



Edmund Rice Justice Aotearoa New Zealand Trust Annual General Meeting - 2015 Annual Report by Chairperson to Trustees

Since the 2014 AGM, there have been a number of significant developments for the Trust which have reflected and are helping to enable the Trust's strategic positioning in terms of its mission and vision:

- The implementation of the 2014 strategic directions.
- The employment of a part time project officer based in Auckland with the focus of implementing a number of the Trust's strategic directions across New Zealand.
- The start of developing MOUs with our partner organisations with regard the Restorative Justice project.
- The work of Michael Bendall as financial administrator which has enabled the Trustees to have greater surety and understanding about its current financial situation and legislative requirements.
- The continuing work in policy development with the expected completion of the policy development project by the end of 2015.
- The redesign of the Justice Trust's website which provides a readily available and comprehensive point of access for anyone wanting to know more about the Trust's mission, vision, scope and activities.
- The re-establishment of the monthly Justice Trust newsletter which promotes the work of the Trust.
- The shifting of the auditing process to our new auditors Williams Accountants Limited (Christchurch).

A significant development for the Trust was the decision of Paul O'Neill, Christine O'Neill and David Ivory to resign as Trustees due to time and work commitments. Both Christine and Paul have made a considerable contribution to the development of the Trust especially in the area of Restorative Justice. David's work with the Youth custody index and his work and generosity as secretary is deeply appreciated.

Since the last AGM, Chris Nolan has moved to full time employment with Canterbury Law. The Trust realised that this was always inevitable as Chris looked to his future career as a lawyer. Chris has played an important role in establishing the Trust's presence in Christchurch and enabling the Trust's post-sentencing Restorative Justice prison work with our partner organisations Pathways and Victim Support. Chris has indicated his keenness to continue to be involved in this work as a volunteer. We are very appreciative of all that Chris has done for the Trust. The development of Chris moving on, has given the Trust the opportunity to consider and explore ways to ensure the sustainability of this important project into the future.

The Trust is not into building empires and so a key role for the Trust is the seeding and establishment of justice activities which may then be taken over by another organisation. An example of this is Youth custody index. However it is important that the Trust continues to support this project by the promotion of the issue of youth custody in the wider community.

The past twelve months has been very much about the consolidation of the Trust board with clear areas of responsibility and overview. All three new trustees bring a wealth of experience and skills to the Board and the new board offers greater potential for sustainability of the Trust's mission into the future.

An aspect of the Trust's role that is being developed, is its ability of using its experience, skills and network connections, to offer support services to other groups within the Edmund Rice Network. This was evident in the support that the Trust was able to give to the recent St Peter's College India cultural immersion experience especially in the support of the reflexive process and the training of leaders.

The Trust is also grateful for the generous sponsorship given to it by Christian Brothers' Oceania Province. The Trust's partnership with Oceania Province is significant and important. The agreement of Oceania Province for extra funding to seed the establishment of the Auckland project officer position is greatly appreciated. You will note in the financial accounts, that the Oceania Province's 2014 sponsorship was considerably lower for 2014. This was caused by delays in the 2013 audit process as a result of the Trust's changing to new auditors. The Trust was not able to meet the Oceania's Province's acquittal deadline at the end of their 2014 financial year and so we were not able to uplift our full sponsorship. The Trust made the decision to fund our activities from our investments. This situation has now been resolved.

The next twelve months for the Trust will be a continued time of consolidation. There are a number of new activities which are about to be implemented as part of our strategic directions. It is a time when the Trust does look to the future with confidence.

The Trust is also dependent on volunteers. A special thanks to both Tony Kidd for his work in communicating the essence of the Trust both through the trust website and also through the Trust's ER Justice Facebook blog. Also thank you to John O'Neill who in the name of the Trust, visits prisoners that no one else will visit.

The commitment, expertise, passion and wide experience of the Trustees is significant for the future of the Trust and the generous way that the Trustees give of their time is live giving for the mission of the Trust. Thank you Owen, Sam and Kieran for your continued dedication and commitment to the Trust. Cathy, Debbie and Marty, thank you for accepting the invitation to become Trustees. I am endlessly humbled by the extraordinary generosity of the Trustees which is evident in so many small but significant ways.

Paul Robertson
Chairperson
14 June 2015