



Edmund Rice
Camps SA

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



“To all the leaders and staff, I really enjoyed this camp and I appreciate all the hard work you all put into this. This camp, **this place feels like a home** and you all have made me feel like a big part of this camp and you have made me feel like **a big part of a family** and to all the new members and staff I would like to say a big thank you and you have all **made me feel welcome**. It has been great getting to know all of you and getting to have fun and a special thank you to Patrick, Elizabeth, Eliza, Lynn for making the Hufflepuffs the best team and making this Harry Potter camp magical and **a special camp for me** and I would like to say a big thank you to the kitchen staff for all your hard work the food was amazing and for all the effort put in to the decorations of the food I really enjoyed playing games, singing songs, and just having a great time. **I just loved it** and I am going to miss all of you and I hope to see all of you in a few years when I turn 17 and I will miss you all hope to see you in the future.”

- A letter we received from a participant on our 2018 Harry Potter Camp

Table of Contents

Chairperson's Report.....	1
Executive Officers Report.....	2
Our Volunteers.....	4
Our Programs.....	5
Financial & Governance Report.....	6
Our Supporters.....	7



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Chairperson's Report

2018 was a year of significant change for Edmund Rice Camps SA. Over the last three years, the Board has been actively engaged in a process of discernment to make the decision to move from being an independently incorporated body to coming under the governance auspice of Edmund Rice Ministries Oceania (ERMO). In making the decision to move under the auspice of ERMO, the Board considered the implications for the future of the organisation within its local context. An identifying feature of the ministries throughout the Province is their capacity to respond to local and contextualised needs in the communities within which they work. In moving to a new governance model it was determined to be a priority for ERCSA to retain the capacity to respond to these local and contextualised needs. It is, after all, this context that helps direct and shape the nature of our organisation. We also recognise that we sit as part of a much wider organisation that has deep historical and cultural connections to our identity here, at ERCSA. To this end, we recognise that there is significant value in developing a more unified national identity and service model across Camps in different states. In joining ERMO, ERCSA hopes to develop these two areas of priority in the coming year. The deincorporation process was a significant administrative load through 2018 and we would like to thank Adam Whitefield in his capacity as Acting Board Chair for undertaking most of the work in this process. We would also like to thank the Province Finance Office and Brother Damien Price for supporting ERCSA through this time.

Once again, our volunteers have proven to be the lifeblood of our organisation. Through 2018 we had staff changes in key roles and through this time a number of our senior volunteers stepped up to support ERCSA in a range of roles. The leadership capacity of this cohort is significant and we want to continue to develop ERCSA as a place where the leadership and spiritual formation of these young people is central to the purpose of the organisation. Through 2019 we intend to increase these formation opportunities for our Volunteer cohort. After the resignation of Adrian Szabo from the Volunteer Support Worker role, Stefan Curran has ably supported Jess, our Executive Officer in leading this cohort and providing opportunities for their active engagement with ERCSA.

One of the most significant events for the Board in 2018 were the resignations of Adam Whitefield and Libby Oudshoorn. Adam has been a long time, valued contributor to the work of the ministries and the Province, more broadly. Adam brought a wealth of experience and considered insight to the Board work of ERCSA and his contributions will be missed. He has undertaken a teaching role at Rostrevor College, and hopes to maintain close connections with the work of ERCSA by continuing to provide support but in a less formal capacity. We wish Adam well in his new career. Libby has also been a long time contributor to Camps. Libby's connection to our campers and volunteers, and her intimate knowledge of our camps practices has provided invaluable insight into our service delivery over the years. This wisdom and experience is going to be missed and we hope that Libby will continue to have a presence on our Camps as a visitor, into the future.

While his appointment was not formalised until January of 2019, 2018 saw an invitation extended to Mahendra Chitrarasu to join the ERCSA Board. Mahendra was a senior volunteer and, in more recent times, has undertaken the role of Camp Manager. The ERCSA Board is committed to engaging better representation of the young people in our organisation and Mahendra's appointment to the Board is testament to this commitment. We are all looking forward to working with him in 2019.

As we head into 2019 I would like to once again thank all the ERCSA Board members for their commitment and contributions through 2018. In particular, I would like to extend a very big thank you and acknowledgement to our Executive Officer, Jess Alikaris for the role that she played in supporting ERCSA through our staff changes. Jess' work through this period ensured that we continued to deliver high quality service to our campers and volunteers. We look forward to another year of productive and fun service delivery from the ERCSA community.

Ceinwyn Elleway
Board Chair



Executive Officer's Report

In 2018 we continued to settle into our new home at Rostrevor College. Our relocation in late 2017 saw a need for our community and culture to re-establish itself within our new space. While the year brought about significant change, we continued to work to strengthen the services we provide to those we support through:

- 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
- reviewing and developing policy and guidelines.

Our staffing model fluctuated throughout 2018. Anneke Pike made the difficult decision not to extend her contract as Executive Officer. Anneke has a long and valued history with Camps throughout the network and was instrumental in the logistics, planning, and consideration required to re-establish the organisation in its new location. During the Executive Officer staffing transition Andree Brown assisted in a modified and interim capacity until I was appointed as the new Executive Officer in late 2018. 2018 saw the conclusion of the Volunteer Support Worker role which was previously funded through a grant received in 2017. Adrian Szabo's commitment to further communication, recruitment, and support of young adult leaders in this role contributed to the camp planning and support that is fundamental to the success of our programs and services.

In 2018, we delivered 27 service days; 3 week long camps, 2 weekend camp for children, 1 family camp, and 1 young mums camp. This amounts to 105 placements offered to children and 183 placements offered for young adult volunteers. We delivered less delivery days as in 2017 however we ensured they were well attended by both participants and volunteers. We continued to develop and strengthen our activity offerings on each camp, based on the feedback and evaluations from participants and families from previous years.

ERCSEA evaluated processes for high risk children with complex needs, and how best to support them to ensure a successful experience on our camps. ERCSEA thanks the agencies involved for their assistance and communication during these processes.

We want to also thank the local community of Christian Brothers and the Edmund Rice movement 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.

Brother Michael Coughlin provided a powerful reflection of his time on a 2018 camp, observing the long standing tradition of candle sharing (whereby at the end of a camp, volunteers and participants sit together and acknowledge the light they have seen in each other during the week):

On to candle sharing... It was a Dr Who experience. Into the telephone box and a time warp. Campers and Leaders sat in a circle and the experienced unfolded. The only sound was the voice of the person offering the candle to someone. Rapt attention. Listen to every word. Silence. Sit still and listen. I wanted to wrap up this time pop it in a bag and give a bag to all who were there. Take it with you. From time to time open your bag take a peak and recall how long you sat there and how you respected the space and the people.

The Board worked incredibly hard to support our staff and young adult volunteers of ERCSEA throughout 2018. I would like to thank the members of the Board for their tireless, and often thankless work, in managing some of the challenges with poise and professionalism throughout the year. Personally the guidance and direction provided throughout my transition into the Executive Officer role has been instrumental in establishing my position within our community in this new capacity.

We continue to be indebted to the amazing young adult volunteers who are the life blood of our organisation. I am constantly in awe of these remarkable people who are willing to give so freely of themselves, and of their time, for the sake of others. Our volunteers are proud of our organisation, and are proud of their ability to carry out the work that they do.

2018 was a year of learning. It was also a challenging year of consolidating our vision and culture, as we work towards a sustainable future. It is inspiring to see a common vision at work in determining what is best for the organisation as a whole. Working for this organisation and community is incredibly fulfilling work and I am excited to see our community continue to thrive into 2019.

Jessica Alikaris
Executive Officer

Our Volunteers

Our volunteers across all levels are invaluable to the services ERCSA provide. Our volunteers have a strong understanding that their contributions, in whatever way, are valued and supported. They have an appreciation and ownership of the crucial role that they play in determining the success of our organisation. The demographic of young adults in our community has broadened slightly due to the work of our Volunteer Support Worker. The age range of on camp volunteers remained between 16 to 26 years, and remained a group from diverse cultural backgrounds, mixed gender, who are working in or studying a broad range of industry and occupations.

We conducted three Camp Launch days which included new volunteer inductions and training, engaging over 100 potential new young adults to volunteer on future programs. We also held a Leaders Weekend for a small group of current volunteers. This was an opportunity for personal growth, whilst enhancing their relationships with each other.

We also conducted the second Fire Carrier program with our Edmund Rice Camps National Network in 2018. Three of our experienced volunteers, Mahendra, Nicola, and Alex, participated in this formation opportunity. This means they now carry the story of Edmund Rice on their 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.

ERCSA would like to thank all its volunteers for the 20,000+ hours of time they gave the organisation in 2018. They continue to provide inspiration, compassion, and a presence for those that we serve. Our work and community would not be possible without their incredible dedication.



Volunteer of the Year - Stefan

The Edmund Rice Camps SA Volunteer of the Year Award is an initiative developed to recognise and celebrate volunteer effort within our community. The award recognises and honours a single volunteer each year through a peer nomination process. Stefan has proved himself to be an integral part of our community in 2018. His commitment to ERCSA both on camp and behind the scenes is admirable, and his unwavering passion and dedication to the cause makes him a very valued part of our community.

Fire Carrier - Alex

The Edmund Rice Camps SA Fire Carrier Award aims to recognise one volunteer who has perpetuated the values of Edmund Rice and his spirit within the organisation within the last 12 months. This person would have shown considerable presence, liberation, and compassion in working with those around them including both participants and volunteers on our programs. Alex is passionate about the core values of ERCSA and the power of positive relationships. Alex reflects the ERCSA spirit by supporting those we serve, and is also very thoughtful when it comes to empowering everyone to rise together. Alex is a very kind and considered supporting presence to all on camp.



Rising Star - Tayah

The Edmund Rice Camps SA Rising Star Award aims to recognise one volunteer who has started their volunteering journey with ERCSA within the last 12 months, who has shown considerable leadership potential and who has made an impression on those around them including both participants and volunteers. This award also takes into account their commitment to our mission, their compassion and their presence on our programs. Tayah joined us in early 2018 and after a memorable start to the year she has shown herself to be an enthusiastic and engaging leader. Tayah's vibrant personality and immense dedication to the Edmund Rice ethos has made a welcomed impression on our community.

Our Programs

In 2018 we delivered 27 service days through 8 different programs. This amounts to 105 placements offered to children and families and 183 placements for young adult volunteers. These young adult volunteers were also supported by another 16 ancillary volunteer placements who offered support on camp in the form of kitchen, driving buses, running activities and general logistics.

The number of placements per camp remained in line with the 20-24 participant increase implemented in 2017.

Programs delivered included:

- 3 week long camps conducted at Rostrevor College
- 1 weekend camp conducted at Rostrevor College
- 1 family camp conducted at Mylor Baptist Camp
- 1 young mums camp conducted at Narnu Farm
- 1 weekend program at Nunyara Conference Centre
- 1 Day program conducted at Rostrevor College

Our evaluations of services delivered indicated a high level of satisfaction for our camps from the children, families and referral agencies.



Financial & Governance Report

Over the last two years the ERCSA Board has undertaken a process of due diligence around determining which governance model would best serve the long term needs of our organisation. In 2018 the Board subsequently made the decision to de-incorporate and merge operations with Edmund Rice Services Ltd (ERSL) to come under the governance of the newly constituted Edmund Rice Ministries Oceania (ERMO) Board.

The ERCSA Board are, and will continue to be, responsible for the local oversight and direction of ERCSA. Part of the process of discernment around the decision to de-incorporate was to determine that the ERCSA Board would retain the capacity to set the cultural and operational direction at the local level. The Board has every faith that this will be the case and are excited for the potential of this new structure into 2019.

During 2018 ERCSA maintained financial stability and consolidated our position in what continues to be a challenging environment. The relocation of our office to Rostrevor College has continued to strengthen our financial and non-financial support base as well as the support received from other Edmund Rice Schools in Adelaide.

Our overall revenue decreased in 2018 to above \$110,000. A considerable portion of this was due to staffing fluctuation and a decrease in service delivery days for 2018. Significant financial support was received from the Christian Brothers and the Edmund Rice Foundation Australia. In 2018 we began to work towards implementing funding diversification strategies such as potential corporate partnerships and fee for service models.

Maintaining our levels of service while minimising costs will remain a focus for ERCSA for the foreseeable future. Additionally, 2019 will include efforts to grow our supporter base and encouraging further strategic financial and non-financial partnerships into the future.

"I can't remember the last time I felt so relaxed and reassured that my kids were in safe hands. Yes, they do go to camps with Edmund Rice, and I have the opportunity to have a break, but it is always on my mind, the kids and if they are safe...I hope that we may qualify to attend again, we get very little fun holidays, money is a big problem, and I haven't got family support so even if I could afford a holiday, it would be difficult for me to manage, enjoy, without support. I am so grateful, every single person who facilitated the camp was beyond delightful, how is it possible that so many young people could be so extraordinary in one space, designed to serve my family? I feel so blessed xxx"

- A testimony from one of our families after our 2018 Family Camp

Our Supporters

Financial Supporters



In kind Supporters





Edmund Rice
Camps SA

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