



Edmund Rice Camps

2018 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 to the Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA (ERCKWA) 2018 Annual Report, which provides an overview of our activities throughout 2018.

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, we also foster 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.



Above image: Our Eddie on the Road team and participants in Waroona, proudly holding a banner created as part of the program.

Chairperson's Report by Tony Manso

Welcome

Welcome – it continues to be an honour to lead this wonderful organisation into my sixth and final year as Board Chair.

I have gained immense personal enjoyment and satisfaction from my involvement. This satisfaction comes in many forms – from the interactions with those who diligently and passionately deliver our programs, to the part we play in developing our young leaders and through to attracting new partners and sponsors. Of course, nothing is more uplifting than the smiles we create on the young faces of our participants.

All of this is only possible because of who we are and what we do. For these reasons, I strongly encourage you to continue promoting our organisation to a wider audience, so others can share in the numerous benefits through a larger ERCKWA community.

Our continued relevance and success can only be achieved through sheer determination and commitment from us all – traits that have always been visible throughout our existence over the past three decades. I trust we can think bigger and stronger over the forthcoming years and, as we do, seek guidance and inspiration from our 'making a difference by rising above' motto and, of course, the courage and dedication of our namesake, Edmund Rice.

Our Board

Historically, recognition of the time, effort and energy that our Board members contribute throughout the year has been relegated to the end of my report. So, this year I thought it timely to elevate this segment and provide an added opportunity to highlight the appreciation I have for their professionalism, empathy and dedication.

My fellow Board members often go well beyond the call of duty, without fanfare nor expectation of praise – from those who chair our committees, act as office bearers, volunteer at camps, assist and provide guidance on 'day-to-day' matters, mentor staff, assist in arranging and participating at events and so on. This list captures only a component of the behind the scenes that are necessary for ERCKWA to function. Without them the wellbeing of our organisation would be at risk. With them we can and will be ambitious and continue to achieve our purpose.

A sincere thank you to you all, and I look forward to your wise council and contributions throughout 2019. I also note that during 2018 there were no new Board members appointed, although Greg Erskine did not seek re-election.

Our Committees

Throughout 2018 our various committees rose above by instilling greater governance and purpose. The roles played by every member, the value they contribute, and the time committed are often invisible to our wider audience. The contributions each committee member makes to the wellbeing of our organisation is not and cannot be underestimated.

To the Chairs and members of our Identity & Formation, Risk Management & Governance, Profile, Fundraising & Events and Volunteer Leader Committees, I extend a sincere thank you.

Our Finances

Our traditional channels of revenue are changing, and with this comes the challenge of needing to initiate new opportunities and relationships. Top of mind is to ensure we reverse the trend of declining revenues that have largely been a by-product of a dour Western Australian economic environment.

Our disciplined management of finances and resources has allowed us to reverse last year's net deficiency by \$24,634, resulting in a surplus of \$5,274 this year compared with a deficiency of \$19,360 in the year prior. As in recent years, our Board has ensured to the extent possible that irrespective of financial result the number, quality and delivery of our core programs has not been materially impacted.



Above image: Our 1920s Glitz and Glamour Ball, hosted by Kymba Cahill from Mix 94.5 at the Hyatt Regency Perth.

Our association with Telethon Community Cinemas continues to thrive and has been the primary reason for our improved financial performance. Conversely, although there are signs that the downward trend in donations and fundraising is beginning to subside, these sources of income have adversely affected our results in recent years. Future initiatives for improving the strength of our balance sheet will focus on measures and strategies for increasing income, rather than primarily cost reduction. Accordingly, the Board intends to refocus and re-energise our commitment to improving our income, in recognition that a stronger balance sheet will increase our overall sustainability.

A special thanks to our Treasurer, Ira Gibbs, for her guidance on financial matters. Her meticulous and reliable approach to financial reporting provides the right information at the right time, which are both essential to the Board for timely and correct decision-making.

Strategic Plan Progress

I am also delighted to advise that we have met the majority of the ambitious objectives set in our 2018–2020 *Strategic Plan*. Most importantly, these objectives mean little if our attitude and compass are not governed by our core values of Presence • Compassion • Liberation. Pleasingly, these remain at the centre of how ERCKWA operates.

Thank Yous & Acknowledgements

Staff, committee members, supporters, cooks, volunteers, sponsors, community partners and donors – it is this core group of motivated stakeholders who provide the foundations upon which our organisation can deliver on our programs and purpose.

A for-purpose organisation like ours is often – if not always – inhibited by limited resources. However, Chief Executive Officer Kevin Knapp never offers such limitations as reasons for not achieving the strategic objectives we have set. He leads tirelessly and enthusiastically, and we are fortunate to have a Chief Executive Officer of Kevin's calibre.

I also have great admiration for the internal ERCKWA team who, through creative thinking and hard work, seem to achieve more operationally than organisations that have many more resources at their disposal. It is a great credit to both them and Kevin. They are genuine people with the interests of our organisation front and centre day to day, week to week and year to year. What an enormous difference they make, and I sincerely thank them all for their contributions throughout 2018 – Chris, Meghan, Nicole, Megan, Catherine, Curtis and Ricardo.

Thank you to all of our stakeholder and supporters and I look forward to working alongside you over the next twelve months and beyond.



Top left image (left to right): 2018 Callan Cup Winners Alex Gregg (captain), Ian Campbell, Neil Rae and Ian Hoad.

Above image: Chief Executive Officer Kevin Knapp triumphantly crossing the finish line of the 2018 Chevron City to Surf fun run in his sky blue Team Rice t-shirt.

Left image: Community Development Manager Georgie Nicholas, Regional Manager Leisa Neylon and Relationship Advisor Rebecca Bufo from Beyond Bank lending a hand and making a difference on our July Mega Camps.

Chief Executive Officer's Report by Kevin Knapp

Our Programs

Well, it has been another very successful yet challenging year here at ERCKWA!

Faced with significant financial pressures and governance considerations, we were still able to deliver almost all of our planned programs thanks to the efforts of our staff, Board and dedicated army of volunteers and community partners.

During the course of 2018 we held over 15 camps and events, including 6 Mega Camps and our Eddie on the Road program that delivered our unique camp experience to remote and regional Western Australia. We also ran a successful year-end Sticky Rice Christmas Party for our Eddie Rice kids and families at our Westcourt home-base on 9 December.

Our Staff & Board

I would like to thank my team and the Board for their support during the year and for contributing to so many successful camps.

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. Thank you to Chris Dix (Manager Operations & Risk Management), Meghan Huitema and Catherine Tesoriero (Managers Community Engagement), Nicole Mancini (Manager Profile, Fundraising & Events), Megan McKenna (Coordinator Volunteer Leader Services), Curtis Novacsek (Operations Officer) and Ricardo Jorge (Administration Officer).

Our Volunteers

Over 200 Volunteer Leaders provided inspiration, compassion and a positive presence for the kids on our camps. ERCKWA continues to be indebted to these amazing young people who give so freely of themselves for the sake of the children in our community.

2018 saw the introduction of the inaugural ERCKWA Long Service Awards. Presented by Board Member Liana D'Ascanio and Brother Terry Casey at a cocktail function on 1 December, these awards recognise volunteers who have contributed to several camps, events and programs over a number of years.

Many congratulations to all of our 2018 ERCKWA Long Service Award recipients, who are showcased in the table below.

Our 2018 Volunteer of the Year, Katie Bownes, was also recognised for her service and dedication to ERCKWA – congratulations, Katie!



Above image: 2018 ERCKWA Volunteer of the Year Katie Bownes receiving her award from Board Member and VLC Chair Liana D'Ascanio at our volunteer function.

Volunteer 'Liberation' Long Service Award – 30+ Camps & Programs

Curtis Novacsek • Katie Bownes • Pia Novacsek • Stephen Morphet • Zac Wilson

Volunteer 'Compassion' Long Service Award – 20+ Camps & Programs

Anna Separovich • Georgia Norfolk • Madi Armstrong
Mel Raich • Rachel Turpin • Zoya Yukhnevich

Volunteer 'Presence' Long Service Award – 10+ Camps & Programs

Aaron Dominish • Adam Fanchi • Adelle Harris • Ali Watson • Anthony Maher • Bec Hicks
Bek Dunstan • Bethany Good • Cam Farmer • Cam Bownes • Claudia McKie
Courtney George • Imogen Cook • James Loughnan • Jordan Randazzo • Joseph Power
Kari Potier • Kate Holt • Lydia Cook • Meg Celenza • Meg McKenna • Mon Ehlers
Paul Wigger • Pippa Corry-Thomas • Rebel Boylan • Ricky Jorge • Sam Clarke
Sarah Banks • Shaunna-Leigh Ramirez • Sicora Ostle • Simon Purell • Tara Broadhurst

Thank Yous & Acknowledgements

To our community partners and sponsors, thank you for your contributions – all of which make a tangible and very real difference to the lives of kids at risk in Western Australia and of 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, Beyond Bank, Lawleys Bakery Café, the Behets Family Foundation, Fat Burners Only, Landcorp, Adzoo and The Write Words Communications.

A special thank you to our committee members who lead on camps and also find time to assist ERCKWA in our planning and operations.

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 bringing about positive change for the disadvantaged. as well as developing us all as role models, mentors and leaders.

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.



Image cluster: Our Eddie on the Road team and participants from Collie demonstrating the tangible impact our stakeholders' support has for communities far and wide across Western Australia on the Roche Park Recreation Centre Facebook page.

Thank You to Our Sponsors for 2018



Treasurer's Report by Ira Gibbs

2018 Financial Standing

During 2018, ERCKWA turned around a \$19,360 loss in the prior year to a profit of \$5,274. Although we are not back to the profit levels of previous years, it is nevertheless an encouraging result from our characteristic efforts of providing profound camp experiences to 660 kids despite very limited resources. We ended the year with a current asset balance similar to that of 2017, creating optimism that we will be able to deliver the same during 2019.

Revenue Sources

For 6 years now have we partnered with Telethon Community Cinemas and once again received a very generous grant during the current year in excess of \$135,000. We place great value on this relationship and will continue to commit both staff and volunteer hours to ensure the future success of this partnership.

Other grants received during the year included \$70,000 from Christian Brothers Oceania Province and \$25,000 from Edmund Rice Foundation Australia, for which we are immensely grateful. Fundraising events included the annual Callan Cup Golf Day and Ball, which together raised almost \$40,000 (net of costs).

We continued to focus our attention on discovering new initiatives to broaden our revenue base and have had reasonable success again with other such smaller events. However, the decline in general donations received has persisted – primarily due to the current economic climate and the domain in which we operate.



Above image: ERCKWA volunteer and night manager Dylan Botica, winner of TCC's Volunteer of the Year Award.

Reducing Costs

ERCKWA further reduced costs during 2018, replacing paid resources with volunteer hours through great collaboration from our community partners. We have had a \$10,000 cost saving in camp and program costs – though unfortunately this was mainly due to reducing the number of camps during the year. We were unable to host two of our Mega Camps nor any Fun Fests, and had to scale back our Eddie on the Road activities.

Administration costs were reduced a further \$11,000 since 2017. However, much of this is due to the reducing depreciation costs of motor vehicles that were purchased in 2016.

Wages remained the single largest cost item for the organisation, contributing \$268,000 of our total expenses of \$394,000. During the year, ERCKWA had five permanent employees (one down from the previous year), only two of whom worked full-time hours. Salaries costs were reduced by \$65,000 in 2018 as ERCKWA continued to tap into volunteers, subcontractors and utilising part-time employees where possible. The invaluable support we receive from the army of volunteers we utilise, coupled with our staff's ability to make use of these volunteers effectively, cannot be over-emphasised – a cost that is not reflected in our financial statements.

ERCKWA's expenditure remains under control and our resources are well-managed. As was noted earlier, our financial difficulty during the year was the result of a reduction in revenue.

Outcome Overview

2018 was a successful year in which ERCKWA was able to balance operational activities with the ever-diminishing funding available. As an organisation of volunteers, staff and Board members, we will persist in our efforts during 2019 to find both alternative and additional sources of revenue and form new alliances, while also supporting and maintaining our existing partnerships.

I would like to say a very big thank you to each and every person involved with ERCKWA during the past year, in whatever capacity and no matter how seemingly insignificant. We are looking forward to continuing our association with you in 2019 towards 'making a difference by rising above'.

Operational Report

Reflecting on 2018

Despite the considerable financial pressures that the non-profit sector faced in 2018, ERCKWA successfully provided 12 core programs for children living in the margins, with opportunities to participate in activities alongside their young adult volunteer mentors.

Due to these monetary constraints the decision was made not to run any one-day events and to instead focus on our Eddie on the Road, Mega Camp and Mini Camp programs. These, along with numerous leader training and formation events, led to a very busy and successful year of camps that included:

12 programs **70** bus trips to and from camps **1,120** sausages cooked on camps

Buses & Accommodation

ERCKWA remains indebted to Aquinas College and to Trinity College for the use of their buses.

We are also grateful to the Christian Brothers Oceania Province for access to our flagship camp accommodation at Tuppin House in Guilderton.

Right image: Trinity College students busy on the barbeque at their Year 11 fundraiser for ERCKWA.



Eddie on the Road

Eddie on the Road is tasked with providing the benefits of the ERCKWA services to marginalised Western Australian communities. Many of the communities in need are found in rural and remote parts of the state, including – but not limited to – Aboriginal villages and communities that face unique and very significant challenges.

Young people and children are unable to access the opportunities and social services that are found in larger metropolitan hubs. Facing catastrophic events and extreme weather conditions, entire communities can be closed off to any form of access. This means a lack of organised activities during school holidays, which results in an increased sense of remoteness and boredom.

ERCKWA has built a strong relationship with a number of communities in the Mid-West, Pilbara, Wheatbelt, Gascoigne, Goldfields and the South-West. In 2018 Eddie on the Road travelled to Collie, Waroona and the Pilbara to deliver highly engaging and successful programs to local communities.



Above image: Our 2018 Pilbara Eddie on the Road Team, including Meg McKenna (left), Adelle Harris (front), Mikaela Hawkins (right), Sicora Ostle (centre standing) and Ricard Jorge (on Sicora's shoulders!).

Overview of Our Camps

PROGRAM	NO. OF CAMPS	NO. OF CHILDREN	NO. OF VOLUNTEER LEADERS	NO. OF ANCILLIARY VOLUNTEERS	NO. OF LEADER FORMATION SESSIONS
Mega Camp	6	200	200	50	40
Mini Camp	4	60	60	16	8
Eddie on the Road	2	400	32	N/A	15
TOTALS	12	660	292	66	63

Community Engagement Report

Staff

The Community Engagement team evolved once again in 2018. Catherine Tesoriero left ERCKWA to accept a teaching position and Meghan Huitema stepped up to take on the role of Community Engagement Manager solo as she had done prior to her maternity leave.

Meghan was aware of the gap that Catherine's departure left in the area of formation. Therefore, she tapped into the expertise of our Identity & Formation Committee, as well as past and present coaches, to provide training and mentor support to the people spreading the message of Edmund Rice on ERCKWA's programs – our camp coaches.

Formation Training

2018 saw a shift in the way Christian Brothers Oceania Province supported ERCKWA, with training being provided in formation and the spirit of Edmund Rice. This included:

- **Muddy Boots** – a program designed especially for staff and key people in Edmund Rice organisations who were 'walking the land with Edmund' and bringing the message and stories back to ERCKWA (attended by Megan McKenna in September)
- **Fire Carrier Training** – a program for volunteers who can bring back stories to assist other volunteers with self-development and the training they need to support and encourage others in formation (attended by Natalie Eastwell and Miranda Mitchell in August)



Shadow Coaching

The role of 'shadow coach' on ERCKWA's 2018 programs became an established stepping stone for volunteers who wish to one day take on the role of coach. Created as a succession plan for previous long-term coaches, it also provided a supportive learning environment.

This position has offered a practical opportunity for people to learn on the job and be given a vast degree of experience prior to their first role as coach. Having shadow coaches dramatically increased the availability of coaches in 2018, with all programs running smoothly thanks to each of their experienced and confident coaches.

Top image: ERCKWA representative Megan McKenna (front right) attending the Muddy Boots program.

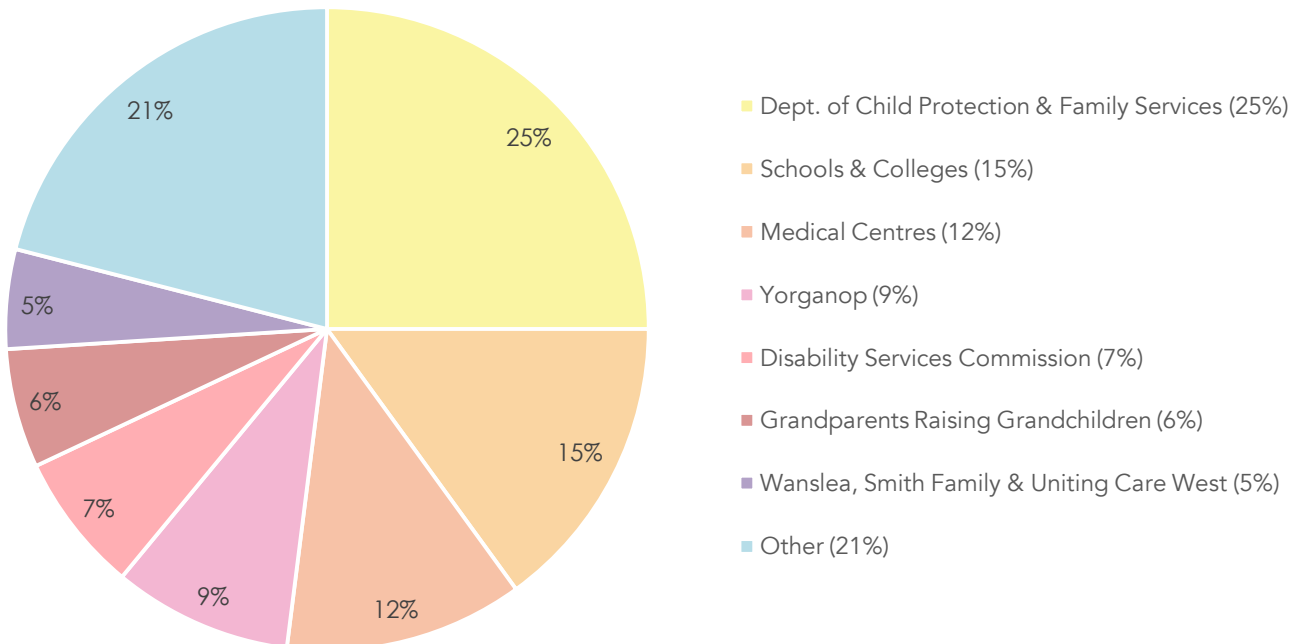
Bottom image: ERCKWA representatives Nat Eastwell (front left) and Miranda Mitchell (2nd row, 2nd from right) and their fellow Fire Carriers.

Child Protection

The area of Child Protection has become an established process that includes up-to-date referral data and staff/volunteer training. Meghan Huitema and Kevin Knapp started the process of Child Protection redevelopment in November 2018, in consultation with other Edmund Rice Camp state organisations. These discussions proved to be both interesting and eye-opening, and have provided a good clear direction for 2019.

Referrals

A quarter of our referrals came from the Department for Child Protection and Family Services (CPFS). Due to the nature of the new process there was an influx of referrals from medical centres (12%) and schools/colleges (15%). The next most notable referral agencies were Yorganop (9%), the Disability Services Commission – Department for Communities (7%), Grandparents Rearing Grandchildren Inc. (6%), and Wanslea, the Smith Family and Uniting Care West all bringing in the same number of participants (5% total). Other organisations that referred in 2018 included the Autism Association of WA, YMCA, YouthCARE, the Council, Anglicare, Mission Australia and Parkerville.



A high number of referrals (25%) were this year funded via the Sponsor a Child Program – the main supporter of this program being Fat Burners Only, which is run by Paul Wigger and his fiancé Fiona Hansen. The majority of these participants were referred by schools, colleges and the Smith Family Foundation, who do not currently have funds to support referrals in respite activities such as ERCKWA's.

The majority of the children who attended camps in 2018 had also attended in previous years. Their families found the task of finding a referral agent to be challenging. However, due to the excitement of the children and their own need for respite, all of the families who contacted ERCKWA during the referral period had children attend camps the following year.

Last year's revised referral process was now well established and in 2018 ERCKWA experienced a steady stream of referrals, with all age groups at capacity and all children being offered two programs and waitlisted for a third. It was great to see the older age groups take shape again after a drop in attendance in 2017 that was partially attributed to agencies adjusting to the new referral process.

Sticky Rice Christmas Party

2018 ended with the annual Sticky Rice Christmas Party on 9 December for our Eddie Rice kids and families at our headquarters in Salter Point.

Well attended with over 150 people, ERCKWA's return to Westcourt gave our staff ready access to all of ERCKWA's resources and enabled us to make the event the success that it was. We are pleased that Sticky Rice received a good deal of positive feedback.

Right image: Our Eddie Rice team, kids and families enjoying the Sticky Rice Christmas Party.



Looking Forward to 2019

What's Happening This Year?

As always, there is a lot going on and a lot to look forward to in 2019 at ERCKWA.

Some of our invaluable key partnerships are continuing and we will aim to secure additional supporters in the year ahead. Significantly, we have been granted another community partnership with Telethon Community Cinemas, which we are very excited about.

ERCKWA is also delighted with the new partnerships we have formed with La Salle Catholic College and St Thomas More College. These partnerships have already generated interest for leadership roles on our programs and joint fundraising initiatives. Additionally, many staff members have attended our programs and experienced firsthand the positive impact of their support.

We are organising something really spectacular at our Annual Gala Ball on Saturday 9 November at the Hyatt Regency Perth. Most importantly, we are sustaining our programs and providing hundreds of young adults with formative experiences working alongside children who are at risk in some way within our communities.

Our 2019 Programs

- 8 Mega Camps
- 2 Eddie on the Road Trips
- 4 Mini Camps
- Plus, many Volunteer Functions, a Sticky Rice Christmas Party and our Graduates Program

Our 2019 Events & Fundraising Initiatives

Below is a table of our 2019 suite of events. For information on upcoming events, please keep an eye out for our monthly newsletter, *The Eddie-torial*.

Saturday 1 June Team Rice's Eddie Rice Birthday Celebration
Friday 21 June Eddie Rice Quiz Night in partnership with St Thomas More College
Sunday 25 August Chevron City to Surf Charity Fun Run
Saturday 9 November ERCKWA Annual Gala Ball
November Telethon Community Cinemas [exact dates TBC]

Our 2019 Major Partnerships

- 6th year with Telethon Community Cinemas, Garden City Booragoon and Beyond Bank
- 5th year with Lawley's Bakery Café and the Behets Family Foundation
- 2nd year with Fat Burners Only and a new partnership with HS Acoustics
- Extension of our Workplace Giving partnership with Landcorp
- Workplace Giving partnerships with Bankwest and Ernst & Young
- Ongoing partnerships with Christian Brothers Oceania Province, Edmund Rice Foundation Australia and Edmund Rice Education Australia schools

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

