



The Eddie-torial – February 2019

Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA News Bulletin

CEO's Welcome

Dear Readers

2019 has started and in true Eddie Rice tradition we did it in style! Four back-to-back Edmund Rice Mega Camps were run from 4–24 January, with over 60 campers at each camp.

Once again an army of volunteer leaders signed up and delivered amazing camps for almost 100 at risk kids. Our coordinators and coaches prepared for weeks in advance and logistics worked around the clock to secure over 40 ancillary volunteers who made the hundreds of meals for the campers and drove the buses thousands of kilometres back and forth from our flagship camp site Tuppin House in Guilderton.

To run one Mega Camp is an achievement but to deliver four in a row is quite remarkable. I must once again take my hat off to the leaders and ancillary volunteers who make this possible. A big thank you also to my small team here in the office who play an invaluable part in bringing the leaders and kids together and securing safe transport and accommodation for us all.

This *Eddie-torial* is appropriately dedicated to the January camps 2019.

Kevin Knapp (aka K-Dawg)
Chief Executive Officer
e: kknapp@edmundrice.org
ph: 0414 441 844

January Camp Reflections

I had a great time on Jan Camp 1. The Theme of Lost Treasure was so well thought out with loads of fun filled and colourful activities for the kids. The activities included telescope making and mermaid tail races to the pirate map. The latter got the management team to run on the beach dressed as pirates to convince the kids that there were real pirates and it wasn't just leaders.

I was the First Aider on camp and it gave me a great opportunity to speak to the kids' one on one, saying that I had mermaid powers which really seemed to help and distract the kids from any pain and make the camp a more magical one.

On the last day I was Day Leader, which was a super fun and a slightly stressed job to take on, but it gave me the insight into how much the Coordinators, Rowan and Ethan, had to deal with and how organised they were for the camp to run so smoothly. I really enjoyed taking over, stepping up for more responsibility and organising messy day. I think it ran very smoothly and my fellow Day Leader and I coped when things didn't go to plan. I had just as much fun, if not more, on my second camp, but it also made me reflect on myself and what kind of person I wanted to be. This camp made me appreciate what I have and how lucky I was growing up.

Rachael Coltrona – Camp 1

This was my first-ever Jan camp and I had no idea what I was in for. I was expecting to go swimming and to play outside way more than July camp but that was about it. In reality this did happen but so many other things happened too. Things which were brilliant, things which challenged us (and couldn't be fixed by an essential oil) but mostly things that brought us closer together than our orange camp t-shirts could.

This led to a cohesive leadership group, which made it hard to distinguish between first timers and the very experienced members of the group. Our togetherness worked well with the theme, which was extraordinarily integrated (props to Bella), and made us and the kids all bond as demigods of Camp Half-Blood.

Eva Cocks – Camp 2

Edmund Rice Camps are so special because each one I've attended holds its own uniqueness. There are a different camp team, new set of volunteers and an incredible variety of kids every time. There's something that continues to draw me back and that's the feeling of knowing you are making a difference. To be a positive role model is something so incredible and something you can aspire to.

I've experienced so much growth for the better learning something new each camp. The 2019 January camp introduced me to even more lifelong friends, memories I can look back on with a smile and knowing that there is a community to support me.

James Loughnan – Camp 3

ERC was one of the best experiences of my life, benefitting me with valuable life experiences, an urge to give back to community more often and making friends for life. This was my first ever camp and as expected I felt very nervous beforehand. But from day 1 my nerves were settled when all other camp leaders, old and new, showed enthusiasm and respect for one another.

Meeting the kids, seeing them grow over camp and genuinely being able to have such a fun time alongside them has made me committed to ERC and standing alongside the organisation to support these wonderful kids well into the future!

Nicole Dumitrascu – Camp 1

My first Edmund Rice camp was an experience never to be forgotten! Right from the very start I was warmly welcomed into the group. It didn't take me long to realise that this was no ordinary group of leaders, but a unique group of young men and women with shared values and a common interest in bringing hope and optimism into the lives of those less fortunate.

My favourite part of being on camp was seeing the positive impact the camp had on the children. It was amazing to watch the transformation of the children's dispositions as the camp unfolded. This experience has sparked a love of service for me and I am looking forward to being involved in many more Edmund Rice camps in the future.

Ruby Mavrick – Camp 2

January Camps in Numbers

Camp 1: 4–9 Jan	Camp 2: 9–14 Jan	Camp 3: 14–19 Jan	Camp 4: 19–24 Jan
Lost Treasure	Camp Halfblood	Backyard Science	The Olympics
Total Kids	Total Leaders	Total Managers	Total Coaches*
92	88	4	9
Total Coordinators	Total Day Leaders	Total Cooks & Drivers	Total Meals
8	8	45	≈4,000

Check out the pictures on the following pages! Please note: Camp 2's picture is on its way and will feature in our next newsletter.



Team from Camp 1 – Lost Treasure Camp



Team from Camp 3 – Backyard Science Camp



Team from Camp 4 – Olympics Camp

January Camps – Management Reflections & Feedback

Camp 1 – *Let's make sure we collect some reflections from the leaders and put these in the next newsletter. It was great to have so many excellent and enthusiastic chefs in the kitchen and great that on each camp we had one person act as a sort of head chef. Let's develop some profile cards for the leaders like we have for the kids and preferably with photographs. It would be a great way to follow the journey of our leaders and help future management teams recognise who is on their camps.*

Two way radios on camp were a great help – we could use a few more, especially when the group are split across numerous stations. It would be great to develop some actual on-camp scenarios that we can refer to at training (e.g. A two leader rule breach example and how to resolve this). We could further improve the alignment between the main food order and the menu and we need to look at some additional food/snacks, particularly for the older kids and leaders.

Camp 2 – *The Trinity College ancillary volunteers were outstanding and Marya was there for the whole camp! The Coordinators “whole themed” the entire camp and had the Greek Gods theme go as far as having dorm entry doors decorated as Greek pillars. We did a pretty good job on setting the camp rules but need to be even clearer around camp site dos and don'ts. We need to consider a nice gift/affirmation to present to all of our ancillary volunteers. The cooks were thanked after every meal but something like an Eddie Rice themed chef's hat or apron would be great.*

Camp 3 – *Once again the ancillary volunteers were amazing, led by Meg O'Leary and Amanda. Having the use of the John XXIII bus was a great help and wonderful that the College jumped on board so readily. There were still a large number of mobile phones brought on camp by kids and we need to rethink a strategy to minimise this into the future.*

It would be a good idea to review and upgrade our Behaviour Management training to further assist our leaders in making the camp site a fun and safe place for the kids and leaders. It is really important that we receive detailed feedback from everyone involved in our January Camps so when the ERCKWA survey is published stress that it is feedback on the January Camps that we are after.

Camp 4 – *Adam, Mara, Dusan, Shannon, Eric, Gordon, Gillian and Donetta were outstanding in the kitchen, with Dusan also driving the buses for us. Opening up the ancillary roles to more volunteers has been a great way to engage more people and also take the pressure off in the kitchen. It also means kids spend less time doing dishes and more time having fun and interacting with their leader mentors!*

Camps 1, 2 and 3 left Tuppin House in excellent shape facilitating an easy final clean. Tuppin House management were very pleased with how we left the facility. We could use more fans for the summer and need to look at providing more food for the campers. Looking forward to the survey results in February/March so that we can further improve our camp experiences.

January Camps – Post Camp Celebrations

On Sunday 3 February leaders from all four January Mega Camps arrived at Westcourt to celebrate a wonderful month of camps. Food and music were provided from 2pm to 5pm with some games and plenty of stories shared. Camp teams were encouraged to come in character from their respective camps, so we saw plenty of scientists, half-blood princes, pirates and Olympians in attendance!

Pictures paint a thousand words so here are some that capture the Eddie Rice spirit that was present.



Volunteer Leaders Jessica Fenton, Bronte Mitchell with Coordinator Xavier Mitchell



CEO Kevin Knapp



Camp 2 Volunteer Leaders Tom Dwyer, Kathleen Woodford, Ruby Maverick, Jennifer Lim, Tim Andrews and Fletcher Cooke



Sana Brotherson (Volunteer Leader), Imogen Cook (Coach), Charlie Mills (Volunteer Leader) and Dean Law (Coordinator)

What's Next?

- 3 March** Family Day, Aquinas Boatshed Foreshore
- 8–10 March** Mini Camp, Binningup
- 8–18 April** Eddie on the Road, Pilbara
- 22 – 28 April** Mega Camp

Events & Fundraising – Save the Dates

- 26 March** Callan Cup Charity Golf Day
- 10 April** Annual General Meeting
- 21 June** ERCKWA Quiz Night, in partnership with St Thomas More College
- 5 October** ERCKWA Gala Ball

See You Next Time

If you have any questions relating to this newsletter or have any news or suggested content for future issues of *The Eddie-torial* then please contact CEO Kevin Knapp via kknapp@edmundrice.org or 0414 441 844.