



**Edmund Rice Justice Aotearoa New Zealand Trust
Annual General Meeting - 2016
Annual Report by Chairperson to Trustees**

Nine years ago, on July 25th 2007, the Edmund Rice Justice Aotearoa New Zealand Trust was formally incorporated under the Charitable Trusts Act. Led by Sam Drumm, the justice group's move to incorporate as an entity was prompted by the desire better respond to the needs of the time in the light of justice groups own understanding of the inspiration of Edmund Rice's life and work. 2017 will see the Trust complete the first ten years in existence. The past nine years have been a time of continuous development, exploring new possibilities and seeding new initiatives while continuously and strategically reflecting on the Trust's vision, purpose and mission in the context and reality of today's world.

A highlight of the past twelve months was the Trust's undertaking an extensive endorsement process in partnership with Christian Brothers Oceania Province. This process enabled the opportunity to further reflect on our fundamental values and vision. We are very grateful to Gerard Keating (Oceania Province) for his openness and support in developing and trialling such a process with the Trust. It did give us the opportunity to reflect together on what is at the heart of why we exist. The process included not only the Trustees, but also those who work on behalf of the Trust as well as a partner organisations.

Since the 2015 AGM, there have been a number of significant developments for the Trust:

- the work of James Devereaux as project officer based in Auckland with the focus of implementing a number of the Trust's strategic directions across New Zealand.
- the appointment of Karen Currie as the RJ Administrator based in Christchurch in order to support the work of Jackie Katounas and the development of RJ conferencing throughout New Zealand.
- the appointment for 2016 of Sally Curtis as project officer based in Auckland.
- the work of Josie Young in support of the RJ project which lead to the establishment of the RJ Administrators position.
- the completion of our policy project which includes all Trust policies being available on the website.
- the completion of the design and update of the Trust website which now provides easy access to information about the work and vision of the Trust.
- the consolidation of our Justice Trust database of supporters as well as the production of regular monthly newsletters.
- the development of an even closer working relationship by the Christchurch Trustees with our partner organisations Victim Support and Pathway's Reintegrated.
- establishing closer working relationships with our principal sponsor Oceania Province.
- significant participation by the Trust in the annual Edmund Rice Network Conference which was held in Oamaru. This was reflected not only in the number of ER Justice people at the conference but also by the provision of a number of workshops by the Trust.
- support of the schools based street retreat programme.

- initiating a post-school street immersion programme in Auckland.
- initiating the ethical encounter discussion programme.
- supporting the cross-cultural immersion programmes especially in development of leaders.
- Jackie Katounas presenting at the Celia Lashlie Memorial Conference in Wellington and also at the Auckland ethical encounter breakfast.

Since the last AGM, James Devereaux has moved to full time studies and Sally Curtis was appointed to the Project Officer's position. The Trust is most appreciative of James's work in establishing a number of significant projects such as the Street Immersion programme and the Ethical encounter gatherings. James is also responsible for the complete overhaul of the Trust's website.

The past twelve months has been very much about developing new initiatives and the consolidation and the development of the RJ project in Christchurch. The voluntary contribution of time, effort and nurturing by the Trustees has been significant. The Trust is dependent on volunteers. A special thanks to Tony Kidd for his significant work highlighting justice issues through the Trust's ER Justice Facebook blog.

The Trust values Jackie Katounas's contribution in her important work as the Trust's lead Restorative Justice Facilitator. Jackie's commitment and expertise is widely recognised. Jackie was ably assisted by Josie Young whose natural enthusiasm for the RJ project was clearly evident.

The Trust is appreciative of the work of Michael Bendall as financial administrator. Michael has developed sound and transparent financial systems and practices that have enabled the Trust to know exactly what is happening with its finances and to establish and develop projects.

The Trust is grateful for the ongoing generous sponsorship given to it by Christian Brothers' Oceania Province. The Trust's partnership with Oceania Province is significant and important. Over the past two years, the Trust has been deliberately lessening our financial dependence on Oceania Province as we recognise Oceania Province's own growing financial commitments. Thus the seeking of New Zealand funding from other sources is a priority for the Trust.

The next twelve months calls us to further consolidate the RJ work especially into areas outside of Christchurch. The Trust is currently seeking funding for such work to commence in Auckland. A key focus for the Trust in the next twelve months will be the finding of additional sources of funding especially for any development in the RJ conferencing work. We will also see the development of the ethical encounter and street immersion programmes for people outside Auckland.

As always the contribution of the Trustees is significant. The Trustees generosity in the giving of their time is clearly evident. Thank you Cathy, Debbie, Kieran, Marty, Owen and Sam for your continued dedication and commitment to the Trust.

Paul Robertson
Chairperson
15 May 2016