



Edmund Rice  
Camps

# 2022 EDMUND RICE CAMPS FOR KIDS WA ANNUAL REPORT

## Providing a safe space for kids to be kids

We provide a safe environment for at-risk children to experience respite opportunities while building their confidence and self-worth. Young adults are also provided with personal growth and development opportunities.

## Welcome

Welcome to the Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA (ERCKWA) 2022 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.

Whilst 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 & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

**• BY ROWENA O'BYRNE-BOWLAND & MEG HUITEMA**

#### **Introduction**

2022 was a year of positive change at ERCKWA, with the effects of the pandemic coming to an end. In turn, social activity flourished and so too did volunteering.

We are so grateful for and proud of everyone's contributions to ERCKWA. Children are completing our programs with a newfound sense of self and confidence. They are realising that they are worthy, valuable and the most important person in their own lives. It is with awe that we look upon our volunteers and their work with ERCKWA and know that this is an organisation successfully changing the lives of children who would not have other such opportunities.

What better benchmark than the constant flow of thankful emails, kind words and smiles on children's faces, of which there have been plenty in 2022. With grateful and happy hearts, we look to the exciting future that is 2023.

After almost a decade in their respective roles, Tony Manso (previous Board Chair) and Kevin Knapp (previous Chief Executive Officer) stepped down to provide a path for new leadership and direction. Tony and Kevin's contributions to ERCKWA cannot be understated.

During his tenure, Tony created a highly positive and engaged Board atmosphere that led to many robust discussions about our governance and strategic direction. His guiding principle was to always come back to the *why* of what we do, ensuring our participants and volunteers are front of mind. We are heartened that Tony will continue being a fixture of the Eddie Rice kitchen.

Kevin made a similarly significant contribution to kids who are at-risk and volunteers seeking development opportunities. Aside from his work contribution, Kevin acted as a source of constant and calm leadership, and provided a moral backbone for all stakeholders. Kevin moved on to take on another leadership role and has accepted a new position with ERCKWA as ambassador.

Thanks to the support of many people, including sponsors, volunteers, Board members and other stakeholders, this leadership transition has been incredibly smooth and successful. Both Tony and Kevin generously provided assistance after their role commitments had ended.



Tony Manso  
Outgoing Chair



Rowena O'Byrne-Bowland  
Incoming Chair



Kevin Knapp  
Outgoing CEO



Meg Huitema  
Incoming CEO

## Your Board

A huge thank you goes to the ERCKWA Board, whose tireless efforts have produced some excellent results and helped to reach key targets in 2022. They have also approached the leadership changes with great energy and support to us both – thank you.

Courtney George and Kylie Agale resigned as ERCKWA Board members – thank you both for your contributions.

Subsequently, ERCKWA welcomed Natalie Taylor and Belinda de Corti to the Board later in the year. Natalie brings 35 years' experience in the healthcare sector in clinical management and senior executive roles. Belinda brings to the Board 15 years of knowledge working in production, including television, radio, stills and digital campaigns.



Natalie Taylor



Belinda de Corti

The following people occupied positions on the ERCKWA Board in 2022:

Rowena O'Byrne-Bowland <b>Chair</b>	Kris Behets <b>Deputy Chair</b>	Aaron Dominish <b>Treasurer</b>	Maria Lo Presti <b>Secretary</b>	Tony Manso <b>Board Member</b>	Adam Neal <b>Board Member</b>
Ron Jones <b>Board Member</b>	Thomas Coltrona <b>Board Member</b>	Resigned 2022 Courtney George <b>Board Member</b>	Resigned 2022 Kylie Agale <b>Board Member</b>	Joined 2022 Natalie Taylor <b>Board Member</b>	Joined 2022 Belinda de Corti <b>Board Member</b>

We look forward to seeing what our Board can achieve together in 2023.

## Our Staff

During the staff transition after Kevin stepped down as Chief Executive Officer, Xavier Mitchell and Aimee Deane stepped into temporary roles to ensure the continuation of programs and communication with all stakeholders.

In June 2022, I (Meg) was appointed Chief Executive Officer of ERCKWA. With large shoes to fill, I have been lucky enough to be supported by an amazing Board and staff team, all of whom have the organisation's best interest at heart. It has been a pleasure to work with such wonderful people and continue the great work of this organisation.

In 2022, long term volunteer Melissa Raich, who began her volunteer journey with ERCKWA in 2009, took on the role of Community Engagement Manager. It is a pleasure to say that Nicole Mancini (Profile Fundraising and Events Manager) and Eva Quattrini (Coordinator of Volunteer Leader Services) have continued in their staffing roles in 2022.

## Our Support

There are many people who come together to make this organisation run as it needs to – most important are the supporters who provide funding and in-kind support.

A huge thank you once again to the Telethon Community Cinemas (TCC) whose contribution to ERCKWA has now surpassed \$1 million dollars. This funding has provided a constant source of support for the ongoing programs provided to at-risk children in the WA community; namely our Mega Camps and Mini Camps. A special mention of course to our volunteers who dedicate their time during the TCC season.

To our major supporters – Edmund Rice Community Services, Edmund Rice Foundation Australia, Fat Burners Only, Lotterywest, Allen & Overy, The Write Words Communications, Behets Family Foundation, Another Colour and Wanslea – your support has been hugely valued and correlates directly with our program accomplishments.

A big thank you also to the schools who have supported ERCKWA in 2022.

## Thank You to Our Sponsors for 2022



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BEHETS FAMILY  
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Beyond Bank  
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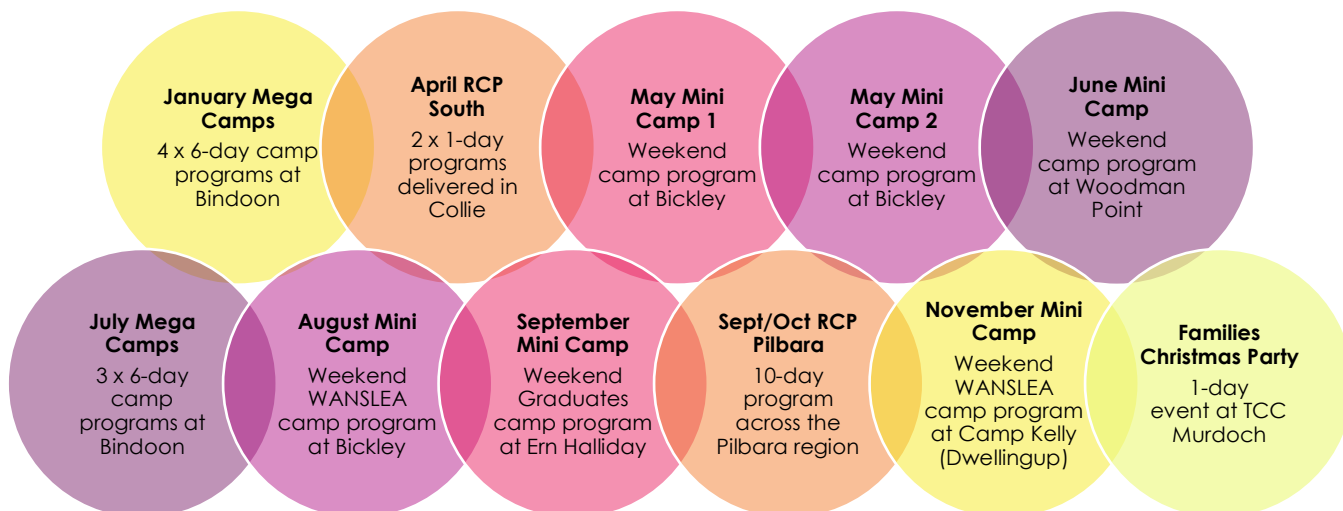




## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER'S REPORT • BY MELISSA RAICH

### Our Programs

The 2022 ERCKWA programs calendar was incredibly busy, with 17 programs run throughout the year. Thousands of volunteer hours went into planning, delivering and reflecting on the camps, and the wonderful Eddie Rice memories created for and with the kids and families.



111 participant referrals were accepted in 2022, with 301 program places attended across programs held for referred participants. These camp programs were facilitated by 354 volunteer leaders and management teams (total volunteer places across all camps attended), with 44 ancillary volunteers helping to cook and drive across our Mega Camps and Mini Camps.

The standout program of 2022 was the newly redeveloped Remote Communities Program (RCP; formerly Eddie on the Road) which travelled to the Pilbara, supported by a Lotterywest grant. Five volunteers and I flew to Newman and we then travelled by car almost 2,500kms throughout the region. We ran 1-, 2- and 3-day programs in Strelley Community; Warralong Community; and Jigalong Community respectively, whilst also visiting the communities of Nullagine, Marble Bar and Pardoo with the program participants on excursions. Upwards of 210 children participated.

Profile, Fundraising and Events Manager Nicole Mancini later joined us to facilitate the formation and leadership training portion of the program, held in the beautiful Karijini National Park.



Volunteer leader Travis Taylor engaging with one of our RCP participants.



Melissa Raich, Alana Ryan, Jenna Lamborn, Meg Celenza, Travis Taylor and Rowan Frankowiak.



One of our RCP participants playfully squeezing paint onto volunteer leader Travis Taylor.

## PROFILE, FUNDRAISING & EVENTS REPORT • BY NICOLE MANCINI

### Our 2022 Events & Fundraising Initiatives



### Telethon Community Cinemas (TCC) Season 2021–2022

A huge thank you to the WA community and the amazing volunteers who contributed to an incredibly successful 2021–2022 TCC season which resulted in a cash donation to ERCKWA of \$124,742.86 (previous year \$112,433.82).

We received a total donation of over \$135,040.65 from TCC including \$10,297.79 of product and in-kind support. This is of huge value to us as we can use it on a number of our programs and events.

TCC's contribution to ERCKWA over the past nine years has now reached \$1,141,790.26 – sensational! Thank you to TCC for this incredible opportunity that ensures we continue to run our life-changing programs for WA's vulnerable children and their families.

### 2022 ERCKWA Gala Ball

We were humbled by the presence of so many wonderful supporters at the ERCKWA Time to Shine Gala Ball, held at the stunning Westin Perth on Saturday 10 December 2022.

It is always tremendous to see the way people come together at this event to raise funds for our programs that support at-risk and vulnerable children. We are so grateful to have raised our event target of \$38,000!

The Westin impressed us all with the delicious meal and service. A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the event a success; the entertainment was sensational and the room looked divine.

We now have two amazing ambassadors to champion our cause! Thank you to the fabulous Kymba Cahill and Kevin Knapp for doing such an incredible job of co-hosting our Gala Ball.

Another massive thank you to the lovely Ann for sharing her grandson Declan's story. It is thanks to her compassion and action that Declan has a full and happy story to tell. We are so pleased that ERCKWA has been able to play a part in this.



The fabulous Absolute Kylie and her amazing ensemble perform at our Time to Shine Gala Ball.



Volunteers Emily Berson, Leo Paoliello, Marcus Taylor, Michael Tassone and Steph Behets stylishly sporting ERCKWA bucket hats.



Ambassadors Kymba Cahill and Kevin Knapp and CEO Meg Huitema looking dapper.

## TREASURER'S REPORT • BY AARON DOMINISH

### Financial Standing

During 2022, the global economy continued to place the coronavirus pandemic in the rear-view mirror. 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 \$6,823.

The organisation returned to a calendar of sustainable camp programs and continued to implement alternative initiatives that bring genuine smiles to those in our community.

### Income Sources

ERCKWA extends our sincere gratitude for support received from all sponsors, donors, supporters and leaders. Our organisation delivers tremendous joy thanks to the incredible generosity of our valued stakeholders and supporters.

We strengthened relationships with a variety of supporters, which has ensured that income is continually sustainable (from \$500,311 in 2021 to \$422,666 in 2022).

### Prudent Cost Control

Considering the uncertain economic conditions, ERCKWA sought to squeeze value out of each and every dollar received to provide happiness. Overall expenditures decreased by \$42,626, with a significant focus on reducing motor vehicle expenditures.

Employee expenditure continues to represent the largest cost item (from \$247,757 in 2021 to \$231,796 in 2022), with the organisation maintaining four permanent staff members at year's end. We are pleased to assist in the continual growth of our team and their ongoing success.

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

### Outlook

ERCKWA continually monitors our financial position and performance, whilst maintaining an environment with strong governance principles, stakeholder relationships and prudent cost controls. We are excited to continue championing a world of youth education and happiness.

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