

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 3

Eddie's Echo

The Official Publication of Edmund Rice Camps Tasmania

This Edition...

- News From the E.O
- News from Jamie Lawrence
- Summer Camp Reports
- Deloraine Craft Fair Report
- Trivia Night Report
- The Block 2013
- Congratulations!!

Coming up this year!

- Older Kids Program
- Rice Cracker Weekends
- Funfests
- Leaders weekend
- **AND HEAPS MORE!!!!**



SPECIAL THANKS!

Edmund Rice Camps runs on a tight budget and we do a lot with the little that we have. We would like to thank those groups and schools that supported us financially through 2012 and into 2013, your hard work in fundraising is appreciated by the organisation and by the participants that we take away on camp. Without you there would be no camps so please enjoy the following camp reports knowing that they could not have gone ahead without your generous support.

FEBRUARY 2013

Executive Officer

Andrew Blackett

Welcome to the new edition of The Echo, the official news and information letter of Edmund Rice Camps, Tasmania.

Welcome to our first edition of Eddies Echo for 2013. It is certainly a rewarding experience to take the time to both reflect on the year gone by, in addition to looking at the year ahead.

The return to school and the commencement of term 1, signifies the end of our Edmund Rice Summer Camp Season. Three residential camps were held in total during January, with Bridport in the north, Forth in the North-West, Dover in the Far South being the epicentres of the action. Taking full advantage of the glorious and consistent Summer weather this year, each of these camps had a water, outdoor and adventure theme, which included beach activities, kayaking, bushwalking, rafting and the standard full scale water fights.

Summer Camps are traditionally the base from which we launch our year, so when our Summer camps are successful, like this seasons camps were, the foundation is firmly in place for the implementation and creation of an increased program schedule. There are many exciting ideas and designs on the table for the coming months, via our design team, however it is imperative, for the sustained growth of our dynamic organisation, that we continue get our "fundamentals" right. I would like to thank all those leaders and camp management involved in the provision of such professionally run camps which empowered youth in a fun and safe environment of challenge, development and growth.

Where to now ??? is a question that together with our committed board, we are currently investigating.

Last year, our volunteer leader base grew so substantially that we were completely booked out with leaders for the Summer programs by October 31. With that sort of phenomenal growth, it can certainly be tempting to see development in terms of numbers only, looking at more camps, more programs and new and diverse activities. However, this year we are looking critically at where we are going as an organisation and strategically planning where we wish to be in two years time, when the current funding model [as we now know it] changes direction. What will our camp season look like then ? Are there other formats and structures we can use to grow our organisation that may differ to the current emphasis on full residential camps during a school holiday period ???? It is questions such as these that make 2013 such an exciting prospect as we begin to look towards diversification, whilst solidifying what we do best. Our design time are creatively embracing these changing times, to help redesign our future.

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One such creative movement, is the commencement of weekend activities during the school terms. Called Rice Crackers, we have secured a wonderful co-operative partnership with Bendigo Community Bank in the Huon Valley to complete 20 weekend Rice Crackers for a period of three years. With one of our largest single expenditures being residential camp holiday accommodation, could non- residential weekend programs held during the school term be a new initiative where we can make our organisation grow yet without the cost burden associated with simply doing what we traditionally do ??? Whilst there are no quick answers, we are certainly asking specific questions.

Edmund Rice Camps Tasmania is like the childs' game of joining the dots. As we continue to join communities, townships, schools and regions, a beautiful picture is emerging. What that picture will finally look like is not knowable. Yet we continue to join these dots, knowing that the real value is not to be found in some final destination, but in the personal journey that each of us are undertaking.

See you on the journey at some stage.

Andrew Blackett

This year we've been fortunate enough to receive wonderful support in the Huon Valley from Bendigo **Community Bank®**.

Bendigo is committed to the local community and by their generous support of Edmund Rice Camps, we have been able to revive programs for teenagers in addition to the fun Rice Cracker Weekends and day programs.

As a direct result of this sponsorship many Huon Valley kids will benefit from the empowerment that comes through participation in our programs. A huge thank you to Bendigo!

Huon Valley
Community Bank® Branch



Bendigo Bank

FEBRUARY 2013

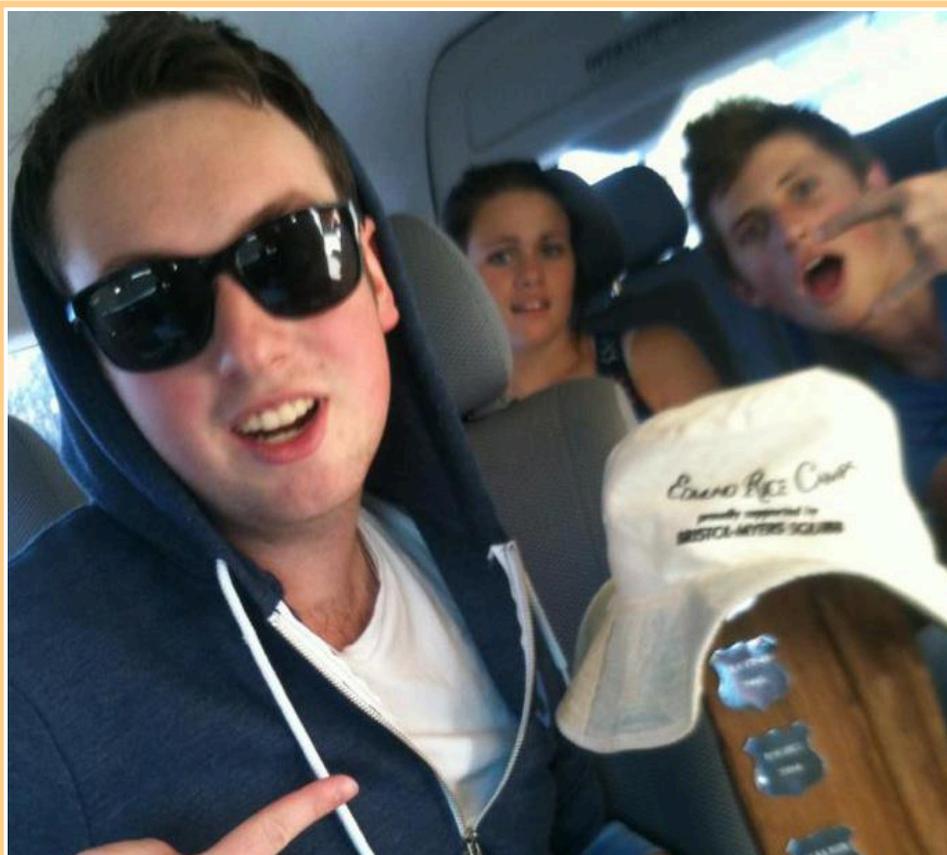
Chairperson's Report

Jamie Lawrence

On behalf of the ERC Tas Board of Management, welcome to this latest edition of The Echo. I trust you have enjoyed reading all the reports and updates of our recent activities as much as I have. Looking back, the Board has been quietly working away on many strategic and policy issues in the lead up to the busy summer camp season. This includes dealing with issues such as critical incident response planning, child protection and disclosure reporting policy and finalising our financial reporting in preparation for our audit. The Board also formalised our successful Design Committee into a board sub-committee and are grateful for this group's wisdom and passion to support existing and new ERC programs and activities. The Board are now preparing for our Annual General Meeting (AGM), which is to be held in Hobart on Friday 22nd March. The key purpose of this meeting is for the Board to report to the association on the activities for the last 12 months, including our financial performance and elect new members. At each AGM 2 vacancies for ordinary members become vacant and those elected at the meeting sit for a period of 12 months. Anybody can nominate for the election (providing their nomination is supported and seconded by an association member) so if you're interested, passionate and want to contribute to guiding ERC Tas at a strategic level, I encourage you to consider nominating for election. People can contact any board member at anytime for further info on the role of the Board and what being a board member is like!

Andrew has many new and exciting programs and camps planned in 2013 which I know will be keenly filled by our wonderful volunteers. For those who camped over summer, I thank you all for your efforts, passion and ability to drink vast quantities of red cordial whilst singing camp songs until your voice is almost gone. For those looking to be involved in upcoming programs, I trust you will have a great time being an Eddie Ricer!

Till next time!



The Block

The Block was held on the 10th of February at St. Patrick's College. Bridport took out the Block after it came down to a draw. A big thankyou to all those involved in running the day and to those the attended. #Briddy13

FEBRUARY 2013

'That's what makes you beautiful..'

Bridport

Mil Buzza

For those of us that attended (block winning) Bridport Camp - you will remember many things, but mostly the lyrics to a specific One Direction song.



Being the first camp off the rank for summer, we were eager to give the kids an amazing time and that's exactly what happened.

Coach; Jarrod Earley, along with myself and Tom Reale as captains and with Maddy Pillans as the first ever leader support ran an amazing camp with intense energy levels!

With a site planted right next to the beach, what else was there to do but run a Pirate

themed camp for four days! We had a treasure hunt which included buried treasure and messages in bottles, water fights, pirate songs, pirate clothing and pirate themed cooking!

A few other highlights of #Briddy13:

- Chairlift & public aerobics at the Cataract Gorge
- Seeing the amazement from those kids who had never been in a kayak before
- Girls pamper afternoon including Jarrod
- Qing playing guitar for the kids
- Will Smith's morning aerobics
- Seeing children's faces light up at seeing the beach for the first time

A big thank you to Andrew Blackett for bus driving and for our amazing cooks; The Vineys, Tracey and all the staff who came along from St. Patrick's College.

Also another HUGE thank you to those leaders that came along at the last minute - wouldn't have been possible without you!

FEBRUARY 2013

Fulton Park

Mark Griffin

On January 14th leaders and kids from all around Tasmania gathered at Fulton Park, near Forth in North-west Tassie, for four action packed days of Summer camp activities.

After we arrived at camp, organised our cabins and had some lunch, we all jumped back on the buses (driven by Blackett and Webby) and headed to 'Leven Canyon' to embrace the great outdoors. We completed three walks which made a large loop around the canyon, including two lookouts and 697 steps! Everyone did a great job on the walk and enjoyed afternoon tea when we returned to the buses.

One of the highlights of camp occurred on the first evening and was not planned at all. One of our participants found a water pistol and started squirting people with it, an hour later this small incident had turned into an all in water fight, with Jess 'McClakka' McLauchlan being awarded best on ground for most targeted individual. Buckets, water pistols and an Esky were filled with water and used to throw water at each other until we were all soaked through and had grins from ear to ear. Our leader support Tim 'Thisel' Birthisel was providing a fresh outlook on leaders by giving them a drenching.

On Tuesday morning Aaron 'Athlete' Jones had everybody doing aerobics in his efforts to get the kids 'shredded' in 4 days. After our delicious breaky from cooks Debbie and Sonja we spent some time at our campsite being arty and imaginative while creating photo frames and team banners. The banners displayed team members' names, handprints and team slogans such as "aw yeah, red team, yeah". The frames looked fantastic too.

Mid-morning we made our way to Penguin, the location of the first Ed-mazing Race. Teams were put through many challenges during the race such as making pipe cleaner glasses, a penguin waddle relay, identifying famous penguins, making human pyramids and performing the play The Three Billy Goats Gruff so they could cross the bridge. The race was taken out by blue group, with green in second place and red in third. Yellow was team number 4 and instead of being eliminated from the race had to wash up after dinner that night.

We then spent the afternoon at Turners Beach enjoying swimming, kayaking, body boarding, building sand castles and digging holes to China. We did have to leave a little earlier than hoped do to the tide coming in and threatening to wash all of our clothes and equipment out to sea.

On Wednesday we spent most of the day away from our campsite due to another group using it for laser tag. We visited the 'Wings Wildlife Park' at Gunns Plains and were lucky enough to pat Koalas and Wombats and see the Tassie Devils being fed. We spotted many other animals while we were there including baby echidnas, guinea pigs, rabbits, monkeys, birds, emus, camels and a variety of birds and fish.

That afternoon we headed back to the beach, this time to a beach in Penguin. We enjoyed more swimming, kayaking, body boarding, sand castle building and hole digging before heading back to the campsite for tea.

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After tea on our final night we decorated the campsite with streamers and balloons and held an outdoor disco. Everyone on camp spent a few hours singing, dancing and enjoying the new friendships we had made.

Thursday morning we all helped with packing up and cleaning the campsite before heading to ANZAC park at Ulverstone where we signed each other's hats, enjoyed fish and chips for lunch and played on the playground before jumping on the buses to head home.

Even though we didn't take out 'The Block' we still believe we were the best camp. As first time leader Maddy Deane said "We don't need a block of wood to prove it!". Let the haters hate! Congratulations to Aaron Jones who received the 'Most Valuable Leader Award'. He was a fantastic role model to all other leaders, put 100% attention to the participants and showed initiative throughout all 4 days. Congrats to Zac Healey who received the 'Rising Star' award for best first time leader. Zac did not know 1 person on leaders day but he took a risk and came on camp and embraced every opportunity that came his way in true Eddie Rice spirit. A great role-model for EVERYBODY around him. Also to Cam Scott who lost his grandfather on leaders day. A truly selfless act to come on camp and an inspiring young individual. Putting others before himself. Thanks pal.

Thanks to all the participants and leaders for making 'Forth' camp the best summer camp of 2013, coach Mon for all her efforts behind the scenes. Our leader support main man Tim Birthisel. Group leaders Tommy Johns, Jess McLinden, Jess McLauchlan and Aaron Jones. To our cooks Debbie, Sonja and Sam Steer-Danby and also Don and Shelley Lockett for helping out on day 1. The food was very tasty and there were no complaints and to our camp bus drivers Blackett and Webby, well driven lads. Also a big thank you to Claire Hansen and her friends for Surf Life Saving!!

Eddie Rice Camps is going places in the North West!

Whits and Griffo



February 2013

Far South

Will Smith



Far South look out! Eddie Rice camps in Tassie finished our Summer Camp 2013 season in great style. This camp saw an intense theme of survivor take over and take over it did. Each camp group competed for the glory of the 'Spirit Stick' through a number of challenges over the course of 4 days. Challenges included kayaking challenges to islands, finding hidden keys to unlock mystery boxes, cooking challenges, food

challenges (including the grossest foods) the mighty quiz that included buckets of coffee, jelly, stock, water, other various gross items and then a finish of flour over the head. Challenges included a massive water fight, beach challenges and of course the very tense tribal camp fires each and every night.

To add to the whole excitement of the camp, we all travelled further south and went on a special train ride to a exclusive beach. We rocked it out at PCYC in Huonville, having a ball in the fun factory, cricket nets and gym. We hit up an indoor pool and swam and swam annnd swam. Morning exercise was a highlight along with kayaking and rafting. To finish off an amazing camp we held a the greatest surprise party for the whole camp and partied it up all night to blaring music and our very own party room!

With too many things to list and so many memories made, words are unable to describe how well our camp went. A huge thanks to our group leaders who endured more than they asked for in group challenges, to all leaders on their amazing effort throughout the whole camp, we could not have asked for a better bunch! To Clare and Will for their job creating this stellar camp. To our coach Mr Shaun Lack for his entire effort from start to finish to ensure this camp was a possibility and to all the volunteers that gave up their time to come and assist over the course of camp with cooking, bus driving and helping with activities. The last thank you in no way gives enough appreciation, however it goes to Andrew Blackett, our Executive Officer, for the countless work and effort he put into our camp but also to the organisation as a whole. Eddie Rice has become our life due to him. We look forward to future camps with such a great bunch! Happy Birthday to us all !



FEBRUARY 2013

Deloraine Art & Craft Fair

Mark Griffin

On the long weekend in November from 2-5th we had a dozen Eddie Ricers and Deloraine Footballers volunteer to help out at the Deloraine Craft Fair – the biggest craft fair in the southern hemisphere! We also had leaders help set up stalls in the nights leading up to the fair. The craft fair is an annual event facilitated by the Deloraine Rotary Club who were a major sponsor towards the Meander Valley Spring Camp that was run in September, contributing \$3000. The jobs we did included being incredible parking marshalls, helping out at stalls by giving the stall holders a chance to have a break! We also had people assisting on the front gates stamping hands and collecting money. Many thanks to Andrew Blackett, Ann Viney, Tracey Owers, Will Smith, Jess McLauchlan, Kelsey Johnson, Dan Griffin, Freya Griffin, Juleesa Smith, Ellie Fitzgerald, Tyler Howe, Rhys Gardner, Ryan Mitchell, Jake Whatley, Lewis (the people) Kirkman, Milton Ford, Ricky Ponting, Sammy Vinson, Catherine Earley and Hannah Earley. We raised \$2500!!! Magnificent effort and a great fundraiser for this organisation. Looking forward to doing it all again this year! Del City camps are here to stay and we are very lucky to have established a positive relationship with the Deloraine Rotary Club.

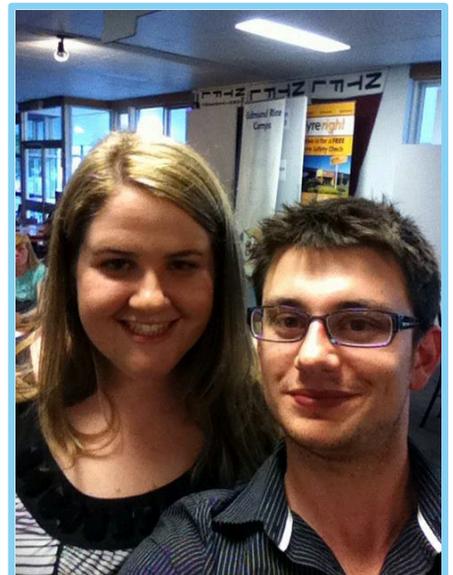
Trivia Night

Mon Welsh

Saturday night the 24th of November 2012 saw the inaugural Edmund Rice Camps Tasmania fundraising trivia night at the Launceston Football Club. Eddie Ricers, friends and family from around the state, and even as far as Victoria, gathered together to raise over \$2000 for programs in 2013. With around 90 guests for the evening and current Eddie Ricer Will Smith as MC, we were in for nothing but a good night!

Frivolities for the evening occurred over five rounds of fun-filled trivia, with topics of Edmund Rice, Sport, History and Geography, Miscellaneous, and Lego Album Covers to challenge the teams' minds. Local businesses were extremely generous with their donations for our silent auction, with prizes varying from wine, cheese and restaurant vouchers, to cruises and even a photo shoot!

Big shout goes to Jo from Soul Catering for donating not only her time and expertise in the catering industry, but also a majority of the delicious food that was on offer for the evening. Also to Darren Geard from Launceston Football Club for accommodating us at such short notice due to the overwhelming response in RVSP's resulting in the need for a larger venue. Thanks to all those who attended and keep your eye out for the multiple fundraising opportunities planned for Edmund Rice Camps Tasmania for 2013 and get on it!



FEBRUARY 2013

Congratulations

Edmund Rice Camps Tasmania is a close community so we would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the following members of our organisation:

- Chairman of the Board Jamie & wife Melissa on the birth of twins, Henry Noel & Audrey Joan.
- Design Committee member Maddy Pillans on her internship with Edmund Rice International in Geneva
- Tim Birthisel and Mil Buzza on their engagement.



- Brendan Webb and Will Smith on their 2013 Young Citizens of the Year Australia Day Awards

Our Contact Details

Changes to the office mean that some of our details have changed! Please make sure you check your address book and ensure that you are up to date!

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