



Edmund Rice
Camps SA

Annual Report 2016



Edmund Rice Camps SA

Edmund Rice Camps (SA) Inc.

www.edmundricecampssa.org

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Chairperson's Report

2016 was an exciting year for Edmund Rice Camps South Australia (ERCSA). Over the previous two years there has been a concerted emphasis on developing our operational base in pursuit of our goal of delivering, 'services and programs that are mission inspired, engaging, responsive, and mutually empowering.' This success is evidenced in the strong relationships that we are developing with our referral agencies and the growing requests for our services. This is testament, in large part, to the committed and service oriented young people, who are the heart and soul of our organisation. As a volunteer based organisation, our strength is derived from this volunteer group, and we are proud to say that this group is growing and consolidating their commitment to ERCSA.

Acknowledgement for our continued growth and success also needs to go to our committed staff. Our numbers in the office grew in 2016, with the appointment of Jessica Alikaris as our Program and Administration Officer. Jess has been of invaluable assistance in supporting our Executive Officer, Andrée, in the development of our office procedures and camp planning, support that is integral to the successful running of our programs and services. Jess is also an important contact point for our volunteers and the growth of these relationships is an important part of our unity as an organisation. In addition to Jess, we have employed several of our talented volunteers over the course of the year, in different projects that have benefited from their individual skills and expertise. It is humbling to work with an organisation that has such a depth of skill and commitment and we are pleased to be able to offer these employment opportunities to our young people, as they arise.

Acknowledgement must also go to our Executive Officer, Andrée Brown, who works tirelessly in the pursuit of growing ERCSA. Andrée's work over the past year has seen our capacity as an organisation to deliver best practice services grow exponentially. Her focus and commitment in both a heartfelt and strategic way, has been a vital element to the growth of ERCSA. Looking forward to 2017, and the evolution of our staffing base, Andrée will transition out of the Executive Officer role in to a consultant role focused specifically on our sustainability program. This is an exciting move for us which will enhance our capacity to deliver best practice programs and services and move ERCSA toward a sustainable, long term future.

The end of 2016 saw the departure of Richard Mavros and Adam Whitefield from our Province personnel support team. Richard, in his capacity as Regional Mission Coordinator, and Adam as our Regional Consultant, provided a high level of organisational and mission-based expertise to ERCSA which will be a large gap for the organisation to fill. We are very pleased that Adam will continue his relationship with ERCSA as a Board member. We look forward to developing our relationship with the Province through their new support structure, and to working closely with Br Shane Wood in his role as, Regional Ministry Coordinator.

I would like to thank my fellow Board members for their work through 2016. I would like to make special mention of Simon Dash who left us at the end of the year to move home to Queensland. Simon was a true friend to ERCSA in both his role as a Board member, and as the principal of Rostrevor College. Simon's generosity in sharing Rostrevor's resources with us has been an important part of consolidating



our camp delivery base over the last two years. We wish him well in his new principal role in Hervey Bay.

During 2016, the Board moved to a sub-committee structure, forming sub-committees in response to our strategic plan pillars of, Governance, Stewardship and Risk, People and Formation, and Sustainability and Development. Sustainability was a significant focus for 2016 in terms of Board planning. ERCSA is excited about exploring new possibilities and partnerships which will enable us to continue to deliver our programs and services into the future. To this end, the Board sub-committee, Sustainability and Development, under the guidance of its chair, Board member, Katheryn Curnow has employed considerable skill and expertise in developing an approach to 'plan strategies that builds the organisations capacity for a sustainable future'.

The sub-committee set the groundwork for a follow up Board planning day in early 2017 to establish the way forward. We are looking forward to what 2017 may bring in terms of new partnerships.

To all of you who have an interest in or a part to play in the future of ERCSA, I would like to offer these words of encouragement; we are in a strong position. We have exceptional people in our volunteer group, our staff, Board members and the Brothers who want to continue leveraging this strength to deliver our programs and services to those in our community who are most in need. I am looking forward to 2017 and the possibilities that it holds for ERCSA, and hope that you will be there with us to see how the story continues to unfold.

Ceinwyn Elleway, Chairperson of the Board



3/4

of clients with health issues are on the autism spectrum.

138

registered clients as of October 2016.

12%

of clients are under the guardianship of the minister, and rising.

1 in 10

clients were identified as victims of bullying.

Executive Officer's Report

Our work in 2016 has certainly been about capacity building and investment in the organisation. At every level, we have reviewed, discerned and responded to the needs of our children, families and young adult volunteers. We have improved the quality of the camp experience by working on:

- Strategies aligned to the Strategic Plan
- Building efficient office systems and processes
- Developing staffing priorities and structures
- Planning volunteer recruitment and support
- Defining our relationships to referring agencies and workers
- Listening to children and families who utilise our service or who would like to come on a camp
- Reviewing and developing policy and guidelines
- Developing efficient communication systems

Our staffing model remained at 1.6 FTE for the year. I thank Deb Winchester who moved from the Administration Role early in the year to work for the Oceania Province of the Christian Brothers. She established excellent working protocols and systems in the office that we built on as the year progressed. Jess Alikaris took up the position of Program and Administration Officer in May and has maintained the commitment to build on and develop the procedures we need.

In 2016 we delivered 40 service delivery days as week long camps, weekend camps for children, family camps, the Harmony Weekend and activity

days. We maintained the same number of delivery days as in 2015 but increased the number of children, families and volunteers participating per program and increased the quality of the camp experience as evidenced by our regular surveys of leaders and participants on each camp.

We focused on the development of significant relationships with key referring agencies and thank them for the manner in which they have been available to us when referring and caring for the participants on the camps. They contribute enormously to the success of the camp experience by referring appropriately, supporting the families in the lead up to camps and assisting us with issues that might arise for a child on or after a camp. We look forward to continuing to develop this relationship further.

I want to thank the local community of Christian Brothers for their support and involvement in our camps. Their story telling and participation in the Commissioning Ceremonies have deepened our connection to the story of Edmund and the stories of those who inspire us to work to serve.

The Board has work tirelessly to strategically position Edmund Rice Camps SA for a successful future. I would like to particularly thank Ceinwyn Elleway and Adam Whitefield for their daily support of my work and their diligence in determining what is best for the organisation and the young people we serve.

Volunteers are at the heart of our operations and it is a privilege to work with such commitment and passion each day. We increased the number of volunteers on our database from 100 to 169 across the year. More volunteers have chosen to work in

the organisation, as well as lead on camps. The line between staff and volunteers working in all levels of ERCSA is seamless with a culture of all working towards the same end. We have developed a comprehensive Volunteer Training Plan that will be implemented in 2017.

It has been a year of embracing a vision and a movement towards a secure future. I am heartened by the commitment and common vision shown by the Board, Volunteers, Staff and our supporters. 2017 will focus on consolidating the work in 2016 and communicating broadly with the community about our service and success. We still have many challenges to ensure a secure future, particularly in relation to financial security, but have bedded a strong foundation and developed a clear plan ahead.

We are all driven by the magic that happens on camps and messages such as this one:

“ I am always very happy when I get back home as everyone has been so nice and supportive of me whilst on camp. I feel more comfortable when I get home as I have been having the time of my life whilst on camp. This lasts a couple of weeks but whenever I think of the camps this always makes me smile and lifts me back up again like when I tell me friends at school about my camp.”

Andrée Brown, Executive Officer



A Message from a Parent...

I spoke with the girls and asked them what they thought about the Edmund Rice Camps, both said they love them! One loved all the activities like fishing, swimming and the talent show. The other loved that she didn't know anybody when she went but she soon made friends. They both said they felt safe there and one got upset before bed one night and one of the leaders called me so she could say goodnight and that made her very happy.

They have also gone on the camps individually which was huge for them but they knew the people who ran the camps were lovely so they felt able to take a step on their own. As for me, I love that they ask what's going on in their lives so if the kids get upset, angry or withdrawn the volunteers have an understanding why the kids are showing those behaviours and why they have gone on camp.

Everyone that I have spoken to have been wonderful. They go the extra mile to make sure the kids have a great time and the parents get some time out. Every time we get close to the holidays they ask me if they can go on a camp as it is affordable and I know they are safe I am very happy to let them go!

Why carers and agencies send their kids to our programs...

16%
come for new
experiences.

44%
come to address
social isolation.

24%
come to make
new friends.

30%
come to build
confidence.

18%
come to
have fun.

Programs and Services

In 2016 we delivered 40 service delivery days through 13 different camps programs. This amounts to 240 placements offered to children, 26 placements offered to families and 315 placements for young adult volunteers. This was also support by another 32 ancillary volunteer placements in the kitchen, driving buses, running activities and general logistics. Placements offered to participants were increased from a maximum of 16 per camp or activity day to 24. Volunteer placements increased from 20 per camp or activity day to 28.

Programs delivered include:

- 4 week long camps conducted at Rostrevor College Boarding House and Sacred Heart College Girl's Boarding House.
- 2 weekend camps conducted at Mylor Baptist Camp and Glenhaven Camp
- 1 Family Camp conducted at Woodhouse Scout Camp
- 1 Young Mums Camp conducted at Narnu Farm
- 1 Harmony Weekend conducted at Rymill Centre - Woodhouse Scout Camp
- 4 Activity Days conducted at Port Noarlunga Jetty, Bounce, St. Paul's College and Bonython Park

Our evaluations of services delivered indicate a high level of satisfaction for our camps from children, guardians, referring agencies and volunteers. Further information can be found in our 2016 Evaluation Report.



2016

January

Younger Kids Camp (Superhero Theme)

Older Kids Camp (Tropical Theme)

March

Family Fishing Day

April

Harmony Weekend

June

Older Kids Activity Day

July

Younger Kids Camp (Harry Potter Theme)

Older Kids Camp (Star Wars Theme)

August

Family Camp

September

Younger Kids Activity Day

November

Young Mums Camp

Fire Carriers Weekend

December

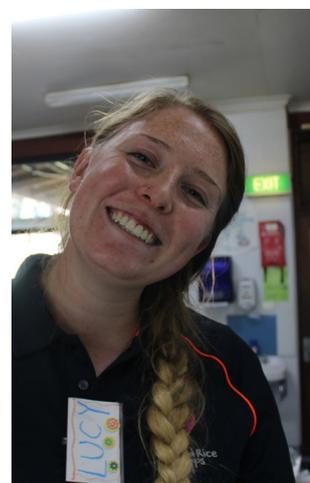
Older Kids Weekend Adventure Camp

Christmas Party

2016 Volunteer of the year

ERCSEA is an organisation that relies on a community of wonderfully passionate volunteers. Their work makes Edmund Rice Camps possible and without them, we simply could not operate. One of those amazing volunteers is Lucy. At our recent Quiz Night we were lucky enough to recognise Lucy as our Volunteer of the Year 2016!

Lucy has been involved in ERCSEA for over three years, as both a leader and more recently as a cook. In the most extreme case, Lucy has fed over 70 people at once, and done so with a smile. She brings a spirit and atmosphere to the kitchen that radiates across the whole campsite and we are incredibly lucky to have her as a part of our organisation.



Our Volunteers

During 2016 we increased our active volunteer base from 100 to 169 people. These were recruited from a range of places, predominantly Catholic Secondary Colleges, local universities and friendship networks of current volunteers.

The young adults involved in our service delivery represent a broad demographic across the community. They come from diverse cultural backgrounds, mixed gender, are working in or studying a broad range of industry and occupations. Their age range is from 16 to 26 years with a few a little older.

They share a passion and commitment to our vision and values. They actively support the programs (most have offered to participate in more than one program during the year) and the broader work of the organisation. Sixteen were trained in a workshop specifically designed to speak in front of schools and university groups to recruit other volunteers.

We conducted the first Fire Carrier program with our Edmund Rice Camps National Network in 2016. Three of our experienced volunteers; Stefan Curran, Caitlin Brown and Adrian Szabo participated in this formation opportunity and are our designated Fire Carriers for South Australia. This means they carry the story of Edmund Rice and the camps journey and encourage and mentor other volunteers to explore and embrace the values and 'heart' of what we do and who we aspire to be.



Treasurer's Report

This year was a very successful period for ERCSA in so many ways. A key objective of the organisation in 2016 was to consolidate and improve our existing service delivery, but at the same time show to a potential wider supporter base the true value of our product.

Our overall revenue increased in 2016 by just over 12.5% to above \$192,000. Whilst a significant portion of this was due to the financial support of the Christian Brothers and the Edmund Rice Foundation, the growth in revenue was directly attributable to increased donations and grant funding received from various sources. This increase is a direct result of a lot of hard work by the Board, and particularly the Staff and our loyal group of leaders.

The organisation employed new part time staff during the year to assist with the process of consolidation and growth, both behind the scenes and most importantly on the 'front line'.

Next year our focus will move to spreading our wings and branching out from our 'big brother', with many plans for growing our supporter base even further. We have added a couple of key new members to our Board and everyone at the organisation is excited with the opportunities that await!

Simon Bibbo, Treasurer



Our Supporters

We have many individuals and organisations to thank for their financial or in kind support of Edmund Rice Camps (SA) for 2016. Significant financial support has been received from:

- Christian Brothers Oceania Province
- Edmund Rice Foundation
- Department of Environment, Water & Natural Resources
- Department of Social Services
- Commonwealth Bank Staff Community Fund
- Rostrevor College
- City of Onkaparinga
- Office for Volunteers - SA State Government

Significant in kind support has been received from:

- Rostrevor College - Boarding House, School Facilities, Buses
- St. Paul's College - School Facilities
- CBC Adelaide - School Facilities
- Sacred Heart College - School Facilities
- Seymour College - Food and Gift donations
- Gleeson College - Board Game Donations
- Immanuel College - Gift Packs
- Many individual staff of EREA Schools in Adelaide involved in bus driving, offering workshops during camps and activities, supporting fundraising initiatives and recruitment drives and logistic support.
- Ancillary volunteers involved in kitchen support and offering activities during camps



Government of South Australia
Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

CommonwealthBank



ROSTREVOR
COLLEGE

CITY OF
ONKAPARINGA



Government of South Australia
Office for Volunteers



CHRISTIAN
BROTHERS
COLLEGE



ROSTREVOR
COLLEGE



ST PAUL'S
COLLEGE



SACRED
HEART
COLLEGE



SEYMOUR
COLLEGE INC



GLEESON
With One Heart



Immanuel College





If I could bottle up how I feel...
the comforting blend of belonging,
satisfaction, contentedness,
purpose, drive, family...
that comes from being on a
Edmund Rice Camp,
I would be the world's richest woman.

A testimony from a volunteer

