



Edmund Rice Camps WA – News Bulletin

The Eddie-torial – March 2018

Dear Readers

Welcome to our March edition of the Eddie-torial. This month we completed a successful late teens March Mini Camp where we saw 4 amazing participants graduate from camps! We also conducted new leader training, completed our 2017 Financial Audit process and conducted our first meeting with the new Volunteer Leader Committee chaired by Board Member Liana D’Ascanio. We received and reviewed the results of our first all of organisation survey and introduced some new practices on the March Minicamp in response to feedback from our January camps. In short, once again it was far from a quiet month but that’s the Eddie Way!

Kevin Knapp (aka K-Dawg)
CEO Edmund Rice Camps WA (ERCWA)
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Community Engagement

Project Application Wanslea Foster Care

In the February edition of the Eddie-torial I mentioned that we had submitted a proposal for a project with Wanslea Foster Care and Edith Cowan University. Unfortunately, our submission was not successful – though we did receive some very positive feedback on our programmes and what we do in the community. In the end the project was awarded to Wanslea Family Care. We will continue to look for opportunities to partner with others to deliver our camps.

Edmund Rice Survey – Results

The first of two annual all-of-organisation surveys was conducted last month and I am pleased at this stage to share some general feedback with you. We will make some changes to the survey before we conduct it again in August, to reflect some of the feedback received on the format and will of course also follow up with members of our network who expressed any level of concern with the services we provide.

The overall results are very encouraging but we do pride ourselves on setting and maintaining the highest possible standards so will continue to improve our processes and procedures and critically, our standards of communication with our stakeholders. We are very grateful to the 85 respondents for sharing their thoughts with us, providing positive affirmations but also pointing out areas where we could improve. The statistics represented below have been extracted from the survey to address the Board’s strategic Key Performance Measures. A more detailed analysis of the results will be

conducted by the Board sub-committees before determining the specific actions that need to be carried out to sustain or change existing practices ahead of future programs.

Strategic Pillar	Reporting Key Performance Indicator	Current Result (February 2018)	Target
Participants and Community	≥90% satisfaction rating for our service from kids, families and agencies	95%	≥90%
Our Team	≥90% satisfaction rating from all of our volunteers	80%	≥90%
	≥90% satisfaction rating from our staff	90%	≥90%
Corporate and Community Partnerships	≥90% positive result from Partner Satisfaction Survey	86%	≥90%

Although the above results are very encouraging, ERCWA will work hard to achieve and maintain an equal to or better than 90% satisfaction rating across all areas. Regarding volunteering, this will involve making sure volunteers are engaged, that they feel well prepared for camps and that they receive the best possible pastoral care when involved in ERCWA activities. Regarding our partnerships that include sponsors, community partners and Edmund Rice Network schools and ministries, ERCWA will look to better facilitate opportunities for our volunteers to attend networking functions and formation experiences provided by these partners.

Volunteers

Volunteer Leader Committee

The 2018 Volunteer Leader Committee (VLC), chaired by Board Member Liana D’Ascanio and supported by staff member Meg McKenna, has conducted its first meeting and commenced online communication and planning. The VLC are in the process of finalising a terms of reference and calendar of events for the year.

There is a great deal of energy and experience represented on this group and ERCWA are very fortunate to have the following representatives from our volunteer leader community as members of the VLC: **Liana D’Ascanio** (Board Member and Chair), **Meg McKenna** (Staff Member and Secretary), **Rachel Turpin** (Member), **Pia Novacsek** (Member), **Ricardo Jorge** (Member), **Tim Sutherland** (Member), **Madison Armstrong** (Member), **Adelle Harris** (Member) and **Sarah Banks** (Member).

ERCWA New Volunteer Leader Training

Over the past few weeks ERCWA has been promoting the opportunities that we provide to potential new volunteers. Information about upcoming training sessions has been shared by current volunteers, via social media and through school presentations at Aquinas College, CBC Fremantle and Iona Presentation College.

This has resulted in many individuals contacting us seeking more information about how they can get involved in our programs. The interest and energy generated by our promotional activities has flowed into our training sessions which commenced Sunday 25th of March. The Sunday session saw 13 attendees take part in a full day of training where they learned about our programs, the kids we

engage with, our policies and the amazingly supportive and encouraging environment that we aim to create for both our participants and our Volunteers. We have received over 15 Expressions of Interest for our upcoming evening sessions on the 10th and 17th of April, with more expected over the coming days.

ERCWA would like to take this opportunity to thank the following individuals for assisting with our School Presentations: **Ash Moore, Ben Bianchini, Charlie Young, d'Artagnan Boylan, Kate Woolhouse, Mel Raich, Rowan Courts, Sana Brotherson and Wesley Brooke.**

ERCWA would also like to thank the following leaders who either assisted with the recent training session or have offered to assist with our upcoming training sessions: **Adelle Harris, d'Artagnan Boylan, Madison Armstrong, Rowan Courts, Sarah Banks, Sophie Acquaro, and Pia Novacsek.**

Events

Team Rice

Team Rice is an initiative to build a formal membership of ERCWA leaders and volunteers both past and present, raise some ongoing funding for camps and celebrate our founder Edmund Rice with targeted events. Member Expressions of Interest are currently being processed with special Team Rice shirts available for members. If you want to become a member and want to know more then please contact Kevin Knapp via kknapp@edmundrice.org.

ERCWA Raffle

ERCWA will be running a major raffle this year over a number of months, with tickets ready for sale in April. We have a target of \$25,000 and to achieve this we need to ask you all to help us find great raffle prizes – and of course sell plenty of tickets! Please see the donation letter below that will be shortly followed by a promotional flyer. Once we have the raffle items to promote on our tickets we will be printing these off and making them available to our network for purchase.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to request support for our two upcoming major fundraising events – the Edmund Rice Camps WA (ERCWA) Major Raffle and the ERCWA Annual Gala Ball 4 August 2018.



*The Raffle, which will run from April to October 2018, has the potential to raise over \$20,000 for ERCWA. **This fundraising initiative is crucial to the success of ERCWA and we are seeking 'big ticket' items to comprise the Raffle's suite of prizes.** Any items that do not form part of the raffle's prize suite will become part of the silent auction at our Gala Ball. **There is also the opportunity for a business to donate to the raffle and become the naming right sponsor.***

ERCWA is a non-profit, community-based charity organisation that serves the needs of disadvantaged and 'at risk' children aged 7–16 and their families – families who would not otherwise have such opportunities.

We achieve this via a variety of developmentally-focussed recreational programs, including camps. ERCWA also fosters the ongoing personal development of our young adult volunteers who act as friends and mentors to the children in our care.

Children attend our programs from all areas of Perth and a wide variety of cultural and religious backgrounds. For those who cannot make it to a Perth-based camp, our 'Eddie on the Road' program delivers our services to regional, rural and remote areas across Western Australia.

It is important work that has a positive ripple effect in the community, with our success measured in the smiles, laughter and new-found confidence of our 'Eddie Rice kids' and the personal growth of our leaders.

In order to provide our not-for-profit camps and programs, we rely on funds raised solely through one-off grants, sponsorship, donations and fundraising. Our fundraising events and initiatives aim to raise vital funds so we can continue to run our programs and potentially increase our reach to even more Western Australian children and families in need.

*We are approaching companies and individuals who have a strong community-based focus that resonates with ERCWA's own values and mission. **We would be very grateful if you could assist us in helping to raise these funds with either cash donations, items to auction or goods to give away as prizes.***

Corporate Sponsorship Packages for the Raffle and Gala Ball can be obtained by contacting me directly on 0429 913 364 or nmancini@edmundrice.org.

Please help us make a difference to the lives of WA disadvantaged children and their families.

I would like to thank you in advance for considering to sponsor or donate to ERCWA and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Warm Regards

Nicole Mancini – Manager Profile, Fundraising & Events

ERCWA Staff and Board

Staff

Some of you may already know but I wanted to clarify the position at ERCWA regarding staff hours and availability. At the present time we have 5 staff members and of these 5 there are 2 that are full time. I (Kevin) am full time and Nicole Mancini works full-time hours – albeit for at least 4 months of the year Nicole is primarily seconded to Telethon Community Cinemas to work at the Burswood location. Chris Dix has recently moved to 2.5 days a week in order to commence studies and Meg McKenna and Meg Huitema are working 3 and 2.5 days respectively.

We do our very best to respond to questions and concerns in a timely manner but sometimes this is a challenge, given the hours people are officially working. Please do continue to approach all staff directly with your concerns or questions as we are often still able to respond when we are away from the office. However, if you are unable to get a response directly from any of the staff then please contact me.

ERCWA Board – Mentorships

We are very fortunate at ERCWA to have a strong and highly skilled Board of Directors. The members of the Board spend a lot of time making sure that our governance is strong and that we remain a vibrant and sustainable ministry that delivers our programs in the Edmund Rice Tradition. Our Board Members are all very passionate about what we do and volunteer their time to help make our organisation successful.

In this spirit, our Board Members are very keen to provide mentoring to our leader community. Skill-sets on the Board include Finance/Accounting, Risk Management, Human Resource Management, Events and Project Management, Strategic Copywriting, Marketing and Profiling, Legal and Governance. If you are a leader and would like to connect with any of our Board Members, please contact me and I will help to make the connection.

Programs

March Mini Camp – Guilderton

It was my privilege to manage the March Minicamp in Guilderton from 9–11 March. I had the support of an excellent leadership team and some very experienced and energetic leaders. The camp was for older teens and one of the highlights was the graduation dinner that the leaders put on for the 4 graduating participants. In response to feedback received from January Camps and from our February Survey, this minicamp introduced a few new things that we hope to lock in for future programmes. We had 13 participants and 14 leaders on camp and enjoyed some typical Eddie Rice activities as well as some sand boarding! Thanks everyone for a great camp!

Our Leadership Team included: **Kevin Knapp** (Manager), **Mel Raich** (Assistant Manager), **Imogen Cook** (Coach), **Kate Holt** (Coordinator) and **Travis Taylor** (Coordinator).



Image above: Graduates from the March Minicamp with their waiters for the evening's gala meal. From left to right – Mallory Munn and Connor Engelbrecht, Chloe Blackburn and Ricardo Jorge, Seb Tondut and Sam Clarke, and Tia Smith with Kat Holt.

Eddie on the Road

Our April Eddie on the Road Team is preparing for a trip to the Pilbara and a number of community visits spanning 10 days! The ERCWA vehicle and trailer will visit several remote communities to deliver Eddie Rice programs while at the same time offering the program team many opportunities for personal development and Formation. The program will be managed by staff member Meg McKenna and will be on the road from 19–28 April. We will have some great stories to share with you in the April newsletter I am sure.

Our Eddie on the Road Team includes: **Meg McKenna** (staff member and programme Manager), **Ricardo Jorge** (Coordinator), **Adelle Harris** (Coordinator), **Annabel McKenna** (Leader) and **Rebel Boylan** (Leader).

Beyond Bank Community Reward Accounts (CRA)

Did you know that last year Beyond Bank donated over \$5,000 to ERCWA simply because of savings accounts being opened by our supporters with the Bank? If you want to know more about how this works and the amazing work Beyond Bank do in the community, then please read the information below from Beyond Bank and contact the bank or by all means give Kevin Knapp, ERCWA CEO, a call.

Community Reward Account

Working hard to help others?

The Community Reward Account is a unique way for your supporters (both individuals and businesses) to contribute to not-for-profit and community organisations like yours.

It's a high interest savings account which allow supporters of your cause to save their money. And in return you will receive a Community Reward Payment, based on the combined average annual balances of all your supporters' savings. Your supporters don't pay a thing.

The earnings are not capped. So the more supporters you have saving in this account, the more money we will reward your organisation. Each year we donate over \$350,000 back to not-for-profit community organisations.

Our gift to your organisation

- *A simple and easy way to fundraise*
- *Earn great rewards on savings*
- *Another way for your supporters can help your cause.*

To find out more about how this unique account can help your [organisation get in contact with our Community Banking Specialists](#).

If you have any questions relating to this newsletter or have any news or suggested content for future issues of the newsletter then please contact me using the contact details below.

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