

Edmund Rice Education Australia

Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) is the national body comprising educational communities and offices offering a Catholic education in the tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice.

Established by the Christian Brothers in 2007, Edmund Rice Education Australia has full responsibility for the schools operated by the Brothers at that time. With the addition of schools established since 2007 there are over 50 member schools enrolling more than 37,000 students through all states and territories of Australia.

In addition to these member schools there are EREA Associate Schools in every state of Australia and five partner schools in New Zealand. EREA is also a member of Edmund Rice Beyond Borders, an international collective of schools in the tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice.



As part of their mission within the Church and shaped by the spirit and charism of Blessed Edmund Rice, schools with membership of EREA share a commitment to a Charter – the Charter for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition. This Charter describes their aspirations and sets a foundation for all decision and policy making.

Fundamental to this Charter are the four touchstones of authenticity:

**Liberating Education
Inclusive Community**

**Gospel Spirituality
Justice and Solidarity**

All members of Edmund Rice Education Australia are called to show how these touchstones are a living reality in their community.

EREA has its own canonical and civil identity as a Public Juridic Person within the Church but remains closely connected to the Christian Brothers and their ongoing ministry. Schools operate in dioceses with the mandate of the local Bishop.

Members of EREA

Victoria: Parade College Bundoora, CBC St Kilda, St Bernard's College Essendon, St Kevin's College Toorak, St Joseph's College Geelong, St Patrick's College Ballarat.

Tasmania: St Virgil's College Hobart.

Queensland: Ambrose Treacy College Indooroopilly, Ignatius Park College Townsville, St James' College Brisbane, Indooroopilly Montessori Childrens' House, St Brendan's College Yeppoon, St Edmund's College Ipswich, St Joseph's College Gregory Terrace, St Joseph's Nudgee College, St Laurence's College South Brisbane, St Patrick's College Shorncliffe.

Western Australia: Aquinas College Salter Point, Catholic Agricultural College Bindoon, CBC Fremantle, Trinity College East Perth.

South Australia: CBC Wakefield Street Adelaide, Rostrevor College Woodforde, St Paul's College Gilles Plains.

New South Wales: CBHS Lewisham, Edmund Rice College Wollongong, St Dominic's College Penrith, St Edmund's School Wahroonga, St Edward's College Gosford, St Gabriel's School Castle Hill, St Patrick's College Strathfield, St Pius X College Chatswood, Waverley College Waverley.

ACT: St Edmund's College Canberra.

EREA Youth + Flexible Learning Centres: Flexible Learning Centres are registered schools managed by Youth + which offer a flexible education for young people disenfranchised from the education system and from many aspects of society.



Queensland: Albert Park, Centre Education Program Kingston, Deception Bay, Noosa, Townsville, Rockhampton, Mt Isa, Gympie, Hemmant, Ipswich, Inala and Southport.

New South Wales: St Mary's and Wollongong.

Victoria: St Joseph's North Melbourne.

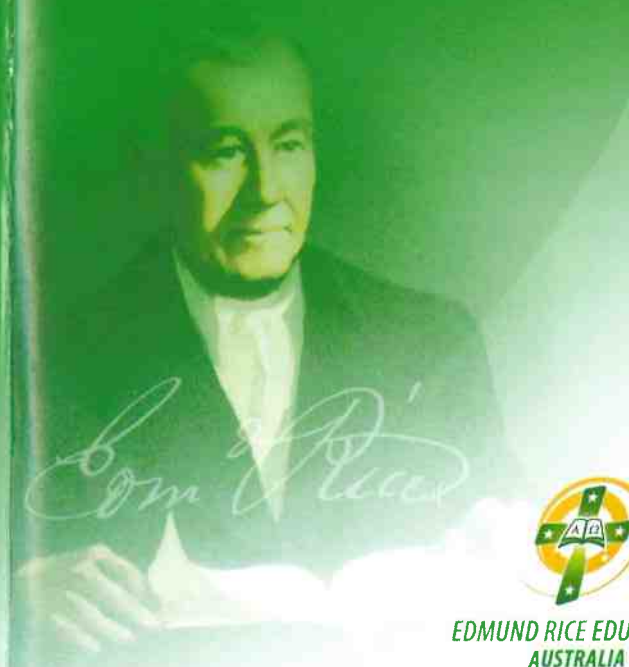
Western Australia: Geraldton.

South Australia: FAME Hackham West.

Northern Territory: St Joseph's Alice Springs.

Your school as a member of Edmund Rice Education Australia

*...educating for liberation
and possibility.*



**EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA**

Our Heritage

Edmund Rice

This College is proudly a member of Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA), the national body comprising educational communities and offices offering a Catholic education in the tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice. What does this mean?

Our schools are committed to the educational philosophy of Edmund Rice, an Irish man of the 18th and 19th Century who had the dream of creating a better world for poor young people through education.

Edmund was a deeply faith committed man inspired by the Gospel story of Jesus and who understood the unjust reality of his times. A successful and wealthy businessman, he always had a concern for those who were poor and on the edges of society. Edmund believed that education was essential to liberating young people from their circumstances, a conviction which led to his establishing his first school in 1802. The education he offered flowed from his awareness of "Christ present in and appealing to him in the poor" (Christian Brothers' Charism Statement, 1982).

Reflecting this educational philosophy, an Edmund Rice education is faith based, relevant to the needs and futures of the students, inclusive and challenges the injustices of the time.

As Edmund's work developed, a number of men joined him and formed a religious community

– the Christian Brothers.



Mt Sion, the original school set up by Edmund Rice in Waterford Ireland in 1802.

The Christian Brothers

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

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

Whilst their ministry in Australia has been largely based around education, their focus in recent years has been on returning to the margins and working in community development, advocacy, indigenous ministry, with refugees and in other social justice related areas. This has particularly been the case since handing their schools to the governance of EREA in 2007.

Today the Christian Brothers work across the world in areas of education, community engagement, faith formation and social justice.

More detail on the Edmund Rice and Christian Brothers stories is available at www.erea.edu.au/about-us

"I see no value in a centre of learning which churns out numberless school leavers each year and is passively part of a society torn apart by division of race and partisan politics... Our schools exist to challenge popular beliefs and dominant cultural values, to ask the difficult questions, to look at life from the standpoint of the minority, the victim, the outcast and the stranger."

Br Philip Pinto, Congregational Leader,
Christian Brothers, 2002 - 2014

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Touchstones of Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition

Liberating Education

We open hearts and minds, through quality teaching and learning experiences, so that through critical reflection and engagement each person is hope-filled and free to build a better world for all.

Gospel Spirituality

We invite all people into the story of Jesus and strive to make his message of compassion, justice and peace a living reality within our community.

Inclusive Community

Our community is accepting and welcoming, fostering right relationships and committed to the common good.

Justice and Solidarity

We are committed to justice and peace for all, grounded in a spirituality of action and reflection that calls us to stand in solidarity with those who are marginalised and the Earth itself.

