) Season 2020–2021

Thanks to the efforts of our tireless volunteers, the 2020–2021 TCC season resulted in a cash donation to ERCKWA of \$112,433.82 – an increase of over \$20,000 from our previous season.

We received a total donation of over \$125,000, including almost \$13,000 of product and in-kind support. This is of huge value to us as we are able to use it on a number of our programs and events, such as the Quiz Night, our annual calendar of residential programs, and our Sticky Rice Kids Christmas Party.



Guests enjoying Telethon Community Cinemas (TCC) in Burswood, as the sun goes down.

TCC's contribution to ERCKWA over the past eight years of being one of their charity partners has now reached over \$1,000,000. Incredible! This support is hugely appreciated and the result of some exhaustive efforts by the team at TCC and all of the volunteers who support them. A huge thank you to everyone involved – and especially to TCC for this amazing opportunity.

2021 ERCKWA Gala Ball

The now famous ERCKWA Gala Ball was once again an incredible success! Themed 'Prom Night', it was held at Optus Stadium on 27 March and attended by over 300 guests. The venue looked sensational, the catering was delicious, the entertainment fabulous and the dancing out of this world! Kymba Cahill from Mix 94.5 continues to champion our cause as our gracious Ambassador and once again made sure that the event ran smoothly as our host.

What an incredible honour to hear our volunteer leader Wesley Brooke share his journey as an Eddie Ricer. The energy, compassion and commitment of young adults like Wes is the real legacy that Edmund Rice created, which has and will fuel ERCKWA's programs well into the future.

We are so grateful for the positive vibe created for us on the night and the generosity our guests and sponsors showed in generating over \$45,000 for our organisation to assist with running respite programs for WA children who are disadvantaged and 'at risk'.



Guests enjoying a photo opportunity with the still-walkers at our annual Gala Ball.



The new artwork on our Eddie Rice buses and trailers, thanks to various sponsors and a Lotterywest grant.

ERCKWA & St Thomas More College Quiz Night

2021 saw the return of the combined ERCKWA and St Thomas More College Cambodia Collaboration for a fundraising 80s vs 90s Quiz Night on 19 November. We are incredibly thankful for the \$7,800 raised, which went towards programs for vulnerable and 'at risk' children both locally in Western Australia and overseas in Cambodia.

The Quiz Night was hosted by the sensational Kymba Cahill from Mix 94.5, along with ERCKWA volunteer leaders Rachael Coltrona and Wesley Brooke. St Thomas More College's hall was packed with 200 guests, as well as 20 volunteers who assisted in ensuring the event was successful and bursting with loads of 80s and 90s fun! Thank you to all the supporters for their donations and attending our Quiz Night.

Our 2021 Major Partnerships



As well as ongoing partnerships with Christian Brothers Oceania Province, Edmund Rice Foundation Australia, Edmund Rice Education Australia and St Thomas More College.

TREASURER'S REPORT • BY AARON DOMINISH

Financial Standing

During 2021, the wider global economy made an outstanding recovery following the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic. ERCKWA was the beneficiary of incredible generosity during the financial year and this support, along with a measured approach to operations, has resulted in a net surplus of \$41,738.

Whilst ongoing restrictions impacted our organisation's ability to deliver certain programs, ERCKWA returned to a calendar of sustainable camp programs and continued to implement alternative initiatives to assist those in our community.

Sound governance of these initiative has strengthened previous positive results and improved ERCKWA's financial standing.

Revenue Sources

Once again, ERCKWA extends our sincere gratitude for support received from Telethon Community Cinemas (\$112,433), Edmund Rice Province (\$66,000) and Edmund Rice Foundation (\$10,000) in 2021. The organisation secured a number of new partnerships, sponsors and volunteers which has led to an increase in revenues and other income (from \$460,892 in 2020 to \$500,311 in 2021).

The Board also acknowledges the generous sponsorship received during 2021 that enabled us to acquire a new mini-bus for various activities. It was funded by various sponsors and a Lotterywest grant.

Prudent Cost Control

In light of the inflationary environment experienced in the global economy during 2021, ERCKWA continued to monitor our costs and minimise expenditures where possible. Whilst overall expenditure increased by \$73,923, the organisation took steps to reduce employee expenditures by \$28,648 (from \$276,405 to \$247,757 representing a 10% decrease).

Employee expenditure continues to represent the largest cost item with the organisation, maintaining four permanent staff members at year's end. The Board acknowledges the support received from the Australian Government's assistance packages (JobKeeper receipts totalling \$27,900), which was integral in retaining our hardworking staff during the pandemic.

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

Outlook

As the world transitions into a post-pandemic environment, ERCKWA continues to implement the sound governance and forward planning initiatives we have established in previous years.

The Board will maintain these initiatives and seek manners to further strengthen the financial position to ensure that support continues to our community and stakeholders.

Editor: Rowena O'Byrne-Bowland
Chief Word Herder & Director
The Write Words Communications
www.thewritewords.com.au

