

Leadership Retreat



The annual Edmund Rice Schools' student leadership retreat was held from Saturday the 3rd of March to Tuesday the 6th at the St Francis Retreat centre in Hillsborough.

This retreat is an opportunity for students and staff from the New Zealand Edmund Rice schools to come together and develop leadership skills, engage with their spirituality whilst preparing for the upcoming year.

Twenty-six students from St Peter's College, Liston College, St Kevin's Oamaru, Kavanagh College and St Thomas Christchurch attended the retreat. The facilitators for the weekend were James Deveraux – former project officer and teacher at Liston College, Brother Damian Price, Amelia Bresanello – Edmund Rice Camps Dunedin and teacher at Kavanagh College, and Gerhard Moerdryk – teacher at St Peter's College.

The retreat involved thought provoking and engaging discussions with many opportunities to showcase and develop their leadership skills. On the Sunday, Boris Baptist and I, representing the Justice Trust, attended as guest speakers. We briefly spoke after Amelia who offered insight into how the Edmund Rice camps operate, about the work the Edmund Rice Justice Trust does, focusing on the reflection group and the advocacy for social justice

It was a great way to engage with some of the younger members of the Edmund Rice Network

Campbell Wood
Project Officer – Edmund Rice Justice Trust

Reflection on the Edmund Rice Inspiration

Ned Drumm, someone involved with the Edmund Rice Network both during his time at St Peter's College and afterwards, reflects on the influence of Edmund Rice values his desire to become a teacher in New Zealand. Ned is currently training to be a teacher at the University of Auckland Epsom Campus teacher in New Zealand.



Having the opportunity to attend a school run in the Edmund Rice tradition, was something I personally believe taught me the virtues and values that lead me to make the decision to become a teacher.

Giving back and contributing to society is something in which was instilled into us as students during our time at St. Peter's. We were shown ways in which we are able to help our families, peers and communities and given many opportunities to give back to our community. This teaches us the value of giving back and understanding the impact that our actions have. Whether big or small, the impact is felt.

This was apparent in my time spent on the 2016/2017 Edmund Rice India Immersion trip. Having just come off my last year of school it was an excellent way to put these values in place outside of St. Peters. Seeing the lives of people dedicated to service was inspiring, and further inspired me to continue my goal of becoming a teacher.

I believe that my involvement within the Edmund Rice Network, and within the Immersion experience has influenced my decision to become a teacher. I have already found, one year into my study and practicum that my past experiences have influenced my experiences in the classroom.

Ned Drumm

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