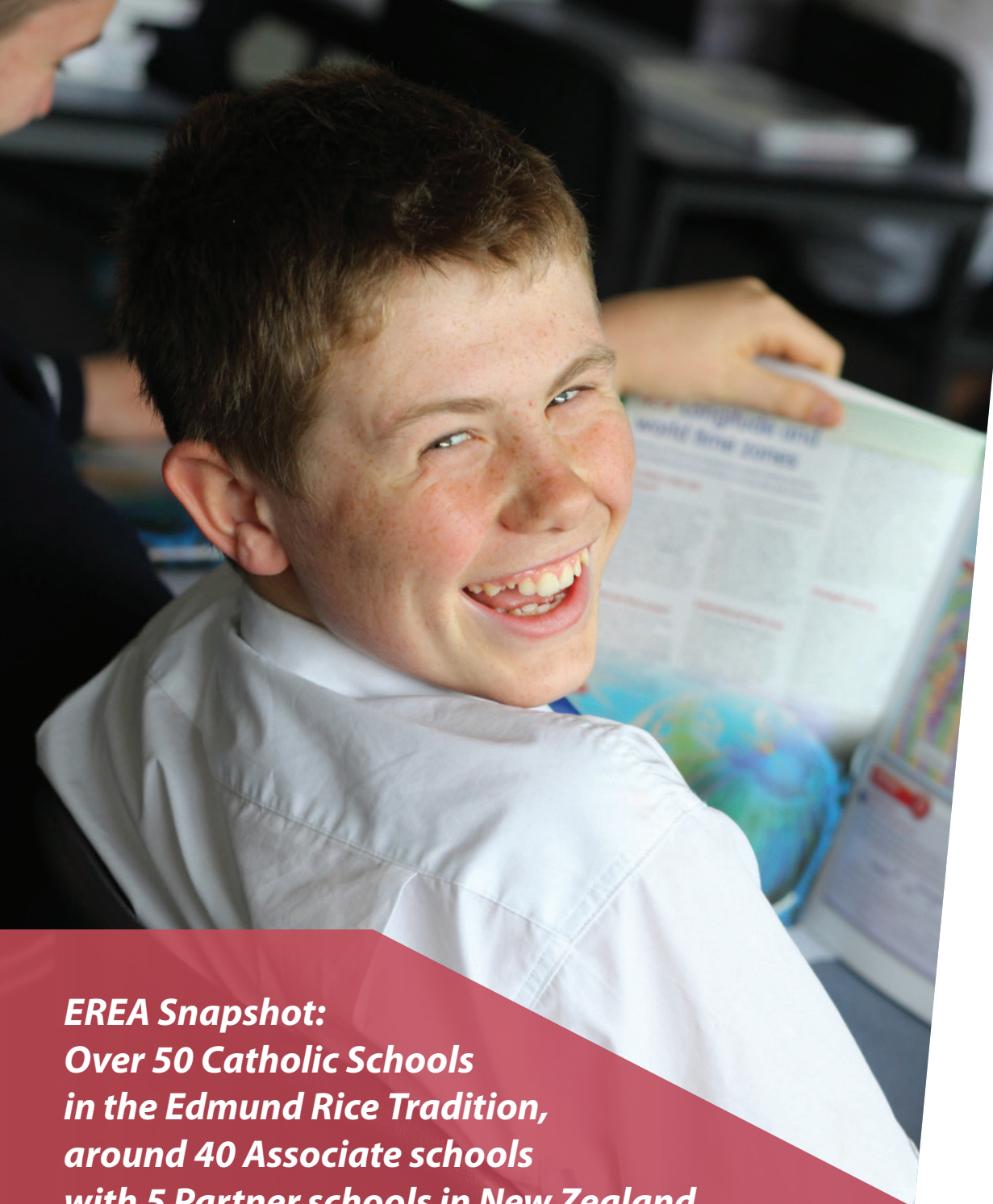




**EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA**



An Invitation to
Association with
**EDMUND RICE
EDUCATION AUSTRALIA**



***EREA Snapshot:
Over 50 Catholic Schools
in the Edmund Rice Tradition,
around 40 Associate schools
with 5 Partner schools in New Zealand***

What is Association with EREA?

This booklet is an introduction to Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) and the Association program it offers.

Associates are schools and education centres which, although not governed by EREA, wish to celebrate a connection to the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice and the Christian Brothers.

Through Association, these schools have links into a broad network across Australia, New Zealand and internationally. We all gain tremendously from these relationships as we share ideas, resources and opportunities to grow in an understanding of Catholic identity in the Edmund Rice tradition.

The EREA network is a diverse one spanning preschool, secondary and primary, all-boys and coeducational, urban, regional and remote, and alternative learning centres. Through this diversity we support each other in providing a liberating education for our students.

Since the establishment of their first school in Australia, the Christian Brothers have established, governed, or managed nearly 120

schools or entities. In other cases they have been joint founders with other orders or the diocese. They have also provided Principals for diocesan schools or been actively involved in governance.

Over the years many schools originally founded by the Christian Brothers have amalgamated with other order-owned schools, been handed over to the diocese or have closed.

Edmund Rice Education Australia seeks to build a relationship with Catholic schools which see their mission in association with the Edmund Rice tradition and Christian Brother heritage. Schools with no historical link to the Christian Brothers but which desire a connection to the Edmund Rice charism are also welcome to seek an Associate relationship.

For some Associate schools, the EREA Charter becomes their central guiding document. In these cases, EREA may invite them to become Affiliate schools whereby they make an integral commitment to live out the Charter as a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition.

*Have courage; the good seed
will grow up in the children's
hearts later on.*

- Edmund Rice

Stories from our Associates

As an Associate of EREA we appreciate the opportunities we share in the formation of staff and students. Our College has also benefitted from attendance at conferences and engagement in the rich tradition that is EREA. *Trinity College Colac*

Edmund Rice's dedication to the education of the poor and commitment to justice and compassion is lived out in a variety of different aspects at our College, such as our Social Justice group, Year 9 Ministry program and especially our Senior Ministry program. *St Patrick's College Sutherland*

Our connection with St Therese of Lisieux, complements nicely the Edmund Rice story. The youth of St Therese and her absolute devotion to the Lord alongside the practical response of Edmund Rice who lives out the mission of the church sits nicely as two significant models of Christian living for our boys. *St Teresa's College Abergowrie*

What is Edmund Rice Education Australia?

Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) is the network of schools, entities and offices offering a Catholic education in the tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice.

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 member schools enrolling almost 40,000 students through all states and territories of Australia. As part of their mission within the Church and shaped by the spirit and charism of

Blessed Edmund Rice, schools offer an education guided by *The Charter for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition*. Schools operate in dioceses with the mandate of the local Bishop.

Since its establishment, EREA has sought to develop mutually beneficial relationships with schools which have previously been connected to the Edmund Rice charism in Australia or who seek to have such a connection — there are now nearly forty schools which have sought this relationship with EREA. These are known as Associates.



The Touchstones

EREA schools strive to offer a **liberating education**, based on **gospel spirituality**, within an **inclusive community** committed to **justice and solidarity**.

These are the four Touchstones by which the authenticity of Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition is measured.

What does Association bring?

Association is based on identity, not governance or management.

Associate schools will be supported in their desire to be part of a tradition in education through building relationships with EREA member schools and other Associates. Identity is nurtured through engagement, as desired, in a range of identity related services which support the continuation or development of the charism of the school.

Services include:

- participation in core formation programs offered by EREA in collaboration with the Oceania Province of the Christian Brothers;
- access to school based formation provision;
- involvement in appropriate gatherings of Principals, Deputy Principals, Identity Leaders, Social Justice co-ordinators and other staff;
- access to identity related publications and resources;
- participation in EREA events such as immersions, symposiums, student leadership workshops, pastoral care conferences;
- advice and support in ways to enrich the understanding and articulation of charism within school communities;
- support in the gathering & development of curriculum materials related to the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice;
- access to a global network of Edmund Rice educators.

What is asked of Associates?

An Associate School commits to core components related to identity.

It makes a commitment to:

- ensuring that leaders, staff, School Board and students participate in formation to enrich understanding and articulation of the Edmund Rice charism as it is expressed today in schools and ministries;
- participating where appropriate in national and regional EREA events;
- supporting Edmund Rice ministries;
- using the EREA Charter to ensure that those with governance and leadership responsibilities are committed to the foundations underpinning the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice;
- incorporating the lived expression of the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice into mission statements and planning documents;
- liaising appropriately with other Edmund Rice Schools, Associate Schools and ministries.

By agreement, a school may use *An Associate School of Edmund Rice Education Australia* or *Associated with Edmund Rice Education Australia* in its signage, publications and documentation.

An Associate School will participate in an Identity Review every 4 years (approximately) to ensure that the school demonstrates commitment to the charism of Edmund Rice Australia in its signage, publications and documentation.

Edmund Rice Education – a global movement for liberation!



Spotlight on Associates

1

St Paul's Catholic School Bridgewater (TAS), a primary school of approximately 200 students, was founded by the Sisters of Mercy and the Christian Brothers in 1984.

2

MacKillop Catholic College (TAS), one of the most recently established schools to have a connection to the Christian Brothers, was founded in 1994 with Br Tony Smith as Principal. In its twenty-year history it has grown from 59 students to over 500.

3

St Teresa's Abergowrie (QLD), a boarding-school of 200 students in northern Queensland, caters especially for boys from remote Indigenous Australia and overseas communities, and was begun by the Christian Brothers in 1933.

4

Aquinas College (QLD), catering for approximately 1200 secondary students on the Gold Coast, lives out the vision of five patrons: Thomas Aquinas, Catherine McAuley, Caroline Chisholm, Oscar Romero and Edmund Rice.



5

Aranmore Catholic College (WA), an inner-city secondary school with students from over fifty different nationalities, was formed through the amalgamation of the Christian Brothers' school and the neighbouring Sisters of Mercy school in 1986. Br Kevin Paull was the inaugural Principal.

6

St Mary's Cathedral College (NSW) in Sydney's CBD was opened in 1824. Whilst remaining as a diocesan school throughout its history, the Christian Brothers administered the College with a brother as Principal from 1901 to 2015. It now provides secondary education for over 700 boys.

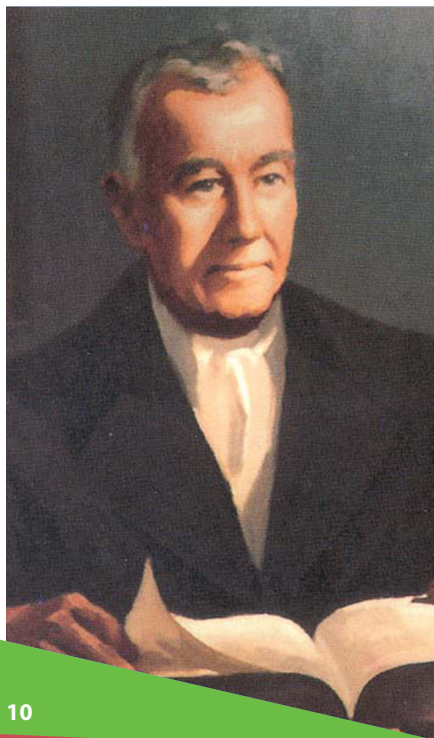
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Aquinas College Ringwood (VIC) was established in 1961 as one of the first boys' Catholic regional colleges. It was administered by the Christian Brothers until amalgamation with the girls' college in 1979. With almost 1700 students, this coeducational, secondary college is inspired by the ideals of Saints Thomas Aquinas and Dominic and lives out the charism of patrons, Mary MacKillop and Edmund Rice.

Who was Edmund Ignatius Rice?

Edmund Rice was an Irish man of the 18th and 19th Century who had the dream of creating a better world for poor young people through education.

Edmund was a man committed deeply to his faith, inspired by the Gospel story of Jesus, and who understood the unjust reality of his times. In 1802, following the birth of his daughter and the tragic death of his wife, he established a school in Waterford, a city where many impoverished youth were excluded from education.



The education Edmund offered flowed from his awareness of “Christ present and appealing to him in the poor” [Christian Brothers’ Charism Statement, 1982]. Reflecting Edmund’s own core beliefs, an Edmund Rice education is faith based, relevant to the needs and futures of students, inclusive and challenges the injustices of the time. As his work developed, a number of men joined Edmund and formed, with him, a religious community - the Christian Brothers.

Were we to know the merit and value of only going from one street to another to serve a neighbour for the love of God, we should prize it more than silver and gold.

- Edmund Rice

Give to the poor in handfuls.

- Edmund Rice



Stories from our Associates

We have the justice, solidarity and Gospel spirituality from Rice, the recognition of service to the needs of others from the Josephites and the authentic pursuit of scholarly excellence from the Dominicans. Our community is all the richer from the multiple charisms it has embraced since beginning in 1961.

Aquinas College Ringwood

A key expression of our Edmund Rice connection is our Footsteps Pilgrimage to Ireland and Italy which is run every second year. This trip takes students and staff on a journey along the footsteps of St Columban and Blessed Edmund Rice and allows a deeper understanding of the journey of Edmund Rice.

St Columbans' College Caboolture

We value the fact that we have a common story with other school communities in NSW, in Australia and around the world: the story of Edmund Rice and the Christian Brothers.

St Patrick's College Sutherland

Who are the Christian Brothers?

The Christian Brothers are a Catholic Religious Institute whose members dedicate their lives to the service of others, particularly those at the margins of society.

The Christian Brothers began their work in Australia in 1868, with their first school, now Parade College, Melbourne, being established in 1871. Since then thousands of young men and women have graduated from over 120 schools offering an education in the tradition of Edmund's first school in Ireland.

Whilst their ministry in Australia has been largely based around education, their focus in recent years, particularly since handing their schools to the governance of others, has been on returning to the margins and working in community development, advocacy, Indigenous ministry, with refugees and in other social justice related areas locally and internationally.



Brother Paul Oakley (2nd from left), EREA President, at Hennessy College, Young to present their Certificate of Association, February 2016

Stories from our Associates

The association allows us connection with other EREA schools, particularly through ERA for Change, and has helped us cultivate a culture within the College that highly values the EREA Touchstones. *St Columban's College Caboolture*

For our Founders' Day celebrations in 2015 our staff and students put words into action and showed a compassionate awareness of the plight of the poor and injured. The whole school participated in a Walkathon to raise just under \$6000 to donate to Christian Brother Thomas Oliver Pickett, known as Brother Olly. Brother Olly is

the driving force behind Wheelchairs for Kids, an organisation that builds wheelchairs for disadvantaged children in 70 developing countries. *Trinity College Colac*

The tradition of Edmund Rice and the EREA Charter articulates a story of education expressed by the four Touchstones which are applicable regardless of how quickly or drastically the social milieu changes. Within a school context, the four Touchstones inform direction and provide a framework for school planning, policy and practice. *Mackillop College Hobart*

EREA Formation and Networking Opportunities

National Core Formation Programs

- Galilee (induction program for those new to Catholic education in the Edmund Rice tradition)
- Mt Sinai (staff of 10 years or more)
- Into the Deep (leaders or those aspiring to leadership)
- Break Every Yoke (senior leaders)

Immersion

- South Africa
- India
- South America
- Let's Talk— an Aboriginal immersion in North West NSW

Pilgrimages

- Ireland and Geneva

Conferences & Networking Opportunities


- Principals
- Deputy Principals
- Identity Leaders
- Business Managers
- Junior School Leaders
- Pastoral Care Leaders
- Emerging Leaders
- Women in Leadership
- Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders

Symposiums—biannual

- 2016—Celebrating Catholic Identity through Ritual and Liturgy
- Previous Symposiums—Advocacy and Human Rights; Service and Solidarity Learning; Immersions

Our schools exist to challenge popular beliefs and dominant cultural values, to ask the difficult questions, to look at life from the standpoint of the minority, the victim, the outcast and the stranger.

- Br Philip Pinto

A photograph of two young women, likely students, wearing school uniforms. They have black face paint in the shape of a cross on their foreheads. They are looking off to the side with serious expressions. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in similar uniforms.

This is where our schools need to come in and say “This is what we stand for – tolerance, inclusion. Everyone is part of the family. Everyone eats at the same table.”

- Br Philip Pinto



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Frequently Asked Questions

1. What does becoming an Associate of EREA cost?

There is no up-front cost. Services provided as part of Associate membership are on a fee for service basis.

2. What is involved in the Identity Review?

The review will take the form of a visit by the EREA National Director of Identity and Liberating Education to the school and a meeting with the school leadership to establish the school's engagement with the Edmund Rice charism.

3. What if my school already has one or more charisms?

A number of schools associated with EREA have one or more charisms. They find it a valuable way of expressing a rich understanding of Catholic education through celebrating each of their charisms.

4. My school has never had any connection with the Christian Brothers. Can it become associated with EREA?

Yes. Association is open to any school that seeks a charism identity which is centred on justice and peace and which aligns with the *Charter for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition*.