

# Edmund Rice Justice Trust March 2019 Newsletter



Hi Everyone, I'm pleased to bring you the Edmund Rice Justice Trust's March Newsletter. This edition will cover the theme for 2019's national gathering, and an Ethical Encounter that ERJ hosted in early March.

## 2019 Conference: MANAAKITANGI – INSPIRING SUPPORT September 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> 2019



*The below article was written by Paul Robertson and outlines the theme for the upcoming 2019 Conference, Manaakitanga.*

Manaakitanga is about respecting and valuing people who come into our world. It involves nurturing healthy relationships, hospitality and reciprocity. It is not only about being a responsible host but creating environments where people feel at home. Remember the times when you visited your grandparents and the ways that they made you feel welcome with encouragement and support over the years.

For the Edmund Rice groups and entities, Manaakitanga challenges us to think about the spaces that we create, whether it be a community, a group, a school, an ER Camp or a service that our organisation provides for others. Are such spaces welcoming,

embracing diversity, caring for the environment and respectful? Do such spaces encourage just being together, conversations that are both talking and listening to one another.

Last year's Edmund Rice Conference focussed on Hauora – encouraging well being (to read more about this, visit [http://www.edmundrice.nz/?page\\_id=691](http://www.edmundrice.nz/?page_id=691)). Traditionally we have prioritised pastoral care which can easily become quite paternalistic whereas focussing on each person's wellbeing creates a sharper more holistic approach. Manaakitanga is the next step from last year's gathering and a chance to look at the spaces that we create and live and work in. Public scrutiny of organisations and workplaces has highlighted the need to closely consider our workplace and community cultures especially in terms of harassment, forms of bullying, and how symbolic power is exercised and experienced. Manaakitanga beckons us to look more deeply at the environments and cultures that we have created within our organisations and communities and to do better.

The 2019 weekend gathering consists of three keynote speakers and four strands of workshops. Each strand focusses on a particular interest group: 1 education/schools; 2 Edmund Rice Camps; 3 high school students; and 4 a general interest strand of workshops on the conference theme.

For more information on the gathering, go to [www.edmundrice.org.nz](http://www.edmundrice.org.nz) and click on 2019 Conference.

Paul Robertson  
Chairperson  
Edmund Rice Justice – Aotearoa/New Zealand Trust

### **Everybody Eats Ethical Encounter**



(photo retrieved from <https://www.everybodyeats.nz>)

The first Auckland Ethical Encounter for the year ran on the evening of Monday, 4th March. A small group of people from the Edmund Rice community gathered to learn about and discuss issues of food waste, food poverty and social isolation.

The Encounter involved a meal from the Everybody Eats program followed by a talk from the programs founder, Nick Loosely. In summary, the program uses 'rescued food' - perfectly edible and safe food that would otherwise be thrown out - that a team of volunteer chefs, kitchen helpers and wait staff then turn into three course meals. These meals are served every Monday evening in St. Kevin's arcade, where diners can pay as little or as much as they like for their meals.

Nick's talk to the group explained why he got the program started and what it

intends to do. At the basis of the program were three ethical concerns: Environmentally - the program tries to minimise the amount of food that ends up in landfills, which is a major source of carbon dioxide emissions. Economically - By having a pay as you feel model, anyone can access a nourishing three course meal regardless of their ability to pay. Socially - the program brings people of different backgrounds together to share a meal and conversation.

Following Nick's talk, the group had a good discussion on the injustices that the program seeks to address, its motivations, and how they may be applied to the participant's own lines of work. A big thanks to Nick Loosely from Everybody Eats for being involved in this Ethical Encounter and to those that came. I am looking into the possibility of running this encounter again with a slightly larger group of attendees.

### **Upcoming dates**

For more information about the events below email [jack@erjustice.org.nz](mailto:jack@erjustice.org.nz)

**April 1st**-Auckland Reflection Group – 6:00pm, 34 Queen Mary Ave.

**September 14<sup>th</sup> – September 15<sup>th</sup>** – Edmund Rice National Gathering, St. Thomas' College, Christchurch

***Written by Jack Barrett, Project Officer for the Edmund Rice Justice Trust Aotearoa.***