



EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA

The RICEAN

SEMESTER TWO – 2023 – VOL 35

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belong
here



EREA acknowledges the Aboriginal Peoples as the Traditional Owners of the Country/ies on which our schools and offices are located. We also acknowledge the Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the Traditional Owners of the Torres Strait Islands.

We pay our respect to Ancestors, Elders and Leaders of the future, as well as to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members of the EREA community. Edmund Rice Education Australia values the spiritual connectedness and relatedness to Country and to all living systems of the world's oldest continuous living cultures.

We value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Knowings, and recognise and honour their stories, cultures and achievements as we walk together for mutual liberation and a truth-telling history for all Australians. In this spirit, we accept the invitation contained in the Uluru Statement from the Heart: to listen to the First Peoples of Australia and work together for reconciliation, justice, equity and healing.



Welcome

Contents

Our Voice in Leadership 4

Charter Leadership Awards
Reconciliation in Action at Edmund Rice College
What will they Build? Farewell to Yr 12s

Our Voice in Learning10

St James Wins National Award
The Liberating Sound of Flexi Music
Freedom to Build a Better World
Liberating Education Across the Nation

Our Voice in the Church.....16

Pope Francis – World Youth Day
The Family at the Heart of Church
The Gift of Blessed Edmund Echoes Louder than Ever

Our Voice in the World22

Edmund Rice Schools Around the World
Australian Global Classroom Partnerships
Final Reflection

Cover Image : Hemmant Flexible Learning Centre, QLD
Below: St Gabriel's School, Castle Hill, NSW



'We believe the God-fire burning in our hearts can transform both ourselves and our world' (Creed of Edmund's People)

Welcome to the final Ricean for 2023 as we give thanks for the year and celebrate all that has been achieved by the students, staff and leaders in the 55 EREA schools across each state and territory of Australia.

At the end of each year, we are called to reflect on the Mission of Catholic education in the Edmund Rice tradition. On 18 November, the arrival 155 years ago of Br Ambrose Treacy and four other Brothers in 1868 in Melbourne was celebrated. From this small beginning, countless schools were established across Australia. The Christian Brothers Oceania Province Leader, Br Gerard Brady asked – 'what would Br Ambrose and those early pioneers think of us today?' The response has to be both personal and communal – what is each of us bringing to the mission and what is each school community bringing?

During 2023 many individuals and communities have responded with faith, generosity of spirit, creativity and innovation, sheer hard work and gentle compassion. We give thanks for the students and families who enliven our schools, the staff and leaders who guide and transform young lives, the School Advisory Councils which actively support each community, the EREA Office members and the governing bodies who are pioneering the reformed governance structures and processes so that we are all Fit for the Mission that has been entrusted to us to transform our world! We especially give thanks for the Christian Brothers in whose footsteps we walk and who worked tirelessly without the resources we enjoy today.

We look forward to 2024 and continuing our strong commitment to Reconciliation and walking with our First Nations people in justice and solidarity, providing all with a liberating education so that we build a more inclusive community inspired by the Gospel.

We wish you all every blessing for Christmas as we pray for peace in our world and count the many blessings we enjoy in Australia.

Philomena Billington, Peter Turner,
Beth Gilligan, Michael Slattery
and Kieran McCarthy

EREA Council, December 2023

OUR VOICE IN LEADERSHIP

Charter Leadership Awards

EREA celebrates the following recipients of the EREA Charter Leadership Awards 2023.

Congratulations to the awardees and the many people who were nominated. The EREA Charter Leadership Awards were first introduced in 2015 as a way of recognising the outstanding contributions made by staff members in the service of our school communities and in support of the vision and Charter of EREA. These awards celebrate the diverse ways in which the Touchstones are brought to life in our schools and recognise the significant leadership role of individuals. We congratulate the recipients of these awards for 2023.

Liberating Education

Lorraine Browne

Staff Formation & Support, Xavier Flexi Schools Network



We celebrate the ways in which Lorraine Browne reflects the Liberating Education Touchstone: her commitment to the intent of Edmund Rice in building confidence, agency and freedom, in and for young people.



Gospel Spirituality

Margaret Dodd

Year 7 Coordinator, St Patrick's, College Ballarat



We celebrate the ways in which Margaret Dodd reflects the Gospel Spirituality Touchstone: seeing Christ in the face and being of parents, staff and students as she creates a community of faith.





Inclusive Community

Gail Purdie

Student Receptionist, St Brendan's College, Yeppoon



We celebrate the ways in which Gail Purdie reflects the Inclusive Community Touchstone: her hospitable, life giving acts of kindness and service which draw people to each other within an Edmund Rice community.



Justice & Solidarity

Tim Kenny

Dean of Identity, St Patrick's College, Shorncliffe



We celebrate the ways in which Tim Kenny reflects the Justice and Solidarity Touchstone: the way he has empowered others to stand beside the other, leading and building a respectful and courageous Edmund Rice community.



Reconciliation in Action

AT EDMUND RICE COLLEGE

Edmund Rice College is situated in Wollongong, New South Wales, and educates over 1000 young men, with a strong focus on the four touchstones of Edmund Rice Education.

Judith Hurley, Director of Identity, reflects on their Reconciliation Journey.

Our goal at Edmund Rice College is to include everyone on an authentic learning journey towards Reconciliation.

Since launching our *Narragunnawali Reconciliation Action Plan*, we have identified particular goals that we hope will bring us closer to living our ideal of an inclusive community, built on justice and solidarity, where everyone is free to be all that God intends them to be. We are particularly proud of the work of our First Nations SRC Prefecture as leaders in our College community, under the guidance of Ms Nadia Neal, the College's First Nations Education Officer.

Relationships, Opportunities, Respect

Our community mentoring program has enabled students to develop a sense of identity and cultural competence. Four local community leaders have been volunteering their time to mentor our First Nations students. Through their work with Layne Brown (Yuin), Zach Stewart (Gamilaroi), Dakota Fierer (Bunjalong Gambyngirr) and Shane Venables (Wiradjuri) our students have embraced the opportunities to build good relationships and understand more of their own cultural roles.

One of our mentors, Bundjalung Gumbaynggir Poet, Dakota Fierer, spoke to all students on the importance of Voice through the spoken word at a whole school assembly and Year 9 English students crafted poems about culture and identity. Indigenous Cultures Day gave them further experiences to learn about artefacts, dance and paint together. These opportunities inspired Year 12 First Nations Prefect Jake Potter to design a mural which was brought to life through collaboration with Mr Riley Nolan. Titled "gadhu-dha djera bubara-dha" (from rough sea to the mountains in Dharawal language), it serves as a vibrant representation of unity and diversity at Edmund Rice College, depicting the profound connection between the school's location where the ocean and the stunning Grandmother mountain, djera, converge, reminding us that we are learning at the

feet of Grandmother. The stars represent the families of the First Nations students, and the songlines in the ocean and mountain were made by each student and staff member adding their fingerprints to the mural.

A Year 12 tradition is our Reconciliation AFL match. The importance of having the event in graduation week demonstrates that Reconciliation is not just about Reconciliation Week but about building respect and good relationships all the time. Finally, one of the most important pieces of the architecture of respect is the development of our Anti-Racism Policy. Recognising that we live in a diverse society, we consulted students, staff and community to develop the policy to reflect our intention to ensure that we are a truly inclusive community. In Term 4 we participated in a whole school lesson about the policy which was developed by our student leaders; the focus aims to inspire us to seek opportunities that deepen a culture of respect and, in doing so, to change the world by our example.

Inspired by our touchstones and the EREA Learning Statement, we have endeavoured to be faithful listeners to the voices of people in our community so that we may journey together on the road to Reconciliation.





What will they Build?

FAREWELL TO YEAR TWELVES

Across Australia, Edmund Rice schools have recently farewelled 1000s of Year 12 students and missioned them to continue to make a difference in the world.

The following words of Michael Lee, Principal of St Mary's College, East St Kilda, captures our hopes and prayers for all our graduating young people.

The graduating Class of 2023 departed the College on Wednesday evening with a Mass and Graduation Dinner. Eucharist is central to the Catholic faith, so it was fitting that this dignified and beautiful Mass was central to farewell celebrations.

The whole point of a Catholic school is that every student feels known, loved and challenged – challenged to contribute to a culture and the Common Good, and challenged to learn what excellence looks like. The entire evening reflected a confident and grateful parent group, and relationships of trust, respect and affirmation between the students and their teachers. This was made clear and evident by Nick Johnston, father of College Captain Raj Johnston, when he addressed the room from a parent perspective:

"When we returned to Melbourne in late 2017, we struggled to find a school for Raj. We were greatly relieved when we got a call from then CBC's Principal, Gerald Bain-King, saying a place had become available. At interview, he promised that CBC excelled at an all-round education and that it supported families with sound values for their children.

We felt we had come to the right place.

St Mary's has delivered on Gerald's promise, and then some. We are so grateful for those other schools knocking Raj back because this has worked out far better than we would have thought.

Families and students should be incredibly proud of what they have achieved with the school, for their children. We parents will always be grateful to the teachers and staff at St Mary's, not just for the time and energy they have given our boys, but for their devotion and care." - Nick Johnston

My speech to the Graduating students took on the theme of challenging them to be someone who contributes positively to their community.

Melbourne's real impetus was gained from the gold rush, making it the richest city in the British Empire for 20 years. It was the centre of industrial, cultural, political, financial and Catholic life in this country for a century.

Melbournians invested their money in roads, bridges, civic buildings, art museums, hospitals, schools and public parks and gardens, all of which, spoke of the importance Melbournians placed on Civic Progress and the Common Good. All of this was built with migrant labour, gold money and taxes, engineers, construction experts, town planners, landscapers, sculptures, etc. Our citizens have been cared for by doctors, nurses, teachers and carers, most of whom, learnt their skills in institutions of learning here in Melbourne.

My questions to each member the graduating class are:

What will you build?

What skills will you acquire?

Who will you care for, or teach, or defend as you make your own way in promoting the Civic Progress of your community, your city and your Commonwealth?

Each of us here is proud that you possess, in some measure, the courage, empathy, understanding and virtue that will enable each of you to contribute in some measure to the progress of us all.

For a school as old as this one, people would expect that we would be good at farewelling our graduates. Just the same, there was a special atmosphere of pride and expectation in the great contribution our students will make to their city, country and the global community.

Congratulations to everybody involved in the success of six years of dedication, commitment and achievement.



OUR VOICE IN LEARNING

Education in our Schools is Liberating

ST JAMES WINS NATIONAL AWARD

St James College, Brisbane, was named winner at the Australian Training Awards in the School Pathways to Vocational Education and Training (VET) category for its excellence and innovation in delivery of VET programs to secondary school students.

In its 30th year, the training awards highlight the importance of skill-based careers and skills excellence across Australia, and acknowledges best practice in VET education and training.

St James innovative approach to education focuses on integrated and bespoke pathways for students, and has been transformative, particularly for its diverse and multicultural student body. Its commitment to providing unrestricted access to VET pathways has also been a key factor in its success.

In her acceptance speech, St James Principal, Ann Rebgetz, emphasised the importance of excellence, innovation and accessible education stating, "Our education in our school is liberating."

"This really is a win, a win for skills in training, but a win about excellence and innovation in schools and about access to that."

"We have many students from refugee backgrounds and First Nations backgrounds and so to think we're the best is really an accolade that goes back to those students believing in themselves."

The award was presented by the Minister for Training and Skills Development the Hon Di Farmer MP who said, "The awards bring the best of the best of the country's training talent together and I was privileged to be able to be with our Queensland finalists and celebrate their fantastic achievements."

St James College's win at the Australian Training Awards is testament to their commitment to empowering and skilling all students, and bridging the equity gap in education.

Source: Australian Training Awards



Our Voice in Learning



The Liberating Sound of Flexi Music

St Joseph's School, Geelong Campus, Victoria, is an inclusive, supportive school for 12-25 year olds looking for an alternative to mainstream education. Their music program is one part of the Liberating Education that they offer. Barry Davis, Music Teacher, shares about the SongMakers Program and the wonderful impact on the young people involved.

The first year of VET Music at St Josephs has been a cracker! Young people have been working together all year to learn how to play their instruments, play songs together and create music of their own. A highlight of our year was the delivery of a pilot program for APRA SongMakers which gave young people the opportunity to write and record music with industry professionals. SongMakers was developed to promote contemporary songwriting among high school music students and has historically worked with government schools. However, St Josephs worked closely with them this year to tailor a custom program for a flexible learning environment.

Over six weeks, beginning in late August, our young people were coached by mentors Katie Wighton, Sebastian

Morales (Reggie Banks), Jackson Phelan (RAT!Hammock), Beatrice Lewis (Haiku Hands), Claire Rayner (Rromarin), and Al Parkinson on lyric writing, song composition and music production.

The experience was profound! Not only was it a fantastic opportunity to learn how to write music but it was also an invaluable opportunity for our young people to learn how to work collaboratively.

There were lots of laughs (and some tears) as young people were supported by mentors to work outside their comfort zones, exploring and expressing their thoughts and emotions, and exposing their vulnerabilities, through writing and recording music. By the end of the six weeks, the young people had written and recorded three songs. More importantly, they had formed some invaluable relationships with the mentors and experienced success in the face of significant challenges and high expectations. We are grateful to APRA SongMakers and the mentors for taking the time to help us write some great songs... and also for showing us just what is possible if we're prepared to give something a go.

Freedom to build a better world

In 2022, EREA launched its Learning Statement: *Implementing Liberating Practice*, which calls on all of our schools to *explicitly co-create the learning conditions, dispositions and relationships to enable deep listening, confidence, agency and freedom.*

Each school considers its own context, and the hopes and dreams of its community to design a response to this call. CBC Fremantle, Western Australia, is responding in the following way:

More than two centuries ago, urged on by a deep sense of social justice, a successful businessman-turned-educator named Edmund Rice drew up a daring curriculum for his new school that would provide an education to liberate the young men of his town from the oppression of poverty. Centuries later, Edmund Rice schools around the globe still seek to provide liberating education to their young people and, while this may look vastly different to the brilliant scheme of the founder of the Christian Brothers, the mission remains as relevant as ever in our 21st century.

How do we get our children to engage in and enjoy the learning process, and come out the other end of their years of schooling prepared to live meaningful and purposeful lives?

At CBC Fremantle, the Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) Touchstone of Liberating Education addresses this perpetual challenge, highlighting the College's commitment to offer teaching and learning experiences that seek to develop students into young men capable of building a better world. A Liberating Education provides skills that allow students to distinguish between what is true and what is false. It is as much about character and

citizenship, as about careers and commerce. It aspires to teach our developing boys to be cultured global citizens, with the capacity to understand the choices that await them throughout their adult lives as employees, employers, parents, partners, consumers, leaders, voters and arbiters of ethical decisions. It aims to assist tomorrow's gentlemen to comprehend the past and build a future civilisation that is concerned with human dignity and the preciousness of our environment, where humane ethics transcend technology and democratic ideals overcome exclusivity and exploitation. These values inform the entire curriculum and draw on different analytical perspectives – history, ecology, science, art, technology, mathematics and faith.

At a speech in New York in 2002, Christian Brothers Congregation Leader, Br Philip Pinto, captured the essence of Liberating Education at an Edmund Rice school when he said: "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."

The students' effective exercise of freedom in their learning calls for qualities such as honesty, self-discipline, courage, determination and responsibility.

Click here to learn more about how CBC is implementing the EREA Learning Statement



Our Voice in Learning



OUR VOICE IN LEARNING

Liberating Education Across the Nation



St Laurence's College, South Brisbane, QLD, receives two awards from WasteSMART Brisbane for their Urban Farm



St Pius X, Chatswood, NSW, joins with Br Rice High, Chicago, to dialogue about outreach and service in the world, as part of the EREBB Global Classroom Partners Program



St Paul's College, Gilles Plains, SA, students spent time with Mr Andrew Steiner, a Holocaust survivor, learning about prejudice, genocide and how to stand up rather than stand by



Edmund Rice Flexible Learning School, Elizabeth, SA, students joined the catwalk for the Ice Factor SA Spectacular, and were able to put their learning into action



St Joseph's Flexible Learning School, Alice Springs, NT, students collaborate as part of their numeracy learning

Our Voice in Learning - Liberating Education Across the Nation



Aquinas College, Perth, WA, Yr 9 students shared their project Based Learning picture story books with students from the Junior School



St Joseph's College, Geelong, VIC, students travelled to Daly River to immerse themselves in First Nations culture and wisdom



St Kevin's College, Melbourne, VIC, Yr 12 student, designed this Table Tennis Table as part of VCE Product Design and Technology



St Edward's College, Gosford, NSW, Yr 10s climb to the top of the mountain as part of their Outdoor Education Program



St Virgil's College, Hobart, TAS, students get hands on as they learn about science

OUR VOICE IN THE CHURCH

God is Calling You By Name

Pope Francis recently welcomed

young pilgrims from around the world to World Youth Day in Portugal.

Several current and former students from Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice tradition attended.

The following is the Holy Father's welcome to the pilgrims.

Dear young people, good evening!

Welcome and thank you for being here. I am pleased to see all of you, and also to hear the delightful noise you are making! This makes me share your infectious joy. It is good to be together in Lisbon. You were invited here by me, and by the Patriarch of Lisbon, whom I thank for his words of greeting. You were invited also by your Bishops, priests, catechists and youth leaders. Let us thank all those who invited you and all those who worked to make this meeting possible. Let's give them a fine round of applause! Yet, above all, it is Jesus who called you here: let us thank Jesus with another round of applause!

You are not here by accident. The Lord has called you, not only in these days, but from the very beginning of your days. He called you by name. Let us listen to the word of God that called us by name. Try to imagine these three words written in large letters. Then consider that they were written within you, on your hearts, as if setting the direction of your lives, the meaning of who you are; you have been *called by name*.

Each of us is *called by name*. You, you and you, all of us here, myself included; all of us have been *called by name*. Not impersonally; but by name. Think of this: Jesus called me by name. His words are inscribed in our hearts, and we come to realize that they are written in the hearts of every one of us, as a kind of title that tells people who we are, who you are. *You have been called by name*. None of us is a Christian by chance; all of us were called by name. At the beginning of the story of our lives, before any talents we may have, before any shadows or wounds we may be carrying in our hearts, we were called. Why? Because we are loved. This is something beautiful. In God's eyes, we are precious children, and he calls us each day in order to embrace and encourage us, to make of us a unique and original masterpiece. Each of us is an "original" whose beauty we can only begin to glimpse.

Dear young people: at this World Youth Day, let us help each other to recognize this reality; may these days be *vibrant echoes of God's call of love*, for we are precious in God's eyes,



Our Voice in the Church - Pope Francis WYD Message

despite the fact that sometimes our own eyes are dimmed by negativity and dazzled by distractions. Let these be days when my name, and your names, spoken with friendship by brothers and sisters of many languages and nations, resonate as unique news in history, for God's heart beats uniquely for you. Let these be days when we fully realize in our hearts that we are loved just as we are. Not as we want to be, but as we are now. This is the starting point of World Youth Day but above all it is the starting point of our lives. Young men and women, we are loved the way we are, without makeup. Do you understand that? And each of us is called by name.

That is no mere figure of speech; indeed, it is the word of God (cf. Is 43:1, 2 Tim 1:9). Dear friends, if God calls you by name, it means that for God none of us is a number, but a face and a heart. I would like each of you to remember that many people know your name, yet they do not call you by name. Certainly your name is known, it appears on social networks and is processed by algorithms that associate it with likes and preferences, all of which are useful for market research, yet it does not begin to approach you in your uniqueness. How many wolves hide behind smiles of false goodness, saying that they know you, though they do not love you. They insist that they believe in you and promise that you will become someone but then abandon you when you no longer matter. These are the illusions of the virtual world and we must be careful not to let ourselves be deceived, for many realities that attract us and promise happiness are later shown to be what they really are: soap bubbles, superfluous things that we don't need and that leave us empty inside. Let me tell you: Jesus is not like that. He trusts you, each of you, each of us, because each of us matters to him, each one of you matters to him. That is how Jesus is.

That is why we, his Church, *are the community of those who are called*: not of people who are better than others – no, absolutely not – but of sinners, called as such. Let us think seriously for a moment about that; we are called as we are, with our problems and limitations, our overflowing joy, our desire to be better and to get ahead in this world. We are called as we are. Think of this: Jesus calls me as I am, not as I would like to be. We are the community of brothers and sisters of Jesus, sons and daughters of the same Father.

Friends, I want to be clear with you, for you are allergic to falsity and empty words; in the Church, there is room for everyone. Everyone. In the Church, no one is left out or left over. There is room for everyone. Just the way we are. Everyone. Jesus says this clearly. When he sends the apostles to invite people to the banquet which a man had

prepared, he tells them, "Go out and bring in everyone", young and old, healthy and infirm, righteous and sinners. Everyone, everyone, everyone! In the Church there is room for everyone. "Father, but I am a wretch, is there room for me?" There is room for everyone! All together now, everyone, repeat with me in your own language: Everyone, everyone, everyone. I can't hear you: again! Everyone. Everyone. Everyone. That is the Church, the Mother of all. There is room for everyone. The Lord does not point a finger but opens his arms. It is odd: the Lord does not know how to do this (pointing), but that (opening wide). He embraces us all. He shows us Jesus on the cross who opened his arms wide in order to be crucified and die for us.

Jesus never closes the door, never, but invites you to enter; come and see. Jesus receives, Jesus welcomes. In these days, each of us transmits the love of Jesus. God loves you. God calls you. How lovely this is! God loves me. God calls me. He wants me to be close to him.

You too, this evening, have asked me questions, a lot of questions. Don't ever stop asking questions, because that is good; it is better, often, than giving answers, because asking questions is a sign of restless, and restlessness is the best remedy for mere routine, for sometimes routine can dull the soul. Each of us has his or her own questions. Let us bring those questions with us and let us share them in dialogue among ourselves. Let us bring them with us when we pray in God's presence. As life goes on, those questions get answered; we just have to wait for them. Here is something interesting: God loves surprises. He is not a robot; his love is always surprising. He loves to surprise. He always keeps us alert and he keeps us surprised.

Dear young friends, I encourage you to reflect on the beautiful fact that God loves us. God loves us as we are, not how we want to be or how society wants us to be. As we are! He calls us with our faults and failings, our limitations and our hopes in life. That is how God calls us. Trust, because God is a Father and a Father who loves us. This is not very easy. And for this reason we need a great help, the Mother of the Lord. She is our Mother too. She is our Mother.

That is all I wanted to tell you. Don't be afraid, take heart, move forward, knowing that all of us are "mortgaged" by the love God has for us. God loves us.

Let us say it all together: God loves us.
Louder, I can't hear you.

Thank you. Good-bye.

The Family at the Heart of Church

EVERYONE MATTERS

*When a boy starts his journey
at Nudgee College, he becomes part of 10,000 brothers.
The bonds that are formed among students often resemble that of brothers but, for some boys,
their real siblings are also part of the Nudgee College brotherhood.*

New Year 5 student Christopher Dallimore had a wealth of Nudgee College knowledge before he had even started, with three older brothers already at the school.

Charles, currently in Year 10, was the first Dallimore brother to attend the College, beginning as a Year 5 student in 2018. William started the following year and said it was great having an older brother to go to when he needed advice,

“Having an older and younger brothers is a good segue into being familiar and friends with people in older and younger year levels,” he said

Henry was the third Dallimore through the gates, commencing in Year 5 in 2021. He said coming from a small school to a big one was really exciting and it was great having two older brothers to welcome him.

“I could go to them for help because they’d already been through everything I have and they’re always there to talk to,” Henry said.

Once Christopher arrived this year, Charles said it was a great experiencing Nudgee College life as a family. “We all played Volleyball in Term 1 and we get to go to events together,” Charles said.

With four different boys, each having their own talents and goals, their parents, David and Rosemary Dallimore, said they wanted a school that fitted the breadth of education they were seeking.

“The boys have really thrived, taking up every opportunity to succeed at Nudgee College in sport, the arts and academics,” Rosemary said. As a family, we are thrilled with everything Nudgee College has offered our boys.”

In the Boarding Village, there is also a group of four brothers who are experiencing Nudgee College life as a family – the Raulunis. Noah was the first Raulunis brother to join the Nudgee College Boarding community, commencing in 2020 as a Year 9 student. Currently in Year 12, Noah lives in Waterford Boarding House with his younger brother Issac, who started at the College last year and is currently in Year 10.

“I visited Nudgee College a bit, when it was just Noah at the school, throughout the Rugby season, so I was keen to come because I’d already met some boys,” Issac said.

“When I arrived, it was exactly what I thought – the brotherhood, history and culture just make it such a strong, outstanding school, helping with my education and creating better pathways for me.”

The two youngest Rauluni brothers, Elijah in year 8 and Joseph in Year 7, both moved into the O’Brien Boarding House at the start of the year.

“I was pretty excited to come here after talking to Noah about it,” Elijah said. “The connections you build with the friends you make here, you’ll have them for a long time.”



Christopher, William, Charles and Henry Dullimore



Joseph, Elijah, Issac and Noah Rauluni

When deciding on where to send their sons to school, Mr Jacob and Mrs Vanessa Rauluni said there were many factors to consider. "We love the inclusive Edmund Rice approach to education and spirituality," Vanessa said.

"We wanted our sons to be resilient, self-confident young men with a sense of community." Jacob added that they wanted to provide them with the variety of opportunities that a Brisbane-based boarding school can provide.

From making friends with boarders from all walks of life, to being actively involved in the diverse range of sporting programs, the Rauluni brothers are immersing themselves in all Nudgee College has to offer.

"I love the all round approach to school life," Vanessa said. "Everyone gets involved in everything and supports on another – everyone matters."



The Gift of Blessed Edmund Echoes Louder than Ever

A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE

EREA Celebrated its 16-year birthday in October this year.

The following message, from the EREA Council, captures the hopes and dreams of an Edmund Rice education as we move into a future full of hope.

We extend to all of you our warm wishes on the occasion of our sixteenth birthday.

As we enter the last part of the 2023 school year, we take this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation to you for your unwavering dedication to the children and young people who are entrusted into our care. They are always our hope for our future – locally and globally.

In August of this year, as Pope Francis spoke to the 1.5 million young people gathered in Lisbon for the World Youth Day final Mass, he urged them to shine, listen, and to be unafraid.

He told them not to let go of their great dreams of changing the world and to never be stopped by fear.

We encourage you to take these words of wisdom from Pope Francis and to continue to encourage our students to be young people of courage and to be beacons of light for what is right and just.

Shaping our students to be and become people of justice is part of our purpose as Edmund Rice Schools. We need to be exemplary in designing and constructing invitational opportunities through creative processes to achieve this.

We also take this opportunity to extend our deep gratitude to you for continuing to embrace the Uluru Statement from the Heart and working tirelessly for recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People as our First Nations people.

Much will undoubtedly be said about the 40:60 divide in our country that has been highlighted in the Voice Referendum outcome. We are filled with sadness and disappointment at this outcome.

The divide says much about us as a nation and the work that needs to be done to educate our communities, address racism, enable authentic truth listening and the building of right relationships, based on acknowledgement and respect. We can assure you that EREA's commitment to Reconciliation will be stronger than ever.

In the last 12 months we have seen incredible and eloquent First Nations leaders – young and old, share their wisdom, their aspirations and their extraordinary courage.

Their intelligent and compassionate outreach has been remarkable and their endurance inspirational. They have revealed what the heart of our nation can be and could look like. We will continue to look to them and support them in the journey ahead.

At this time, when we look to our global family, we see the ongoing suffering caused by protracted war in Ukraine and the emerging terror and devastating conflict in Israel and the Gaza. The cumulative impact of climate change on communities continues to cause havoc, poverty and death.

Pope Francis again reminds us that the many moral, social, political and economic crises we are experiencing are all



Congratulations to Ben Carroll, old boy of St Bernard's College, Essendon, on his recent appointment as Victorian Deputy Premier and Minister for Education

interconnected. He says that inequalities, starvation of whole communities and homelessness of refugees are 'open wounds' that remain to be healed. Pope Francis concludes that, "Only by responding generously to these situations, with an altruism inspired by God's infinite and merciful love, will we be able to build a new world and contribute to the extension of his kingdom, which is a kingdom of love, justice and peace."

The gift of Blessed Edmund Rice, passed on to us and now enacted in a different time and context, echoes louder than ever.

Blessed Edmund shunned complacency as he faced the 'open wounds' in his city and committed to enacting change wherever he could and called others to be people of action.

He knew that he could make an essential difference in his society through education of the poor and marginalised, and mobilising others to embrace education as a transformative possibility.

As we mark 16 years as an EREA family, we continue to be called to do the same work of liberating education with faith, belief in the power of love for others and resolve to support and enable our young people to shine, listen and to be unafraid.

Our prayers and active commitment are with you all in this shared and significant work.



OUR VOICE IN THE WORLD

Edmund Rice Schools Around the World



St John's CBC, Cape Town, South Africa, hosts students from Colegio Stella Maris, Uruguay and St Vincent's, India, for an EREBB three-way solidarity immersion



St Patrick's College, Kimberley, South Africa, joins students from St Patrick's College, Ballarat, Australia, to explore Faith as a Force for Good as part of the EREBB Global Classroom Partners Program



Mount Sion Waterford, Ireland, students celebrate Eid al-Adha in the old Brothers' Chapel



Damien Memorial, Honolulu, USA, joins with Damien High School, California, to bring music to life for their communities



Changa Changa School, Mazubuka, Zambia, plants trees as part of their commitment to sustainability

Our Voice in the World - Edmund Rice Schools Around the World



St Vincent's High and Technical School, Asansol, India, students undertake the Greenathon Marathon in support of the environment



Ruben Primary School, Nairobi, Kenya, commemorates World Aids Day and Girls in Education



Edmund Rice Schools from across North America joined together on a solidarity immersion to the border of the US and Mexico, learning about the challenges and hopes of families who cross the border



Peruvian Edmund Rice students join together for a youth leadership program, focussed on the UN Sustainable Development Goals

OUR VOICE IN THE WORLD

EREBB GLOBAL CLASSROOM PARTNERS

Global schools that Australian schools have partnered with to learn from, with and about each other...while building a better world for all

UNITED STATES

Brother Rice High School – Chicago
Br Rice College – Detroit
All Hallows College – New York



CANADA

St. Thomas More Collegiate – Vancouver
Vancouver College



SIERRA LEONE

St Ambrose Academy – Freetown

PERU

Fe y Alegria – Lima



URUGUAY

Stella Maris College – Montevideo



ARGENTINA

Cardinal Newman College – Buenos Aires



ENGLAND

St Edward's Primary School – Runnymede
St Edward's College – Liverpool
St Ambrose College – Altrincham

NORTHERN IRELAND

St. Mary's CBG – Belfast



IRELAND

Blarney Street CBS – Cork
The Abbey School – Tipperary
Ardscoil an Mara – Waterford
Rice College – Ennis
CBS Kilkenny



GHANA

Kanvilli Roman Catholic Basic School

During the pandemic, EREA and Edmund Rice England launched Global Classroom Partners to enable young people to connect, raise their voices and dialogue about creating a better for all, based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Since that time young people from Australian schools have partnered with Edmund Rice schools across 14 different countries, adding their voices to the global SDG movement.

The program has also supported links between Edmund Rice schools in other countries.

TANZANIA

Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School – Arusha



India

St Edmund's High School – Shillong
St Columban's School – Delhi
St. Vincent's Technical School – Asansol
St Patrick's High School – Asansol
St John's High School – Chandigarh



ZIMBABWE

CBC – Bulawayo

SOUTH AFRICA

St John's CBC – Cape Town
Mount Edmund College – Pretoria
St Boniface's College – Kimberley
Veritas Springs College – Johannesburg
St Patrick's College – Kimberley
CBC Boksburg – Johannesburg





Ambrose Treacy College, Queensland.

Students collecting for the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal. All our schools across the nation have been involved in outreach this Christmas and have brought goodwill and joy to those on the margins of our world.

That they may have life, and have it to the full

Nano, Edmund, formed in your separate stories
in the heart of the one Lord,
you looked on the hard realities of your world
and saw the Spirit's boundless possibilities.

Living always closer to your people,
you learned to share the Spirit's urgent longing:
"that they may have life, and have it to the full."

Hearts broken open to the world's pain,
hearts afire for justice and compassion,
hearts free for service, joyful in welcome,
steadfast to endure,
you walked with firm steps, hands open
to receive life and share life,
learning to be sister, brother with each one
especially with the poorest, with the least.

At home in the Presence of the One,
your lives show forth a unity not clear
when you walked your separate journeys here,
a unity of vision and of heart.

Together teach us all who walk your way how to live
as brothers, sisters, now in our world which yearns
in travail still to be re-born, one family in God.

Sr. Raphael Consedine PBVM



*EREA Trustee, Beth Gilligan,
and EREA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Officer,
Andrew Kirkpatrick, at Blessed Edmund Rice's Tomb, during the
EREBB Global Congress 2023.*



*Edmund Rice Education Australia
offers a liberating education, based on a Gospel spirituality,
within an inclusive community
committed to justice and solidarity.*



EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA