



Edmund Rice Camps – News Bulletin

The Eddie- torial – November 2017

Dear Readers,

The months are flying by as we head towards the end of the year but in typical Eddie Rice fashion, things get busier for us rather than quieter as we prepare for our end of year Christmas Party for the kids and for our month of camps in January.

It looks like the 4 camps planned for January are full and we have some great leadership teams in place ready to manage, coach and coordinate what I am confident will be excellent programmes.

I will provide some news on the Christmas function in the next newsletter and a final camp update also at that time.

Kevin Knapp (aka K – Dawg)
CEO Edmund Rice Camps
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Community Engagement

Sponsor a Child!

I am delighted to announce that ERC have secured a new cause partner In Fat Burners Only, a company owned and run by our very own Eddie Ricer Paul Wigger and his partner Fiona Hansen. Paul and Fiona have come on board to provide funding support for camps accommodation and for referral fees to significant level and for the next three years! We are still looking for a small number of donations for referrals so please do consider helping out or sharing the information with others.

- Children are currently being referred to ERCWA with a fee of \$100
- Some referral agents who are unable to pay leave the payment to the family
- We currently have a list of children waiting for sponsorship
- Many of these children will not attend in 2018 without support
- Your \$100 donation will provide a place for a child on camps

Your donation can be made to:

Edmund Rice Camps WA
Commonwealth Bank
BSB 066163
AC 10396878

Under description simply say referral

Volunteers

Sign Up Night

The last day of October saw our Sign Up Night “Book Week” Event for our Volunteer Leaders. Both new and experienced volunteer leaders came to Westcourt in their best book inspired costumes to catch up with friends, play games and fill out their preferences for our January 2018 Mega Camp season.

2017 has seen a large increase in young adults learning about our organisation and deciding that they want to be volunteer leaders on our programmes. It is incredibly encouraging to see so many young adults in Perth wanting to make a difference, but it has resulted in us receiving more interest from leaders for January than we had spots available. To accommodate for this high level of interest from Volunteers, we offered spots to 10 new leaders and 15 experienced leaders per camp with an almost 50/50 gender split and accommodating the necessary number of qualifications (first aid, water safety etc.) for each camp. Preference was given to leaders who attended our Sign Up Night event followed by those who completed our online preference form after notifying ERC of their unavailability for Sign Up Night. Those who completed their online preference form without notifying ERC that they were not attending Sign Up Night were considered for any remaining spots and/or put on a waiting list.

It is always a pity that we cannot accommodate everyone’s request for a place on camps, but most importantly we are providing the required number of leaders to act as mentors for the kids while engaging new leaders and retaining the experienced leaders within our programmes wherever possible.



ERC Sign Up Night Crew!

Coordinator Training Weekend

We are currently working on putting together a weekend for our January 2018 Coordinators to support them in their preparations for their January Camp programmes. The coordinators will join Meg McKenna (Coordinator of Volunteers) in San Remo for two days to discuss and reflect on the different parts of being a coordinator and how they can create an amazing camp programme while supporting the kids, the leaders, the rest of the camp team and the organisation.

Coach Development

New and existing coaches met this month to discuss the role of coach, share some experiences and hear from Tara Broadhurst about being a “Fire Carrier”. Fire carrying is essentially all about keeping the Eddie Rice stories and Charism embedded in everything that we do and it was a great opportunity for those present to hear from Tara who has completed the training as and Eddie Rice Fire Carrier. As Coaches prepare for camp and look at the reflective resources they will bring, being able to relate back to Edmund Rice stories in some way will be a key component of the reflective message.

Volunteer Leader Committee

All of our leaders are amazing people, but among even this special group, there are those that somehow manage to give even more! The Edmund Rice Volunteer Leader Committee (VLC) is a collection of extremely dedicated volunteers, many with several years’ camp experience, who volunteer to help with the communication to the volunteer community, with the operational and strategic planning of the organisation and with numerous events and other initiatives. The committee are an invaluable resource, and ERC are indebted to them for the amazing work that they do. Following numerous meetings this year, the committee have had a significant impact on the development of the new Strategic Plan for ERC and have assisted greatly in identifying and addressing a number of operational matters. Your current ERC Volunteer Leader Committee are shown below along with ERC Coordinator Volunteer Leader Services Meg McKenna.



(From left to right standing, Meg McKenna, Rebecca Hicks, Kate Woolhouse, Rachel Turpin, Pip Corry-Thomas, Tim Sutherland, Ricardo Jorge and Madi Armstrong. Seated from left to right, Claudia McKie and Pia Novacsek)

Thank you Rachel Turpin

Sadly we have recently received the resignation from Rachel Turpin who has completed 3 amazing years on the committee. Rachel has been a major contributor to ERC on camp and behind the scenes and we are very grateful for her tireless efforts over many years. We are not saying goodbye and look forward to seeing Rachel on camps into the future.

Actions from ERC and the VLC

ERC with the support of the VLC have met on a number of occasions recently to discuss feedback received from the volunteer leader community. One of the main discussion points was the communication process between ERC, the VLC and the wider volunteer community. It is intended that this monthly newsletter will assist in communicating on a timelier basis with the ERC network and

importantly keeping our volunteer leaders up to date with discussions and actions that flow from the VLC meetings.

Some of the key actions currently being followed up on are the finalisation of a new terms of reference for the committee, the completion of detailed skill sets/competencies for each leadership role on camps, the development of an all of organisation survey that will be conducted twice a year post January and July camps and the clarification for stakeholders and volunteers around staff office hours and accessibility.

Programmes

More Fun Fests

ERC are currently in discussions with Diving WA to introduce a number of Fun Fest experiences for our kids and leaders. It is hoped that we will eventually deliver a series of Fun Fests around the sport of diving where we will see leaders, coaches and kids from both organisations enjoy a day of diving and Eddie Rice games and of course some great food!! Diving WA CEO Steven Rose and ERC are applying to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries for grant funding to assist with the delivery of the Fun Fest Series.

Mobile Phones on Camps

Cameras, other than the official camp camera, have traditionally not been allowed on camps. With the introduction of mobile phones that can of course take photographs, ERC has been faced with increasing challenges surrounding the use of phones and the presence of phones on camp. It has been decided that phones/cameras are not to be brought to camps given the risks associated with possible inappropriate use of images. This is consistent with existing policy. ERC will (as always) ensure all participants, volunteers have access to a phone (the camp management team have phones) as required.

Office Closure and Leave

The office at Westcourt will be officially closed **22 December to 2 January**. Needless to say camp teams will likely be communicating with each other during this time and necessary contact with staff and or access to the office can and will be coordinated between the relevant member of staff and the camp team.

Sponsors and Community Partners

Special mention is due for the following organisations that have provided invaluable support to ERC both cash and in kind.

Momentum Legal – Rob Marando (former ERC Leader) and Director of Momentum Legal has been providing pro bono legal advice to ERC for over two years and with particular focus on assisting us with necessary changes to our current constitution. We are indebted to Rob and his team for the generous support that has been provided.

Notre Dame – The Education Society of Notre Dame nominated ERC as their charity of choice for 2017. Our own Anna Separovich is President of the Society and ERC were extremely grateful to receive a donation of \$1400 at a function hosted by the Society at the University last week

Fat Burners Only (Paul Wigger & Fiona Hansen) – Fat Burners Only (FBO) have come on board as a new Cause Partner for ERC! ERC will receive a significant cash contribution towards referral fees and

camp accommodation costs each year for the next three years. ERC will be looking to provide FBO staff with formation opportunities and ideally a chance to get involved with camps as volunteers.

Project Neon (Cam Fairbrother) – Project Neon have once again made a generous donation to camps. ERC gratefully received a donation of \$1000 last week.

Royal Perth Golf Club (RPGC) – ERC were invited (CEO Kevin Knapp) as a guest to the annual RPGC charity golf day event 17 November where ERC received a grant/donation of \$10,000 and a chance to thank the members for the funds raised last year and that ERC were able to secure this year in time to replace the rash vests for January camps and help finance the costs of changeover for the Prado early in 2018. This is the second grant that ERC have received from RPGC and we are deeply grateful for the support.

Beyond Bank Community Reward Accounts (CRA)

Did you know that last year Beyond Bank donated over \$5000 to ERC 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 ERC 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 Payment¹, 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.

[Talk to a Community Banking Specialist](#)

Events

Team Rice

Team Rice is an initiative to build a formal membership of Edmund Rice leaders and volunteers both past and present, raise some ongoing funding for camps and celebrate our founder Edmund Rice with targeted events. Member's expressions of interest are currently being processed with special Team

Rice shirts about to be printed for members. If you want to become a member and want to know more then please contact Kevin Knapp kknapp@edmundrice.org

Grant Applications

Christian Brother Province (CBP) has approved the funding request from ERC for 2017 and will support ERC to the amount of \$70,000 next year. The ongoing support of CBP is greatly valued and demonstrates the strong relationship that ERC has with CBP and the commitment by CBP to support its local ministries.