

**Edmund Rice Justice Aotearoa New Zealand Trust**

**Annual General Meeting - 2017**

**Annual Report by Chairperson to Trustees**

In July this year, the Edmund Rice Justice Aotearoa New Zealand Trust celebrates ten years of existence as a formally incorporated Trust under the New Zealand Charitable Trusts Act.

The past twelve months have been a time of consolidation and careful consideration of the Trust’s focus on RJ conferences in the Christchurch prisons as well as the various projects f the Auckland based project officer especially in the areas of the ethical encounter and immersion programmes. A notable feature of the Trust’s work in 2016 was the contribution of the Trust to the 2017 Edmund Rice Network gathering in Oamaru. A number of the members of the Trust provided plenary sessions and workshops. There was a good attendance of Trust personnel and Cathy Harrison made a significant contribution to the organisation of the programme.

Since the 2016 AGM, there have been a number of significant developments for the Trust:

* a review of the Trust’s strategic directions.
* the work of Karen Currie as the RJ Administrator based in Christchurch has developed better awareness of the Trust’s work in the Christchurch prisons. Karen has been responsible for building sound relationships with key people in both the prisons and partner organisations.
* the work of Sally Curtis as project officer based in Auckland has built strong networks with other Edmund Rice groups and the further development of the Ethical encounter events and street immersion programme.
* the establishment of the Justice Trust’s Auckland project office at St Peter’s College with the closing of the Edmund Rice Centre in Manukau Road, Epsom.
* the appointment for 2017 of Boris Baptist as project officer based in Auckland.
* The Trust’s sponsorship of the New Zealand Edmund Rice secondary schools’ street retreat programme.
* the further update of the Edmund Rice Justice website.
* the continued production of regular monthly newsletters.
* providing training for the Auckland Edmund Rice India immersion programme as well as workshops on immersion in both Auckland and Christchurch.

The Trust is grateful for the ongoing generous grants given to it by Christian Brothers’ Oceania Province. The Trust is indebted to Tony Kidd for his dedication in highlighting justice issues through the Trust’s ER Justice Facebook blog. The Trust is also grateful to Jackie Katounas for her work as lead facilitator in the RJ conferences in the Christchurch prisons. Michael Bendall, as financial administrator, has continued to maintain effective and transparent financial systems and practices that have enabled the Trustees to know exactly the state of our finances.

The next twelve months offers the chance for the Trust to become more involved in assisting the connections between the various entities of the New Zealand Edmund Rice Network in New Zealand. The Trust also needs to continue to seek funding from other sources besides the Trustees of the Christian Brothers. The Trust is also currently developing a programme which will engage young people with prisoners currently in the Christchurch prisons.

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

Paul Robertson

Chairperson

14 May 2017