



The Eddie-torial – May 2018

Edmund Rice Camps WA News Bulletin

Dear Readers

Welcome to our May edition of the Eddie-torial.

This month we are dedicating the Bulletin to our Eddie on the Road trip that was successfully conducted last month. Eddie on the Road is our mobile camp experience that travels to regional and remote Western Australia.

The leaders who take part in Eddie on the Road have a unique opportunity to not only see other amazing parts of our state but to also have time to experience personal formation and connect with new communities. Edmund Rice Camps WA is very proud of this program and the chance that it gives us to connect with remote communities and learn from them.

In the Eddie Rice spirit and with warm regards

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April 2018 Pilbara Eddie on the Road (19–29 April)

Where did we go?

Thursday 19: Perth ⇌ Mt Magnet
Friday 20: Mt Magnet ⇌ Marble Bar
Saturday 21: \Warralong
Sunday 22: Warralong
Monday 23: Warralong ⇌ Marble Bar
Tuesday 24: Marble Bar
Wednesday 25: Marble Bar (including ANZAC dawn service)
Thursday 26: Marble Bar ⇌ Karajini (for Formation)
Friday 27: Karajini (for Formation)
Saturday 28: Karajini ⇌ Mt Magnet
Sunday 29: Mt Magnet ⇌ Perth

How many people took part?

Edmund Rice Leaders: 5

Participants:

110

Who were the leaders?



The 2018 Pilbara Eddie on the Road Team: Meg McKenna (left), Adelle Harris (front), Mikaela Hawkins (right), Sicora Ostle (centre standing) and Ricard Jorge (on shoulders!)

Mikaela's experience

When I think of my favourite moments during this year's Eddie on the Road program, there were so many moments that come to mind. From the friendships that were built and the kids that I met, through to the lifestyle and environment that I embraced and the personal growth and experiences I obtained.

My favourite moment on Eddie on the Road would have to be the day we met the kids in Marble Bar. The atmosphere shined with the Eddie spirit and the kids and leaders played a game of chasey which ended with me and 3 kids sitting in a ball pit while talking about their interests and aspirations. I feel this moment was an important chapter during my Eddie on the Road experience as this was the moment I connected with a few of the kids and where one of the kids told me that they hoped I would come back next year.

In that moment I realised the impact that Eddie Rice has on these kids and that thought made me even more grateful of this opportunity.

Adelle's experience

The Eddie on the Road experience this year was nothing short of incredible. It is an amazing opportunity for volunteers to extend our impact to parts of WA that some people have never heard of.

Personally, I was lucky enough for this to be my second time on the trip, and it highlighted for me how unique every program with ERCWA can be. This year could not be compared to last, they were each so different and fantastic in their own right. The way that we were embraced by not only the children we worked with, but also by their families and communities reaffirmed how much people appreciated what we do.

It was great to see some of the same kids from last year, and meet new ones as well. It was clear that as much as the kids were learning from us, as we shared our experiences of camps and stories of city life, we were learning from them too, adapting to new ways of delivering our programs. Eddie on the Road stands out as one of my greatest ERCWA experiences so far, the memories you make are unforgettable, and ones that few people are lucky enough to share.



Adelle and Sicora being 'jelly-dropped'

Ricardo's experience

It was a fantastic feeling returning to Marble Bar this year, seeing so many familiar faces, and so many new ones. Hearing those whom had joined us last year tell the newcomers about what they remember was easily one of the highlights of this experience. The smiles on their faces as they spoke of the jelly drop and water bomb fights, full of such positive memories, really summed up what it is to be part of Eddie Rice.

As expected, every child overcame their initial reluctance to be involved. Within hours, everyone was running around, either drenched in water or covered in mess, having the time of their lives. It was fantastic to see not only the younger kinds becoming involved, but the older kids too. It just goes to show, you're never too old to have fun.

Topping it all off, after the last session, we returned to find that each kid had written their name and a personal note in the dust covering the ERC trailer. It was the perfect ending to what was a perfect experience. We left knowing that, even after these messages were washed away, the impact that we had on these children, and that they had on us, would surely last forever.

Sicora's experience

Throughout the amazing 10-day Eddie on the Road trip I was constantly in awe of my team and the visible impacts we were making. My favourite memory would have to be our first interactions with the community members of Warralong. We were welcomed by a wonderful lady who was deaf and mute but despite these barriers in communication we were able to engage via chalk drawings and hand gestures. It was a powerful engagement that I will never forget.



Eddie goes to Warralong!

Meg's Experience

The Eddie on the Road program is an amazing experience that I am incredibly fortunate and proud to have been a part of. Managing a team of 4 Volunteers to take our Eddie Rice fun spirit and energy over 1,500 kilometres north of Perth is unlike any other experience I've ever had. Being able to experience the differences in landscape, culture and people was so interesting and rewarding and being able to see such strong, vibrant leaders embrace every aspect of the EOTR program was fantastic.

The kids that came and joined us in our activities were so excited by our games and activities (especially when we realised that in the 40 degree heat anything with water was going to be a big hit) and the families or members of the wider community were so happy to see some crazy, energetic and smiling young adults ready to hang out with their kids and keep them entertained.

And seeing the impact that we were having on everyone that we met and the impact that everyone we met was having on us was so special. I'm constantly amazed at how quickly the kids we interact with can trust and feel comfortable with us and how ready they are to give us their time and energy so we can have a really fun day together. The entire experience is definitely one that is so unique and valuable for everyone involved and one that I am so grateful to be a part of.



A picture paints a thousand words!