**Edmund Rice Justice Aotearoa New Zealand Trust Annual General Meeting - 2020**

**Annual Report by Chairperson to Trustees**

Since the 2019 AGM, there have been a number of achievements for the Trust:

* The organisation of the 2019 “Manaakitanga—inspiring support” Conference for the Edmund Rice Network.
* Developing a good working relationship with Edmund Rice Ministries Oceania.
* The provision of Post-Sentencing Restorative Justice Conferences at Christchurch Prison co-ordinated by Karen Currie.
* The provision of Ethical Encounter gatherings both in Auckland and Christchurch
* The daily promotion of Justice Issues by Tony Kidd on the popular Facebook Justice Blog.
* The daily Edmund Rice Network Oceania Facebook news item which has now grown to over 1100 followers.
* The continued sponsorship of the New Zealand Edmund Rice secondary schools’ street retreat programme.
* Supporting the North Canterbury RJ organisation in their work.
* The co-ordination of the monthly Auckland Edmund Rice Reflection group gatherings
* The addition of three new trustees to our Board to create a greater diversity and areas of expertise and experience for our Board.
* The Trust’s continued maintenance of the Zealand Edmund Rice Network website.

A highlight for the year was the “Manaakitanga—inspiring support” Conference which attracted over 100 participants from Australia and New Zealand. Notable was the quality of keynote speakers and workshops. Cathy played a significant role in the arranging of speakers and workshop facilitators, and the Trust carried most of the work for the conference. St Thomas of Canterbury College yet again generously provided its facilities.

The COVID-19 lockdown had a major impact on the Trust in 2020 with all its face-to-face programmes going into hibernation. During that time, the only Trust activities that continued were the Justice Blog on Facebook facilitated by Tony Kyd and the Edmund Rice Oceania Network’s Facebook page postings. The post lockdown world is proving to be very different. It provides new opportunities for the Trust to review its key programmes and strategically consider how it will relate to and respond to a significantly changing environment.

In January this year, the University of Auckland offered Jack Barrett, our project officer, full-time employment in his academic field. Jack had worked for the Trust for almost 17 months. The Trust is most appreciative of Jack and the way that he came to our assistance when Campbell Wood resigned. We are also very grateful for his work with the further development of the Ethical Encounters, the Auckland Reflection group and the annual conference. Jack was always willing, keen to assist and develop our existing programmes. The Board decided not to appoint a new person to the role during country-wide COVID-19 lockdown because of the cessation of most the activities for which the project officer was responsible for organising. The search for a replacement person is currently underway.

Karen Currie has continued to play a very significant role for the Trust in her work as RJ Administrator. She has worked with challenging situations, such as the national lockdown and also a number of changes in key positions in Corrections and our partner organisations. Nevertheless, Karen has always shown her professionalism, patience, and dedication for RJ, working closely with Cathy and Marty.

The Board appointed three new trustees Megan Yardley, Bernie Lee, and Sam Wojcik after much reflection to replace Sam Drumm and Debbie Frank. We were keen to widen the experience of our Board with the appointments of our new Trustees as we looked to the future. Already we have seen the benefits and wisdom of that decision.

The Trust is grateful to Christian Brothers Oceania Province for the continued financial grants for the work of the Trust. This has been a significant source of our funding. We are also grateful for the Rata Foundation donation of $5,000.00, which was granted on the condition that it went towards Restorative Justice in the Canterbury region.

I express the Trust’s appreciation to Carey Ewin, the reintegration manager who resigned from Pathways Reintegration. The Trust has worked closely with Carey for some years now, and we sincerely appreciate his close involvement with us in Te Kaupapa Whakaora.

Thank you to Tony Kidd, who has continued to promote current justice issues through our ER Justice Facebook blog.

I am also grateful to Keith Yardley for his generous work with our accounts as financial manager. I wish to acknowledge the work of Boris in securing further funding and negotiating our budget for the Trust’s programmes. I also acknowledge Boris and Kieran for their work as a finance committee, especially in looking at how the Trust can become more financially sustainable for the future.

Once again, I am most thankful for the generous contributions of time that our Trustees give. Thank you Boris, Bernie, Cathy, Kieran, Marty, Megan, and Sam for your commitment to the work and ongoing life of the Trust.

Paul Robertson

Chairperson

16 August 2020