

J U L Y 2 0 1 4

the

# Eddie-torial

*Making a difference*



Edmund Rice  
Camps

## Fun for All: April Fun Fests

Edmund Rice Camps WA (ERCWA) ran three fun fests in the April school holidays at the much anticipated venue of Bounce Inc.

Bounce is a trampoline centre that caters to kids (and adults) who wish to jump up and down, up and down for hours on end.

The kids and volunteers, who had obviously done this sort of thing before, engaged in somersaults, back flips and catapulted themselves onto some strategically placed pieces of foam.



Bounce was extremely well received. We tried to take some happy snaps of the kids jumping but they were too quick for us and we just captured blurry bouncers!

Our middle kids group followed the Bounce experience with a trip to the Canning Centre Weir, a beautiful park setting to chew away on Subway and drink cordial.

... Though the cordial was not mixed to the kids' highly specific ratio!



They then finished off their experience with a trip to the Jungle Gym and some games at Aquinas.

Our early teens group rocked on from Bounce to AMF Bowling, where they showcased their sick skills and made a few volunteers jealous with their casual footwork and strikes.

Our late teens zoomed around on quad cycles for the afternoon and ate lunch by the Bell Tower.

Thanks to our excellent volunteers we were able to put on these three fun filled days without batting an eyelid.

And we have made a note to ourselves for next time to bring our own super grippy Bounce socks so all the kids see that we frequent all of the coolest hang-outs.

**Image (left):** Jack and volunteer Anthony Maher showing off the Bounce socks, which have a specially made grip sole.

**Image (right):** Volunteer Zoya Yukhnevich and Tyler demonstrating their awesome egg drop skills.

## On the Bone with K-Dawg

*K-Dawg gives us a bit of insight into what it's like to follow in his paw prints for a day while he's on camp.*

- 0530 Magpie wake-up call (blasted birds!)
- 0545 Find the latrine (outside toilet to you and I)
- 0600 Coffee Milo Combo 1
- 0605 Coffee Milo Combo 2
- 0610 Coffee Milo Combo 3 (eyes wide and ready for kids!)
- 0700 Inspire cooks and help in the kitchen (OW! Careful not to get in the way!)
- 0730 Breakfast with campers (scrambled eggs, sausages, toast – YUM)
- 0800 Clean up and activities start
- 0830 Easter egg hunt (at camps we can do anything so Easter in May is a breeze)
- 0930 Capture the flag (No flag? No problem! Capture the frisbee it is!)
- 1000 Clean the dorms, find the sports equipment, clean up the kitchen, mop the floors, put back the blankets, throw out the rubbish, pack the bus, **find the kids** (just kidding!), locate the driver, wave off the cooks, put back the keys, fill out the report, last minute game... Oh, and hook up the trailer!
- 1100 Back on the road and heading home



**Image:** K-Dawg demonstrating what happens to you if you don't keep moving on camp and the kids and volunteers are armed with paint and barbecue sauce!

Okay, so that was actually only half a day... And now I'm dog-tired.

Woof woof!

*The infamous K-Dawg is also known as Chief Executive Officer Kevin Knapp.*

## Upcoming Programs & Events

6–11 July	Younger Kids Mega Camp @ Camp Kelly, Dwellingup
7–12 July	Late Teens Mega Camp @ Tuppin House, Moore River
14–19 July	Early Teens Mega Camp @ Tuppin House, Moore River
15–20 July	Middle Kids Mega Camp @ Camp Kelly, Dwellingup
31 August	Chevron City to Surf for Activ
7 September	Fun Fest @ Westcourt, Salter Point (ERCWA HQ)
21–27 September	Eddie on the Road @ TBC

## Eddie on the Road in the Mid-West



Images (left to right, top to bottom):  
Volunteers Clare, Daniel, Chris, Brittany and Christian.

On 14 April, volunteers Clare, Daniel, Christian, Brittany, Chris and ERCWA Senior Coordinator of Volunteers Courtney George travelled to the mid-west as part of ERCWA's Eddie on the Road program.

The first stop was Yalgoo, a small community of approximately 100 people that is located 300 kilometres east of Geraldton.

ERCWA made its first visit to Yalgoo in April 2011 and we have continued to play a role in their community ever since.

Once again, the volunteers were lucky enough to spend the majority of their time at the 'rage cage', a play facility built for local children. They danced like crazy, sang a little too loud and 'jelly dropped'\* like no tomorrow.

The volunteers had an incredible experience and several local teenagers even expressed interest in becoming camp leaders.

Following the program in Yalgoo the crew travelled to Meekatharra where they spent their day at the recreational facility playing typical Eddie Rice games – building marshmallow towers, face-painting and of course more jelly drops.

ERCWA is known in Meekatharra for our funky dance moves to our song 'Boom Chicka Boom'. Upon arriving in town Christian was bombarded with requests to show off his moves.

Due to its success, ERCWA is looking to expand Eddie on the Road over the next few years. This includes travelling to new towns and providing leadership opportunities for local youth living in these communities.

The program has an outstanding impact on rural communities thanks to the generous support of our sponsors and the enthusiasm and dedication shown by our young volunteers.

Our next trip will take place in September.

*\*Jelly dropping is where the kids lay down on the ground while the leaders try to tip jelly into their mouths.*

*Of course, everyone ends up covered in jelly!*

## We Are Family

Of the 87 days of programs that we have successfully run so far in 2014, three of them were spent on the annual Family Camp.

This year families enjoyed the beautiful surrounds of the Forest Edge campsite in Waroona.

It was great to see our Eddie Rice kids share in the Eddie Rice spirit with their loved ones.

From the low ropes and flying fox to the usual arts, crafts and games, no-one held back!

A huge thanks to everyone who attended this fun and engaging event.

We look forward to seeing you at the next camp or event.



Image: Chris and father Rob enjoying the view as they get ready to go on the 50m flying fox.

## Introducing New Chairman Tony Manso

I'm delighted to be addressing our members and stakeholders for the first time as Chairman of ERCWA – a position I am extremely proud to have been given the opportunity to hold.



Image: Chairman Tony Manso

My decision to take on this role was made with much thought around what I could offer an organisation with such a wonderful history but, like so many, facing multiple challenges.

Having committed to better positioning ERCWA in its capacity to provide camps and contribute to the social impact we make, I intend to pursue these ambitions responsibly and with dedication.

My involvement with ERCWA commenced several years back as a volunteer cook. That's right – from cook to Chairman!

Admittedly, my alternate motive for volunteering was to learn a little more about the organisation so I could assess whether I wanted to become more involved, possibly through offering my professional skills.

My experiences on the camps were overwhelmingly positive. My life was certainly enriched and I have had no hesitation in pursuing a greater involvement.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the fabulous support I receive in my role as Chairman: from the leadership of our CEO, Kevin Knapp, through to that of my fellow board members, who are all highly capable and committed.

This support is further reflected through our dedicated and talented employees, volunteers, sponsors and supporters, whose commitment and generosity plays an enormous part in making ERCWA the organisation it is.

With this support and enthusiasm, we can look forward to what lies ahead, particularly in our ability to achieve the initiatives we have set in our newly developed strategic plan.

One of these initiatives is to further connect with potential corporate sponsors and donors, and I encourage us all to delve into our networks for any potential introductions.

In conclusion, I'd like to offer my congratulations to my predecessor Chairman, Brett Mathanda, for his immense contribution to our organisation as a volunteer, board member and chair.

Brett's are definitely large shoes to fill. On behalf of ERCWA, I wish Brett and his family well for a prosperous, healthy and safe future.

### A Bit About Me

My professional career spans 26 years of management consulting, strategy, accounting and taxation experience across a diverse range of industry sectors.

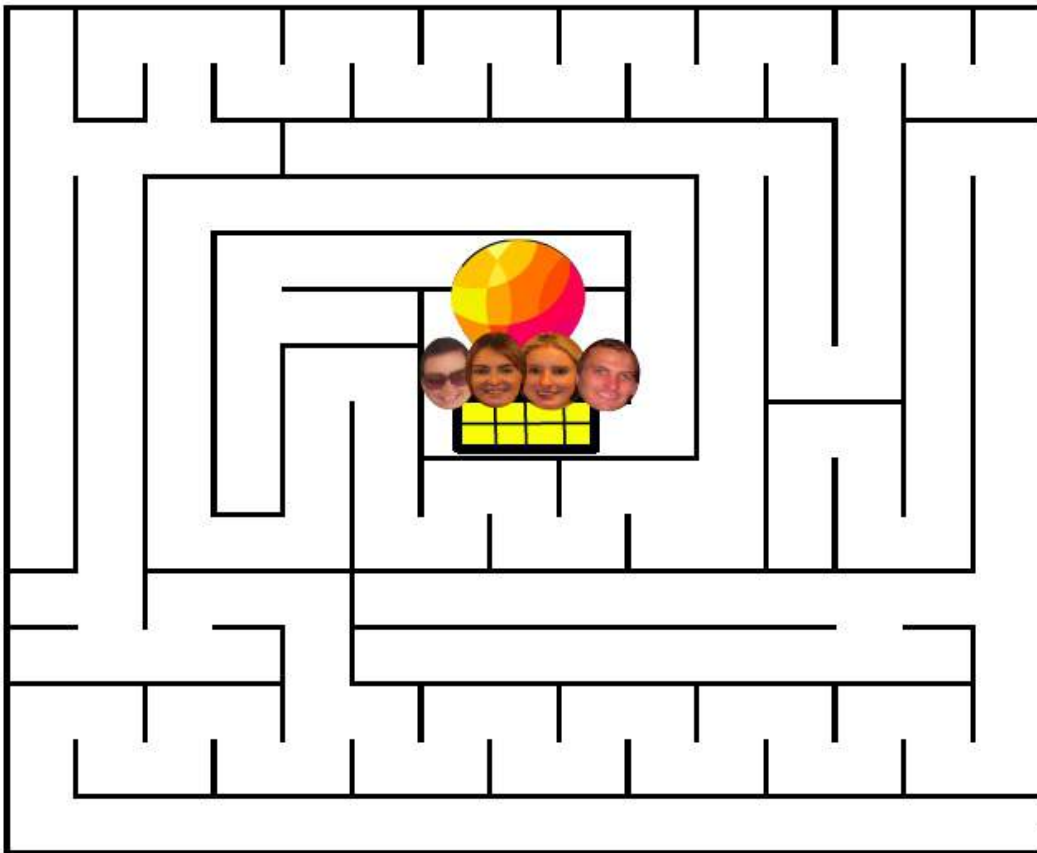
I hold a Bachelor of Business Degree in Accounting and Business Law from Curtin University, am a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and a Graduate of the Institute of Company Directors.

More importantly, I've been happily married for 17 years, with two magnificent teenage sons – nothing nor no-one inspires me more than the three of them.

I'm a dedicated sports follower, with a preference for football (with the round ball) and enjoy keeping fit through cycling, swimming and the occasional jog.

Admittedly, my interests and hobbies tend to vary, although cooking is a constant and classic cars top the table at present.

## KIDS' KORNER



*Help K-Dawg to make it to the balloon before lift off!*



← ENTRY

## Special Events



### CITY TO SURF – Sunday 31st August

Register under 'Edmund Rice Camps' so your run helps our efforts to bring a smile to WA kids! Every Edmund Rice entrant who raises over \$100 goes into the draw for an amazing holiday for two.



### THE BANKWEST SUNSET AT SALTER POINT COCKTAIL PARTY – Saturday 8th November

Our biggest and brightest event of the year. A spectacular night under the stars with great entertainment, food and atmosphere.

## 5 Minutes with Mark Watton

Programme Support  
Coordinator @ ERCWA

Mark Watton was recently engaged to provide support for ERCWA's everyday programming when our CEO was recently appointed to coordinate the Edmund Rice Camps (ERC) Development Project Oceania part-time.

The project is an initiative that sees the nine Australian and two New Zealand branches of ERC working together on strategic initiatives that are aimed at long term sustainability and business best practices. It is very generously being funded by the Christian Brother Province Directorate. **More on this in a future issue!**

### We hear you used to work with our CEO, Kevin Knapp? What's the story there?

Indeed I did. I worked at Hockey WA with Kevin for a couple of years. It was an enjoyable experience and I'm really happy to be able to work with him again.

### What makes you tick?

Family is most important to me and watching my kids grow up is certainly the most enjoyable experience I have had – even though it has its challenges.

I love to travel and really want to see as much of the world as I can.

I'm an avid hockey player and coach and really enjoy what participating in sport can give people. I'm a bit of a sport addict, just ask my wife!

### What interested you about coming to work with Eddie Rice?

Getting involved with something that actually gives something back.

I love that this organisation looks to help young people who often come from difficult

circumstances, build their confidence and give them an opportunity to grow that probably wouldn't have been available to them if Edmund Rice Camps did not exist.

### We heard from a little birdy that you used to have a connection with the Christian Brothers?

Yes, I'm actually an old boy from Christian Brothers College Fremantle. I went there from 1981 to 1988. Funnily enough Brother Pat Kelly was my principal and hockey coach.

### If you could come back as an animal in your next life what would it be and why?

Wolf. They're associated with characteristics such as wisdom and strength but are also cunning and have a bit of mongrel about them. I like what they symbolise.



Image (above): Programme Support Coordinator Mark Watton

## Suggestions Please!

Have something you would like to see us include in the next issue?

Simply email [ercwa@edmundrice.org](mailto:ercwa@edmundrice.org) or post your suggestion on our Facebook wall.



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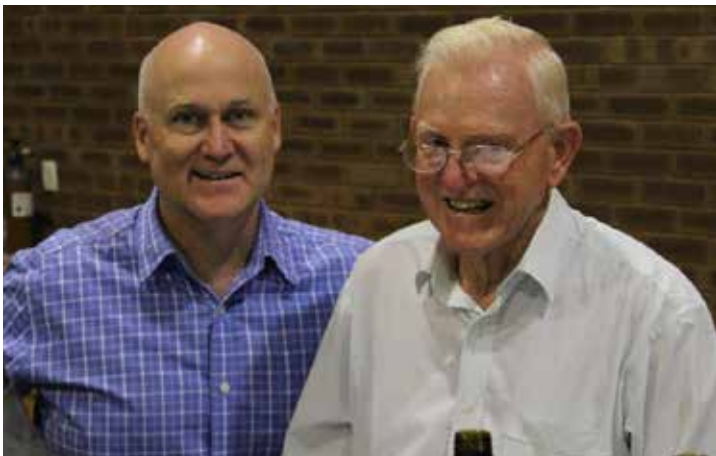


*A very big thank you to all of our contributors.*

# Edmund Rice Camps Quiz Night

Our annual quiz night was held on Friday 23rd May at Aquinas College. The night was a great success with over 330 people attending. We raised a record \$18,500. Everyone had a wonderful time with some hilarious and brain teasing games as well as some very testing questions. Congratulations to a team of past leaders for winning the night.

Thank you to everyone for your support in attendance and donations.  
Can't wait to see you all running in the City to Surf!



Edmund Rice Camps WA (ERC WA) is a non-profit charity committed to supporting kids and families at risk or experiencing disadvantage in our community. Edmund Rice Camps WA provides services to over 400 Western Australian Families every year.  
[www.edmundricecampswa.com.au](http://www.edmundricecampswa.com.au)