



Full of Life!

*A Guide to Formation, Leadership,
Immersion, Professional Development
and Networking Opportunities*



**EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA**

"If you truly want to know yourself, ask yourself what you are most living for."

Thomas Merton

Contents

EREA Formation - A Pathway for Transformation	04
EREA Formation Opportunities	06
Overview of Formation Opportunities	07
National Programs - A Call to Mission	09
National Programs - A Call to Leadership	10
National Programs - A Call to Transformation	11
National Programs - A Vision for Liberation	12
School Based Formation	13
EREBB Leadership Opportunities	14
Immersions Overview	15
Africa Immersion and Partnership	16
India Immersion and Partnership	17
South America Immersion and Partnership	18
International Pilgrimage and Encounter	19
National Immersions: Let's Talk and Yingadi	20
Conferences, Gatherings and Networking Opportunities	21
Mobile Applications	23

Introduction

Dear staff and friends of EREA,

Whenever we gather to celebrate together as people inspired by Blessed Edmund Rice we are reminded that our inherited charism is one which continues to draw people from all walks of life into a mission of inclusivity, compassion, justice, love and liberation. As part of the broader Church community, our mission response is situated within a diverse and often messy social and cultural milieu. Our charism genius, particularly through our educational endeavour, is our capacity to present a visionary and hope-filled view of the future to our young people and all those marginalised by our society.

The Charter Touchstones offer us all a means of living out this Gospel ideal. Presenting them in visual displays, or etching them into significant markers around our school, serve to keep each touchstone front and centre in our minds. However, in this static form alone they can easily be passed by; their dynamism demands that they are a regular part of personal and community reflection, dialogue and questioning. Creating the space to gather colleagues to discern one's individual and collective contribution to the actualisation of these Touchstones, is thus the essence of *Full of Life*.

The encounters, conversations and experiences that you are invited into via *Full of Life* are designed to promote questioning rather than certainty and challenge rather than comfort. It is in these spaces that the Spirit moves most acutely within us, calling us to see and respond to the cry of the poor and the Earth.

“The Spirit is always hovering over the waters of chaos, bringing forth new life. It is the wind that brings change into life and turns it upside down and inside out. This is what a follower

of Jesus always has to deal with: the Spirit is in the storm.” (The Spirit Moving in Our Midst: Be My Disciple; Christian Brothers, 2008 Chapter).

Whenever you enter into relationship with our sacred stories you open yourself to the potential for transformation. When your heart burns with passion for a new idea or your eyes open with wonder to a new perspective, you come fully alive. The range of EREA enrichment opportunities offered within *Full of Life* aims to affirm, encourage, renew, disturb and ultimately to inspire you.

Programs of global immersion and the diverse opportunities offered through Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders extend people beyond their own cultural and geographical zones. At a time when our awareness of the interconnectedness of all life is so acute, we reap the benefit of being part of an international network where the voices of all peoples and lands can be considered and appreciated.

National Formational programs enable all staff to engage with the charism and its contemporary expression at the level appropriate to their role and time within the community. Likewise, national gatherings and conversations provide both role-based and interest group networking opportunities that support personal and professional growth.

Full of Life offers a unique and privileged invitation to take time to pause, notice and attend to the stirrings of our hearts. In this sacred space, may your own reflection and discernment connect you intimately with the liberating vision that the Gospel calls us to seek for all creation.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever.

Dr Wayne Tinsey
Executive Director

EREA Formation – A pathway for transformation

I The Formation Framework: the wisdom setting our course

‘The Good Seed Will Grow’ – a Formation Framework for Edmund Rice Communities in Oceania provides the guide to planning, designing and reviewing the diverse experiences offered to EREA communities as the suite of EREA Formation.

The white strand of the Spiral visual depicts the embracing presence of God infusing all space and time. This ushers forth new revelations of God in the *life of Jesus*, which in-turn inspires the response of *Edmund*. The *movement of the Spirit* continues today calling us to seek *liberation* for all. (*The Good Seed Will Grow*, page 7)

In the spirit of this Framework, the underlying of all formation experiences is to provide opportunities for staff in our schools, and from within the broader Edmund Rice community, *‘to interpret, integrate and engage with Our Sacred Story in order to continue to bring that story to life.’* (*The Good Seed Will Grow*, page 7)

II Our Sacred Story: the wisdom shaping our pathways

Formation emerges from encounter with a larger story that reveals to us something more of life. Subsequently our EREA formation experiences recognise that,



“At the heart of Our Sacred Story, is the Mystery of the Divine, whom we name God, breathing life into, and evoking wholeness within all creation. By entering into and immersing ourselves in Our Sacred Story, we encounter this mystery.”

(*The Good Seed Will Grow*, page 8)

III Participant Engagement: the wisdom enhancing our outcomes

The Identity and Liberating Education Team of EREA, together with the Coordinators of national and regional formation experiences, work closely with leaders within our school communities to ensure that the formation opportunities offered to staff both draw from, and build on the personal and professional support available at the school level.

EREA Formation – A pathway for transformation

Our intention is to provide opportunities that engage individuals and communities in ways where on-going learning and participation take place. Outcomes are heightened when participation in formation experiences occurs as an integrated experience involving:

- **Preparation:** The school supports and facilitates involvement of participants in any preparatory work for the experience ;
- **Communal gathering:** The school provides opportunities for dialogue and sharing within the local community, particularly when more than one member of staff is attending an experience or others have attended similar experiences in the past; and

- **Widening the Conversation:** The school initiates post-attendance opportunities for participant interaction with the whole community to extend and enhance learning.

IV The Dynamics: the wisdom informing our processes

Each formation experience is informed by the three Dynamics outlined within the Formation Framework: *‘The Good Seed Will Grow.’*

These Dynamics are a means of connecting and integrating the key story components of each program.

Moved by the Spirit

“...into a space which places God and God’s vision of a world made whole at the centre of our lives...(inspiring) imagination and (inviting) us to live creatively with life’s questions in a spirit of openness and discovery.”



Called to Liberation

Whereby our people are confronted by the call of liberation and challenged to “... speak with authority as a prophetic voice in the Church and in the world”, and by being “present to others in a way that respects their dignity, worldview, hopes and dreams, experience mutual transformation.”

Alive in Relationship

Where people are invited to encounter the other “...locally, nationally and internationally, crossing boundaries of race, culture and religion to form meaning from the diverse stories and realities in our communities and in the world.” Where such experiences provide an opening to a “...shift in our worldview, opening us to a deeper level of relationship with God and neighbour.”

EREA Formation Opportunities

As demonstrated in the diagram below, EREA formation offers a pathway for transformation comprised of three movements: setting out, deepening and leading.

We invite all within our EREA communities, inclusive of Board members and other volunteers, to participate in relevant and meaningful experiences that companion and nurture personal growth, as well as support and build the capacity of all to contribute to Catholic education in the Edmund Rice Tradition.



Overview of Formation Opportunities

1. Edmund Rice Education Australia Congress

This significant gathering is conducted every six years and provides a forum to reflect upon the current expressions of EREA's mission and to discern strategic priorities for the organisation. Congress delegates, both nationally and internationally, are representative of the broad spectrum of communities associated with EREA. The spirit moving through Congress generates a momentum that inspires and shapes EREA strategic planning for future years. The theme of the most recent Congress (2018) was *Charting New Horizons*.

2. EREBB Programs

Leaders within EREA schools participate in International gatherings organised and supported by Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders, providing both personal and professional opportunities to form partnerships with colleagues from schools across the world. (Details pg 14)

3. National Formation Programs

The nationally coordinated programs target four specific audiences and provide formation experiences accessible to the full range of people within EREA school communities. They are also open to the broader Edmund Rice community, especially staff within Edmund Rice Oceania ministries.

With the exception of *A Vision for Liberation*, each program is offered at a regional level.

The four programs are:

- **A Call to Mission:** a non-residential program over two days, intended for all recently appointed staff to EREA communities. (Details page 9)
- **A Call to Leadership:** a residential two-day program intended for those who have a leadership impact within the school community. (Details page 10)
- **A Call to Transformation:** a residential two-day program intended for all staff who have served within any Edmund Rice community for more than five years. (Details on page 11)
- **A Vision for Liberation:** a national three-day residential program intended for any staff member who has a significant impact on the strategic and management direction of an EREA community, including School Board members. (Details on page 12)

4. On-line Program

Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders Leadership Certificate is an international online course consisting of four modules of self-directed learning focussed on charisma, spirituality, advocacy and liberating education practices. (Details page 14)

Overview of Formation Opportunities

5. School Based Formation

The EREA Identity and Liberating Education Team is available to support schools in providing opportunities that invite staff into a deeper understanding of charism, mission and their own spirituality. These experiences enhance rather than replace participation in the National Formation Programs and can be tailored to meet the needs of teams, faculty/ interest groups or the entire staff. A variety of opportunities are also available for School Boards to engage in formation experiences exploring the charism of Edmund Rice and the mission of our schools. (Details on page 13)

6. Immersions and Partnerships

EREA coordinates and supports a number of experiences for leaders and staff that promote a faith-based response to global solidarity and a commitment to reconciliation. These opportunities enable participants to experience a different cultural setting and to engage directly with our First Nations Peoples and overseas partner communities. (Details on pages 15-20)

7. Conferences and Networking Gatherings

EREA organises a number of conferences throughout the year designed to identify, enhance and promote the implementation of its strategic priorities. It also hosts regional network gatherings each year for leaders and staff in schools. These opportunities enable key personnel within each school community to contribute to important conversations related to faith, teaching and learning, pastoral care, diversity, student welfare, assisted learning support and financial management. (Details on pages 21-22)



National Program - A Call to Mission

An induction program for people new to EREA schools and Edmund Rice communities.

This two-day, non-residential program provides an opportunity to meet people from other schools and ministries, to listen to their stories and to share common hopes. Through dialogue, input and reflection participants engage with what it means to be part of an Edmund Rice community and consider ways to contribute to this global network.

A Call to Mission introduces participants to the four sacred stories that are the source of inspiration for our mission as Edmund Rice communities, namely the Mystery we name God, the Life of Jesus, the Response of Edmund and Our Participation.

The program draws from the priorities set for Jesus' mission in Mark's Gospel (1:14-15): being good news, responding to the present, holding a vision of a better world and calling others to action. *A Call to Mission* offers participants an opportunity to explore the diverse ways that they might contribute to bring this "good news" to life.

Ideally completed within the first eighteen months of employment, participation in this program can be used in some diocese to support accreditation requirements.

As a participant, this program:

- connects you with other members of the Edmund Rice community;
- enriches your understanding of the religious and cultural context of your community;
- builds your confidence to engage in dialogue about EREA's educational priorities and mission; and
- enhances your appreciation of the gifts that you bring to your community.

Previous program participants have said:

- *"The program confirmed for me why I do what I do!"*
- *"It reinforced for me the need for each person to feel valued; I am now more conscious of the positive impact I can have on others."*
- *"I was inspired to become more involved in justice activities."*
- *"I now appreciate the true purpose and focus of my work."*

More details, including annual dates:

www.erea.edu.au/programs/formation/a-call-to-mission



National Program - A Call to Leadership

A program for leaders in EREA schools and Edmund Rice communities.

This two-day, residential program provides participants with the opportunity to meet and connect with other people called to the service of leadership. The program is intended for newly appointed leaders, those who have a management and/or operational leadership role in the community, or those emerging leaders recognised as having a significant sphere of influence within the community.

A Call to Leadership will explore the rewards and challenges of our work today, applying the vision of the Gospel, Edmund Rice and the Christian Brothers to our own situations through dialogue, critical reflection and active learning. Participants will be invited to draw upon the experience of their peers in order to respond in concrete and innovative ways to the challenges they face as leaders.

The program draws from the call of Peter in Luke's gospel (5:1-11), where Jesus informs his first disciples that they will be catching people "alive" and leading them to the fullness of life that is God's vision of love,

justice, peace and compassion for all creation: the Reign of God. *A Call to Leadership* offers participants an opportunity to explore how they might participate in working for the Reign of God as leaders in Edmund Rice communities.

As a participant, this program:

- affirms the skills and experience that you bring as a leader in your community;
- provides a collegial network of support where you can safely discuss challenges;
- supports you in leading others in dialogue about EREA's mission and educational priorities; and
- develops skills that support ongoing learning and critical reflection.

Previous program participants have said:

- *"It offered a sense of perspective; I could step back and look at the bigger picture."*
- *"The program helped me to focus on my priorities and goals in leadership and separate the essential from the distractions in my role."*
- *"I feel empowered to more readily trust my own instincts and judgements."*
- *"I have come to realise the need to take risks, embrace what I can change and understand and accept what I can't."*

For more details, including annual dates:

www.erea.edu.au/programs/formation/a-call-to-leadership



National Program - A Call to Transformation

A program for people with at least five years' experience in EREA schools or Edmund Rice communities.

This two-day, residential program provides participants with the opportunity for personal reflection, affirming conversation and renewed focus for the continuation of their journey. The program celebrates the wisdom and insight gained from ministry in an Edmund Rice community, and invites participants to integrate their personal story with the stories of our tradition to encourage their ongoing contribution.

A Call to Transformation offers participants opportunities to explore those special spaces in life that have provided a glimpse of God's presence and to apply the vision of the Gospel in being attentive to the needs of others.

The program references the story of Moses' encounter with the burning bush in Exodus (3:1-12) as a means of emphasising the importance of periodically turning aside from one's everyday work to notice what is happening around us. In being called by God to respond to the pain and suffering of all people, participants are affirmed as agents of transformation attuned to the needs of those who struggle in their local communities and beyond.

As a participant, this program:

- emphasises the importance of personal reflection in bringing clarity to your work;
- invites you to be attuned to the needs of the most vulnerable in your community and the world;
- reinforces your capacity to act as an agent of transformation;
- recognises the role that you play in accompanying, encouraging and supporting others in your community.

Previous program participants have said:

- *"It highlighted my responsibility to not just the children, but the entire community."*
- *"It helped me recognise and value my own growth and maturity as a staff member."*
- *"It reconnected me to a sense of belonging and purpose."*
- *"I now appreciate how much I can enrich my community by being myself – just sharing time, story, and laughter breeds care."*

For more details, including annual dates:

www.erea.edu.au/programs/formation/a-call-to-transformation



National Program - A Vision for Liberation

A national program for senior leaders in EREA schools and Edmund Rice communities.

This three-day, residential program brings together leaders who hold a strategic or central management responsibility within their community, providing opportunities for personal reflection, dialogue with other leaders, and exploration of the stories that shape the way we understand our identity and mission. It would be an appropriate experience for those who have previously completed the *A Call to Leadership* program.

The program encourages participants to consider how they might *“speak with authority as a prophetic voice in the Church and the world”* (*The Good Seed Will Grow*, page 7). It asks us to consider the challenges facing our communities and the world in which we live and to consider the ways we might respond, locally and globally. It also offers the opportunity to visit communities within the wider Edmund Rice network who model a contemporary response to the pressing issues of our times.

A Vision for Liberation calls us to take seriously the words of the prophet Isaiah, who reminds us of God’s vision of compassion, justice and

peace that is at the heart of the Gospel:

“Is not this the fast that I have chosen: to unlock the shackles of injustice, to loosen the ropes of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke” (Isaiah 58:6).

As a participant, this program:

- considers ways in which we might work towards a vision for liberation as leaders of an EREA community;
- offers opportunities to explore new leadership ideas and approaches within a collegial environment;
- explores ways to articulate a vision of hope amidst ecological, social-economic and spiritual crisis facing the world today;
- provides opportunities for silence, prayer, mindfulness and reflective practice.

Previous program participants have said:

- *“The program affirmed my strategic and collaborative approach, but made me question whether my decisions are passionate and bold enough.”*
- *“The program challenged me to share my own life experiences more openly, as a way to help others embrace my leadership priorities.”*
- *“I am now more attentive to how I am present to people; it is the quality of this presence that shapes people’s response to leadership.”*

For more details, including annual dates:

www.erea.edu.au/programs/formation/a-vision-for-liberation



School Based Formation

1. Staff Formation

The Identity and Liberating Education Team can support staff with school specific programs or workshops. Possible areas for facilitated exploration with full or partial staff groups include:

- The Charter and Touchstones;
- The Formation Framework;
- Laudato si' and Sustainability;
- Interfaith Dialogue;
- Safe and Inclusive Communities;
- Educating for Justice and Peace;
- Edmund Rice Charism / Icon;
- Youth Spirituality;
- Spiritual Leadership;
- Immersion and Partnership;
- Mission inspired strategic planning;
- Ecological Spirituality; and
- Catholic Identity.

A full-day program, or series of shorter workshop style gatherings, can be designed to introduce staff to the story of Blessed Edmund Rice. Sessions, tailored to suit the needs of the community, provide an introduction to topics such as the charism of Edmund Rice, the story of the Christian Brothers and their contribution to education in Australia, the emergence of EREA, and current expressions of the Edmund Rice spirit.

2. Board Formation

EREA provides opportunities for School Boards to participate in formative

experiences supporting their role in mission and governance. These opportunities assist School Board members to grow in an understanding of their role and responsibilities, particularly in helping the school to provide authentic Catholic Education in the Edmund Rice tradition.

Board Member Induction

New EREA School Board members are expected to attend a Board Induction program prior to, or during, the first year of Board membership. These opportunities are offered on a regional basis. Extra programs may be offered on site at schools outside cities with a regional office. This 3-hour program covers critical aspects of mission and governance.

Regional Board Members Gatherings

Periodically all Board members are encouraged to attend a regional gathering which focus on the responsibilities of an EREA School Board. Particular emphasis is given to the relationship between the EREA Board document *The Design* and the development of appropriate agendas which align with these delegated responsibilities.

Formation Opportunities for individual EREA School Boards

Each EREA school has received a copy of the Board Formation Resource containing short modules which can be used as part of their board meetings. School Boards wishing to arrange extended formation experiences or retreats are encouraged to discuss this with the National Office Identity and Liberating Education Team.

EREBB Leadership Opportunities

1. EREBB Leadership Certificate

The Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders (EREBB) Leadership Certificate is an international online course developed by EREBB, Edmund Rice Schools Trust (ERST) in Ireland, and Marino Institute of Education (MIE).

This interactive 20-hour course supports participants to become advocates and proponents of inclusive and liberating education practices. Moderated by MIE staff, it consists of four modules of self-directed learning, which can be completed at one's own pace.

On completion of the course participants will have successfully:

- studied the history and heritage of Edmund Rice;
- explore charism as a Gospel inspired response to the needs of contemporary culture;
- understood spiritual leadership within religiously diverse contexts; and

- engaged with issues pertaining to social justice, advocacy and human rights in the current global context.

2. Leadership Symposium

The *International Edmund Rice Leadership Symposium* is an annual formation and professional development program designed for leaders across schools and ministries from around the world. This global leadership program is run in collaboration with the Congregational Leadership Team of the Christian Brothers.

3. EREBB Congress

Every four years EREBB hosts a global congress with delegates from every part of the world where Edmund Rice Education makes a difference in the lives of young people. Based on global partnership and solidarity, this forum grows the charism of Edmund Rice and celebrates the riches that our differing cultures have brought to this charism over many generations.

To learn more go to <http://www.erebb.org>



Immersions Overview

“Our first task in approaching another people, another culture, another religion, is to take off our shoes, for the place we are approaching is holy. Else we may find ourselves treading on people’s dreams. More serious still, we may forget that God was here before our arrival.”

(Max Warren)

Edmund Rice Education Australia is committed to developing positive and mutually beneficial relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities in the Majority World. It encourages and supports global immersions and partnership programs as a valid and valuable educational experience. The Catholic call to global solidarity and the quest for justice and peace for all is at the heart of these experiences.

Global immersions and partnerships provide excellent opportunities for school communities to develop relationships of solidarity across borders; learn about global justice issues; join together with others as part of a common

humanity; and act together for justice and peace in our world. They also inspire our communities in their own faith journey and connect them with the faith journey of others.

EREA offers a number of immersion programs for staff throughout the year. Each of these programs has components of preparation, professional readings, experiential learning, faith formation, debriefing and action planning. Prior engagement in a national formation program is a preferred pathway to participation in an immersion experience.

“The trouble is that once you see it, you can’t unsee it. And once you’ve seen it, keeping quiet, saying nothing, becomes as political an act as speaking out. There is no innocence. Either way you’re accountable.”

(Arundhati Roy)



Africa Immersion and Partnership

The diverse continent of Africa has formed some of the greatest leaders of modern times. People like Nelson Mandela, Wangari Maathai, Desmond Tutu and Julius Nyerere have shaped not only Africa, but also the way the world views justice, oppression, faith and a quest for a common humanity.

This immersion will allow participants to explore their own and others' leadership through visiting and connecting with some amazing faith-based schools and programs on the ground in Kenya and South Africa. It will provide opportunities for participants to develop skills to offer a liberating education in their own school communities.

During the program participants will:

- visit the transformational work that the Church and the Christian Brothers are conducting with people in poverty and living with HIV/AIDS;
- share with families in Kibera Slum (Kenya) and homestay in Soweto Township (South Africa);
- experience African liturgies and explore faith and spirituality from an African perspective;
- dialogue with key leaders in the Kenyan and South African Communities and explore how the leadership styles of prominent African Leaders have influenced change locally and globally;
- explore approaches to justice and peace education through experiencing how schools in Africa educate their students to build a better world for all;
- build community and reflect and pray together with other educators from across Edmund Rice schools; and
- reflect on their immersion engagement from the different perspectives of tourist, pilgrim and partner.



India Immersion and Partnership

During this program, participants will undertake an immersion to India and connect with the work and vision of the Church, the Brothers, local schools and community organisations.

This experience will give participants the opportunity to immerse themselves in one of the world's largest countries, where different faiths, cultures and peoples come together. India provides exceptional learning experiences for educators who are open to expanding their understanding about a preferential option for the poor and the Church's commitment to justice and peace.

During the program participants will encounter opportunities to:

- witness firsthand the power of education to make a difference in the lives of the poor;
- show solidarity with educators, church workers and those who are at the margins;
- develop greater awareness in cross cultural and inter-religious dialogue;
- experience the wonderful culture of India and the generous hospitality of her people;
- grow in understanding of the church's mission in the contemporary world context;
- experience the charism of Edmund Rice alive in the developing world;
- reflect on their engagement from the different perspectives of tourist, pilgrim and partner; and
- develop links with other EREBB schools.



South America Immersion and Partnership

The experience, which will encompass Peru, Argentina and Uruguay, will provide participants with the opportunity to immerse themselves in the work of the Church and the Christian Brothers and show solidarity with our Edmund Rice schools in these countries. It will also allow participants to explore the richness of the Latin American cultures, spirituality and landscapes.

During the program participants will:

- visit the places where Liberation Theology and a Preferential Option for the Poor developed and took root;
- engage with Edmund Rice schools in Peru, Argentina and Uruguay and share with educators and students;
- experience the liberating education they offer and learn from their outreach and justice education programs;
- experience and participate in the spirituality and culture of Latin America;

- visit Cusco and Machu Picchu and learn about the Inca culture as well as the effects of Spanish colonisation of South America;
- reflect on their engagement from the different perspectives of tourist, pilgrim and partner; and
- build community and reflect and pray together with other educators from Edmund Rice schools from across the world.

“If I define my neighbour as the one that I must go out to look for, on the highways and byways, in the factories and slums, on the farms and in the mines, then my world changes.”

(Gustavo Gutierrez Peruvian theologian and founder of Liberation Theology.)



International Pilgrimage and Encounter

A Journey with Edmund through Ireland and India/Africa

This program invites participants into the stories that shape our identity as women and men who follow in the footsteps of the founder of the Christian Brothers, Blessed Edmund Rice. These stories open a window on the Gospel of Jesus and reveal how Edmund's journey, rooted in a spirituality of reflection and action, continues to unfold today.

This Pilgrimage and Encounter will also explore the fruits of the Christian Brothers' vision in taking Edmund's spirit into a very different cultural and spiritual setting. Participants will have the opportunity to:

- walk the very streets that Edmund walked and visit the places of his birth, life and death in Ireland;
- explore Celtic spirituality and the Irish Church in the sacred landscape of Glendalough;
- discover the story of the Presentation Brothers (the other congregation Edmund founded), as well as the stories of Nano Nagle and the Presentation Sisters in impacting on the work of Blessed Edmund;
- encounter the cultural and spiritual richness and diversity of either Africa or India in witnessing the founding charism expressed within Christian Brothers' communities and ministries in one of these settings;
- explore the evolution of Edmund's vision within a society characterised by extremes of poverty; and
- reflect upon the spirituality of justice which began with Edmund and continues to grow and develop through the evolving story of those who walk in Edmund's footsteps.



National Immersion

1. Lets Talk Program

This partnership offering between the Edmund Rice Centre, Edmund Rice Education Australia and the Aboriginal communities of North-West NSW will appeal to personnel who are interested in supporting the educational achievement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and furthering reconciliation in Australia. It also provides an opportunity for EREA staff to reflect upon the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Policy in light of this experience.

Modelled on *Let's Talk* program developed in 1997 amidst the climate of the Irish Peace Process, the focus issues of peace, identity, human rights, socio-economic issues and reconciliation shape the experience. Through a journey integrating dialogue with locals and elders in visited communities and engagement with places of significance to the Aboriginal people of north-west NSW, the program facilitators will ensure all participants are guided and supported through what has proven for many in the past to be an inspirational experience.

2. Yingadi Encounter – Lake Mungo

This seven-day program invites participants to experience the ancient sands of Lake Mungo, walking in harmony with the land to touch the sacredness of Aboriginal spirituality. Offering an encounter with an ancient Aboriginal tradition and story, it is ideally suited for those seeking a deeper appreciation of their own sense of place and a richer understanding of Aboriginal connection with their spirit and home.

*You are invited to come, experience the
ancient sands at Lake Mungo.*

*Black feet, white feet,
walking together in harmony with the land
together touching the sacredness of
Aboriginal spirituality.*

Vicki Clark



Conferences, Gatherings and Networking Opportunities

These initiatives are coordinated through the respective mission teams of EREA.

Liaison with the appropriate person can be arranged by contacting the National Office. Go to www.erea.edu.au/networking-gatherings for more info.

Principals and Deputy Principals

Opportunities are provided for Principals and Deputy Principals to gather with their respective colleagues at both a regional and national level. Regional gatherings provide a forum for local issues to be discussed and collaborative responses to be discerned. The National Conference offers an opportunity for broader strategic issues to be considered, professional input to be canvassed and collective initiatives to be shaped. Associate schools are invited to attend the National Conference.

Identity Leaders

Identity Leaders meet regionally and nationally. The first term regional gathering is extended to include Identity teams, the group of staff within each school, whose role contributes to the work of Identity within the school. A national Identity Leaders' gathering is conducted annually early in Term 3. The fourth term regional gathering for Identity Leaders focusses on issues relevant to the local context. Associate schools are invited to any of the regional and national gatherings.

Business Managers

The annual gathering of Business Managers is held over three days. The program includes

reflection on contemporary expressions of the charism, professional input, details of EREA requirements and opportunities for sharing best practice.

Leaders of Learning

Personnel who hold the primary responsibility for Teaching and Learning within a school community form the Leaders of Learning Network. A national coordinating group, with representation from each region, establish the working priorities and direction of the Network, and play a crucial role in shaping the National Conference. Regional gatherings are also conducted to support the sharing of learning initiatives, best practice, resources and the strategic implications of Congress. The work of the Leaders of Learning is designed to be cognizant of, and responsive to each Charter Touchstone, with an initial focus on *liberating education*.

Junior School Leaders

The gathering of Junior School Leaders is usually over two days. This program caters for Leaders in Junior, Primary or Middle School structures in EREA schools. Similar leaders in EREA Associate schools are also welcome to participate. This program aims to provide the opportunity for these leaders to share the contemporary expression of the charism through their leadership within their particular context as well as having an opportunity to share professional issues and initiatives.

Conferences, Gatherings and Networking Opportunities

Senior Leaders Induction

The induction program caters for personnel recently appointed to Senior Leadership positions throughout EREA – Principals, Deputy Principals, Business Managers and Senior Leaders in EREA offices. Program participants gather for one and a half days in the early weeks of the year at the National office. The induction process incorporates presentations and dialogue hosted by the various department coordinators and provide an early insight into the policies, operations and structure of EREA.

Youth+ Conference

This biennial Conference brings together educators, researchers, policy makers and others involved in education for young people who experience barriers to success in, or are disenfranchised from, mainstream education. EREA Youth+ staff and young people have a significant involvement in planning this Conference.

Student Leadership Conference

This National gathering brings together EREA school captains and offers an opportunity for networking, goal setting and the sharing of hopes and challenges for their year of leadership in the school community. The four-day program invites participants to develop their own personal charter of leadership while reflecting upon the current issues of priority shared by all EREA communities. The Conference is hosted on a rotational basis by a school within each Region.

Gender Diversity in Leadership

As part of EREA's commitment to promoting and encouraging leadership at all levels for all people, this national forum offers an opportunity for participants to explore gender diversity in leadership. Keynote input from experts in the field, supported by data-based research findings, provide a context for critical reflection and analysis of current policy and practise. Identifying steps towards action planning for change is also supported. Schools are encouraged to support multiple staff attendance so that on their return to school, participants know they have the support of at least one colleague in furthering the forum dialogue.

Pastoral Care Leaders Conference

This national biennial conference is an opportunity for leaders with responsibility for student wellbeing to come together to reflect on practice, share ideas and be challenged by the latest research and social findings. It is conducted in a different region each year and the school is responsible for nominating the most appropriate delegate to attend on their behalf.

Mobile Applications

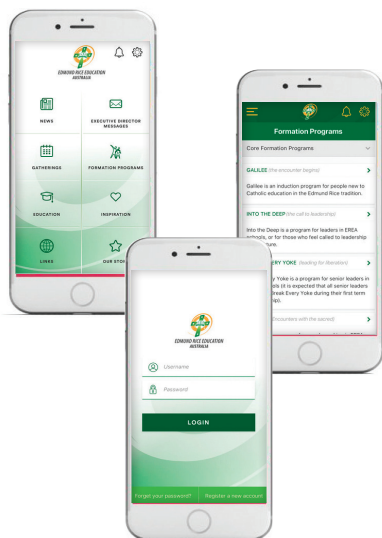
EREA app

Established by the Christian Brothers in 2007, EREA now has full responsibility for the schools operated by the Brothers at that time. With the addition of schools established since 2007 there are over 50 schools in 2019 enrolling over 37,000 young people, through all states and territories of Australia. As part of their mission within the Church and shaped by the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice, schools offer an education guided by the Charter for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition.

This app is available to download via the **App Store** or **Google Play**.

The Username is: **erea1**

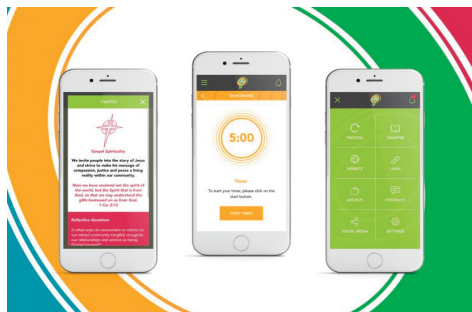
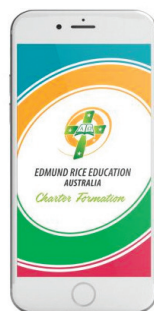
The Password is: **erea1**



Touchstones (Charter) app

Edmund Rice Education Australia strives to offer a *liberating education*, based on a *gospel spirituality*, within an *inclusive community, committed to justice and solidarity*. These touchstones provide the foundation for Edmund Rice schools to educate for justice and peace, and offer hope to a world where the dignity of humanity and the integrity of creation is often diminished. This App is designed to support EREA staff in their own prayer and reflection and also to be a resource to draw upon when leading others in reflection at gatherings such as staff and faculty meetings.

This app is available to download via the **App Store** or **Google Play**.





**EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA**

For further information please contact:

Edmund Rice Education Australia

9 The Vaucluse, Richmond VIC

E: info@erea.edu.au • P: +61 3 9426 3200

erea.edu.au

*"We are not on the earth to guard a museum,
but to tend a blooming garden full of life."*

Pope John XXIII
