



Edmund Rice
Camps

the

Eddie-torial

Making a difference

The 2015 Annual Report Edition

Inspired by the spirit of Edmund Rice and out of a commitment to justice, we support kids and families in need. We also provide young adults with opportunities for personal growth and development.

CEO's Report **From Kevin Knapp, Chief Executive Officer**

Well it has been another very successful yet challenging year here at Edmund Rice Camps WA (ERCWA)!

Faced with significant financial pressures, 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 the year we delivered over 20 programs including eight Mega Camps and the Eddie on the Road program that provided our unique camp experience to remote Western Australia with visits to Meekatharra, Marble Bar, Onslow, Yalgoo and Pannawonica.

We also went to Aubin Grove Community Centre in December to run a Christmas party and hand out presents to the kids and families that we work with.

Our small but dedicated team of staff has again worked hard to maintain our standards of operation and I am very proud of what they have achieved.

We also had a few staff changes as we said farewell to Courtney, Brooke and Meg. Courtney has taken on a teaching job following many invaluable years with ERCWA as a leader and latterly as a highly valued member of staff, while Brooke relocated to Busselton and Meg took maternity leave (having since given birth to a beautiful baby daughter, Estelle!).

We then welcomed Nicole, Lydia and Emma into the team and all have made a significant impact on our events and fundraising, community engagement and volunteer training and formation respectively.

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Welcome

Welcome to this special Annual Report edition of Edmund Rice Camps WA's *The Eddie-torial*.

It provides an overview of our activities over the 2015 period, including the:

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Despite significant financial pressures, 2015 has been another successful year for ERCWA thanks to our staff, Board, volunteers and community partners

CEO's Report (continued)

In the Boardroom we were delighted to attract three new members. We were also very fortunate to acquire Amy Dabb as assistant minute taker, supporting Elizabeth Hunt.

Due to our community partnerships with Bankwest and the Tate Family Foundation coming to an end we faced a drop in revenue of almost \$160,000. After sensibly scaling back our operations we then set about securing alternate sources of revenue.

New community partnerships with Lawley's Café and Bakery and an increased commitment to McDonald's Community Cinemas, alongside donations from Wood and Grieve Engineers, Dreamstart Homes, The Behets Family Foundation and the Good Guys O'Connor, helped to significantly address the shortfall.

Fundraising events continued to provide excellent and welcome streams of revenue including our first annual Gala Ball (which was a great success!).

This year we also introduced a management role on our Mega Camps, specifically for experienced leaders.

Meg O'Leary and Stephen Morphet were excellent in this role and we hope to offer more of these opportunities to our volunteer base into the future.

During 2015 over 200 volunteer leaders provided inspiration, compassion and a presence for kids on our camps.

We continue to be indebted to these amazing young people who give so freely of themselves for the sake of children in our communities who are at risk.

A special mention needs to be made of Curtis Novacek and Kari Potier who were voted Volunteer Leaders of the Year. They went above and beyond in so many ways and were very worthy winners of the award.

Working here at ERCWA continues to be extremely fulfilling and I think especially this year (faced with our financial challenges) the quality of the people involved has shone through.

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

To our community partners and sponsors thank you for your contributions, all of which make a tangible and very real difference in the lives of kids at risk in WA and in the lives of young adults who are committed to bringing about positive change in the lives of those marginalised in our community.

Lastly thank you to our namesake, 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 and dedicated to developing us all as role models, mentor and leaders.

What's in Store for 2016?

Looking into the future, 2016 will see us:

- Developing a new Strategic Plan
- Revising our Constitution
- Holding our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 28 April
- Locking in changes to our organisational structure
- Signing on new community partners
- Taking our camps to new places

This is all very exciting stuff and I am looking forward very much to being part of it.

Thank You to our Sponsors for 2015



Chairman's Report

From Tony Manso,
Board Chairperson

As Chairman, I continue to feel a great sense of privilege to serve the Edmund Rice Camps family here in Western Australia, a family of dedicated volunteers, staff, stakeholders, supporters and Board and Committee members who contribute tirelessly towards our purpose.

"Presence, Compassion and Liberation can be observed in the cooperative delivery of services within an engaged and engaging community"

The above is an extract from a letter I received in October 2015 during our Accreditation process from Bill Sultmann, Director of the Christian Brothers Province Mission.

Such affirmations provide perspective and assurance and, although our future may not necessarily look like our past, the essence of why we exist must remain.

2015 was certainly a year of change, challenges and achievement. The reinforcing of administrative processes has elevated our governance protocols, the benefits from the stepping stones put in place to attract new supporters have begun to flow, our programs continued to broaden their reach and a number of opportunities which allow us to grow as an organisation were constantly being considered.

What makes these outcomes more remarkable is that they were achieved during a period where we were constrained financially and our access to resources was limited as a result.

Accordingly, I would like to thank our CEO, Kevin Knapp, for his enthusiastic leadership during a challenging year, together with our fabulous staff members and volunteers who continue to be the catalysts behind many ERCWA achievements.

Financially, last year we faced a number of significant hurdles due to a faltering WA economy and therefore fell short of our 2015 revenue targets.

Encouragingly, however, through the prudent financial management of expenses, we were able to maintain a cash position that importantly did not materially impact on the number of programs we delivered.

New initiatives such as our Corporate Golf Day 'The Callan Cup' and Gala Ball, combined with a stronger focus on our McDonald's Community Cinemas Partnership, helped to offset the loss of key sponsors and donors.

Across the organisation, the desire and passion to serve children at risk is as strong as ever, a trait that is continually fuelled through an uncompromising set of core values, together with initiatives that foster growth and sustainability.

During 2016 the Board will embark on establishing a new set of strategic goals, having largely fulfilled those set in our current strategic plan, which was designed on the themes of values, growth and sustainability. I believe these themes will continue to provide the benchmarks upon which our organisation can continue to evolve and prosper and allow us to shine in the eyes of the children we serve.

During 2015, we welcomed three new Board members in Vanessa Badaraco, Greg Erskine and Graham Freeman. Vanessa brings along legal and community engagement skills and when combined with the marketing and events management expertise available through Graham and Greg, our Board is represented by an outstanding group of professionals with an invaluable range of skill sets.

I also take this opportunity to salute the talent of my fellow Board members who so generously donate their time and whose capabilities and commitment provides this fabulous organisation with the guidance and governance needed to continue to achieve extraordinary outcomes.

In closing, a comment from a 19-year-old Camp Leader, which beautifully captures the reasons we do what we do for ERCWA:

"Myself and the other leaders came back with rewards that we never thought we could attain. Not only did we get the satisfaction of putting a smile on the faces of these wonderful kids and knowing they had such a great time away from their troubles, but we also developed a strong set of values and bonds."

"I have walked away from this Eddie Rice Camp with new life-long friends, confidence within myself and the knowledge that I should never judge someone until I have walked a thousand miles in their shoes. I would recommend this camp to anyone, knowing that they also will walk away with an abundance of happiness."

Operations Report

From Chris Dix,
Manager Operations

During 2015, 22 programs were run for 510 disadvantaged and at risk children, thanks to the help of 383 volunteer leaders and 133 ancillary volunteers. These life-changing programs included:

Family Programs

- March – Family Funfest @ The Great Escape, Hillarys Boat Harbour
- March – Family Mini-Camp @ Bickley Department of Sport & Rec campsite
- December – ‘On-the-Road’ Sticky Rice Christmas Party @ Aubin Grove Community Centre

Funfests

- April – Middle Kid Funfest @ Perth Zoo
- April – Early Teen Funfest Art Workshop @ Westcourt
- April – Late Teen Funfest Art Workshop @ Westcourt
- June – Younger Kid Masterchef Challenge Funfest @ Iona College

Eddie Would Go

- February – Volunteers @ Edmund Rice Centre, Mirrabooka; Brother Olly’s Wheelchair Workshop; and Shopfront

Mini Camps

- April – Late Teen Mini Camp @ Bickley Department of Sport & Rec campsite
- May – Early Teen Mini Camp @ Ern Halliday Reserve, Hillarys
- September – Middle Kid Mini Camp @ Ern Halliday Reserve, Hillarys
- October – Younger Kid Mini Camp @ Ern Halliday Reserve, Hillarys

January Mega Camps

- Younger Kid January Mega Camp @ Tuppin House, Moore River
- Middle Kid January Mega Camp @ Tuppin House, Moore River
- Early Teen January Mega Camp @ Trinity Campsite, Dwellingup
- Late Teen January Mega Camp @ Trinity Campsite, Dwellingup
- Eddie on the Road January Mega Camp @ Meekatharra and Yalgoo

July Mega Camps

- Younger Kid July Mega Camp @ Tuppin House, Moore River
- Middle Kid July Mega Camp @ Trinity Campsite, Dwellingup
- Early Teen July Mega Camp @ Tuppin House, Moore River
- Late Teen July Mega Camp @ Trinity Campsite, Dwellingup

Eddie on the Road (EotR)

- April – EotR #1 @ Meekatharra, Marble Bar and Pannawonica
- April – EotR #2 @ Onslow and Yalgoo
- September/October – EotR @ Marble Bar and Meekatharra



Volunteer Stats: September 2015

We conducted surveys with our current pool of volunteer leaders to gauge the effectiveness of our leadership programs.

Here are the results of these surveys:

- In June 2015 the ERCWA team trained up 76 new volunteer leaders in the new volunteer and child protection training
- Over 90% of volunteers believe ERCWA has increased their ability to contribute to their broader community
- 91% of volunteers tried new and different things on ERCWA programs
- 95% of volunteers were able to use their initiative on ERCWA programs
- 96% of volunteers report that ERCWA has had a lasting impact on the kind of person they want to be in the future
- 9 out of 10 volunteers feel their training and preparation allowed them to fulfil their role with confidence

Operations Report (continued)

PROGRAM	NO. OF PROGRAMS	NO. OF CHILDREN	NO. OF VOLUNTEER LEADERS	NO. OF ANCILLIARY VOLUNTEERS
Mega Camp	9	220	238	108
Mini Camp	5	75	85	25
Funfest	4	48	48	0
Eddie on the Road	4	167	12	0
TOTALS	22	510	383	133

Eddie Would Go

Eddie Would Go, a volunteer-only personal development program, was successfully re-launched from 3–6 February.

Volunteers were invited to immerse themselves in charitable opportunities to learn about the positive impact they can have on their community.

Tuesday involved a trip to the Edmund Rice Centre in Mirrabooka, which seeks to empower people through education and the dynamic development of community networks.

On Wednesday half the group visited Brother Olly's Wheelchair Workshop and the other half visited Shopfront, an outreach centre that provides food, care and respite services to those in need.

In the afternoon participants visited the Islamic Council of Western Australia where they engaged in a discussion with Imam Hisham Obeid about Islam.

The final day was dedicated to rich conversation that helped the volunteers reflect on the role in the community.

Participant Kari Potier said, "Overall this was an enriching experience that I'd highly recommend for all volunteers. It opened our minds and taught us more about the community we live in."

Mega Camps

With the assistance of the supporters and stakeholders, the nine Mega Camps that ERCWA ran in 2015 saw 220 children and teenagers and 238 volunteer leaders gain access to the services and support offered by Eddie Rice Camps while being fed and transported by 108 ancillary volunteers.

Eddie on the Road

Over the course of 2015 the Eddie on the Road program reached far and wide across Western Australia, offering children in need access to the same engaging support and services that local kids experience in our metropolitan programs.

167 children and teenagers benefited from this program, which travelled 10,000 kilometres with only 12 volunteer leaders. Needless to say, it was a great year for Eddie on the Road!

Thanks to support from Lotterywest and the Tate Family Foundation, ERCWA acquired a new custom built trailer to carry resources out to rural and isolated communities.

The new trailer has a water tank, barbecue and shelves, making it perfect for the program.

As the trailer can also be taken off road, even the most remote parts of the state have now become accessible.



Special Report

Hi, I'm Emmanuela. I am 12 years of age and live in Perth. I am 1 of 14 kids who participated in the Edmund Rice Camps. I went on the September Mini Camp. At first I was scared and I didn't know what I was in for. So I just got the courage from somewhere and just wished for the best.

So I arrived at Aquinas College and I saw this pretty, young girl and we got to know each other and we became best friends after the ERC came to an end. So I put my luggage into the truck/van and we all got to just hang out and talk with the guys and girls there and also the big leaders. They were all nice and great to know and talk to.

We were singing camp songs all the way to the campus. When we got there we made a human chain and unloaded the luggage. We played games, sang songs, ate lunch and dessert and went off to bed that night. The next day we woke up, ate breakfast, went for a walk and played around the sand dunes, sang more songs, played games and got messy. We also had a disco party!

I loved going and being on my first ever ERC because it was great. I learnt that never judge people by their cover or what they look like because they might end up being your best friend!

Events Report

A Night in the Clouds Gala Ball

ERCWA's *A Night in the Clouds* Gala Ball was held on Friday 6 November in Crown's stunning Astral Ballroom.

Our MC, the delightful and effervescent Kymba Cahill from Mix 94.5, had the crowd laughing throughout the night, especially when she won the raffle!

Stilt-walkers extraordinaire Bizircus wowed the crowd with their impressive lit-up costumes and sheer height, while cheeky, mind-blowing magician Jon Madd performed sleight of hand tricks that left everyone questioning the very laws of physics.

Following a delectable three-course meal that included racks of lamb, pork belly and Mont Blancs, everyone raced to the dance floor when body-rocking band Hi-NRG started playing.

As well as the raffle, we also had a live and silent auction that included fantastic prizes such as tickets to *The Lion King*, a skydiving adventure and a one-of-a-kind signed and framed Daniel Ricciardo photo.

Thanks to all of our supporters and major sponsors of the night, our ball was a huge success, raising \$43,000 and valuable awareness for the work important work we do.

Quiz Night

Over 350 people attended our Quiz Night on Friday 22 May at Aquinas College Hall, which was graciously provided free-of-charge.

This year was our most successful quiz to date, raising over \$22,000.

The night was also full of fun, excitement and a bake sale, with delicious coffee donated by MarrVellous and tasty wood fired pizzas from Pizza Panache.

The winners took home 10 Bankwest corporate box tickets to the Fremantle Dockers game on Saturday 23 May courtesy of Bankwest, though there were many amazing prizes available thanks to our sponsors.

From the Profile, Fundraising & Events Committee

McDonald's Community Cinemas

We are lucky enough to be one of the charities that McDonald's Community Cinemas (MCC) raise funds for – in fact, MCC is ERCWA's biggest financial supporter.

MCC screens blockbuster films and classics at five beautiful outdoor venues during the Perth summer.

Run by over 700 volunteers, they proudly donate all profits to kids' charities and so far have raised \$5.25 million for kids in crisis.

The 2015 season ran from December 2014 to April 2015 and saw 14 Eddie Rice volunteers dedicate their time over the summer months.

Thanks to the combined effort of our volunteers and the selling of raffle tickets and MCC value cards (which provide food, drink and ticket packages for a night of movie fun), we raised over \$80,000 for our programs.

Corporate Golf Day

On 27 February WA businessmen and businesswomen donned their smartest golfing attire to compete in the 'Callan Cup', our first golf day fundraising event.

Over 150 golfers and three-course-luncheon-enthusiasts descended on the fabulous Royal Perth Golf Club for a lovely day on the green that included guest speaker John Hughes.

Thanks to our attendees' generosity we raised over \$20,000 for our programs and activities, as well as selling a record number of raffle tickets for our involvement with MCC.

Thank You

We would also like to thank all of the businesses, individuals, schools and community organisations that held their own events and initiatives to fundraise on ERCWA's behalf over the course of 2015 – your efforts are much appreciated!



Image, far left: ERCWA quiz night winners Brooke, Ky, Erica, Ben, Yalcin, Wen Fen, Kylie, Brianna, Aaran and Jo.

Image, middle: The Richard Noble team, winners of ERCWA's Callan Cup – namely, Alex Gregg, Neil Rae, Dean Farmer and Ian Campbell.

Image, left: ERCWA CEO Kevin Knapp with partner Sandra at our Gala Ball.

Financial Report

From Geoff Patching,
Treasurer

During the course of the year the Audit and Finance Committee has been actively working with the Board and Management to ensure prudent financial management of ERCWA due to a reduction in our revenue base.

Although a number of tough decisions were required during the year I am pleased with the way the organisation has dealt with these issues and has done so with respect and a manner that is consistent with our values.

Maintaining our levels of service while keeping costs down will remain a focus for ERCWA for the foreseeable future.

Additionally, 2016 will include evolving efforts to generate new income streams to cover costs and maintain service quality.

McDonald's Community Cinemas and the Christian Brothers Province continue to provide invaluable levels of revenue, as do the individuals, corporates and schools who assist in generating funds throughout the year directly or through their own organised events.

As a community based organisation, I am confident that the decisions made during 2015 will ensure we will continue to provide the valuable services needed during 2016.

The focus of the Audit and Finance Committee in 2016 will continue to track the financial outlook of the organisation to ensure timely information is provided to the Board and Management while maintaining strong internal controls.

ERCWA's audited financial statements are available upon request by contacting our Chief Executive Officer, Kevin Knapp, via kknapp@edmundrice.org.au.



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