

SPEECH FOR SUNDOWNER 2007

SA and WA

Br Kevin Ryan

This is not the full text of Kevin's speech – but the notes from which he spoke to the gatherings

1. Welcome again and thanks for being here. Pat, Peter, Dean and I, along with the Director of Finance, Max Montisci, the Director of Formation, Mark McGlaughlin and the Director of Ministries, Paul Ryan PLT are delighted to host you here this evening. But who is here?
 - Board Members and partners
 - Members of our Province advisory groups
 - Leaders of Ministries and other reps of ministries – note particularly the presence of Rob Henderson and Ivan Banks who are in their first year as leaders at CBC and TC. (In SA acknowledged the presence of Noel Mifsud in his first year as leader of CBC Adelaide). Thanks to Leanne who is in her last year of Chair of TC Board. In particular we thank Ash Day who has just concluded his term of appointment as Chair of the Board of Edmund Rice Camps for Kids WA – long long experience as ER Camp leader, coordinator, board member and then chair.....
 - Jill Parker – acknowledge work on the Oceania Coordinating Group for the ERN – thanks for the work under extra-ordinarily difficult circumstances
 - Those who have been on formation programs nationally/internationally
 - Province Administration staff

- Members of ER Prayer and Reflection Groups
- Members of the ERN Coordinating Group in WA
- Brothers of the Province here in the metropolitan area and Bindoon and Tardun. In particular we acknowledge the return of John Carrigg and Laurie Negus back into WA – each of them having spent time in East Africa and noting that later this year Peter Thrupp will be heading to The Philippines to be part of our second community in that country.

I also greet Br Peter Hardiman who is back in WA for some leave from his community and ministry in Kabankalan in the Philippines.

However, I wish to acknowledge and thank all of you who are Brothers – we are going through a profound change in our organisational structure but more importantly we are going through a profound change within our identity – seeing ourselves in a new way within the broader Edmund Rice charismatic movement. We have much to give to the movement – to people in the movement like those who we are amongst here at this function tonight – and they have much to give to us, they will help to shape us for the future which we know we have in this part of the world and in other parts of the world.

- We welcome among us Bros Charles Majaliwa and George Massay from the East African district of the Pan African Province. By total providence Charles and George were present at the SA Sundowner and by careful planning we have them with us today. George and Charles have been in WA and SA to attend a special celebration of St Patrick's day in St Patrick's Province. I now ask George to say a few words to us.

Thanks to George.....his speech to SPP dinner will be on the website.

2. Thanks to Mark, Cathy and Br Terry and all those involved in our prayer celebration. This prayer tonight is part of us all being reflective on who we are and how we live in our families, in our society and in our work place and always that reflection is against the Story of Edmund and the Story of Jesus – our ancestors.

3. News of the Transition to the New Christian Brothers Province in Oceania
 - Leadership Team for Oceania has been announced and Congrats to Dean who will join Vince D, Peter D, Joe L, Paul R, Julian MacD and Peter Harney (Qld but a citizen of the world and formerly at ERCSJ) and Br Dean McGlaughlin from our own leadership team (we offer Dean our congratulations and support). And let me take you on a side-track to say that if you have not received that information your ministry leader has not sent it on to you and/or you are not on our ER network mailing list. You may wish to place your name on the list. (refer to list at the door)
 - Last meeting of SOFCO will be held in early May
 - Implementation Group operating from April – under the direction of the incoming Oceania Province Leadership Team
 - A special celebration of the transition will take place in WA on August 26 and September 3 in SA.
 - The new Province will commence on October 1, 2006

4. Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA)

- The EREA Council has been in place since October 2006
 - Board in place since late in 2006
- The position of Exec Director is being advertised now,
- The National Planning Committee for Schools Governance will hold its last meeting in August 2007
- EREA will officially commence on October 1 this year
- There will be significant celebrations in February 2008

5. While there will be other functions at a later date to thank you and to celebrate the transition of the current Holy Spirit Province into the Oceania Province and the movement of the schools into EREA I wish to thank you. I thank you on behalf of our Leadership Team (Pat, Peter and Dean – Rod gave us too much trouble and we sent him off to the Philippines). We thank you all now for the goodwill, the energy and creativity you show, for the enormous work you do within the context of the mission of the Church, the mission of the CB's and the ER Charismatic movement. For the changes that you make in peoples lives – especially those at risk – for the good you do for this state and through your work here the changes you make to the lives of others in many other parts of the world.

This is the last Sundowner which will be hosted by the Leadership Team and Directors of our current Province. By this time next year the Christian Brothers and the Ministries of the Province which are not school ministries will be functioning within that new Province. The current schools of the Province will be within EREA. BUT let this not be the last Sundowner. The relationships must continue. The reflection on our lives, our stories in the light of the story of Jesus and Edmund must continue – this is how we deepen our understanding of the Edmund and Jesus story. So I hope someone takes the

initiative in the latter part of this year to make something like this – and hopefully even something better!

6. Ed Rice Charism movement – about our hearts – who we are, what we do – how we relate to others, and how we express the fire inside us – the Spirit – the Spirit in us which relates to and guides us in struggling with:

the great mystery of why we are here on earth,

of who we are

of how we struggle with the good and the evil in us

the great injustices in the people of our world and in how the created world is treated.

And it is the spirit in us which relates to the Great Mystery, the loving and creating Trinity God-----

May all of our work – especially with the young – fire and ignite them – with some of the fire of God which was in Edmund (and which is in US) so that they may do “crazy”, generous things that are needed to bring:

Justice, education and rights to children at risk.

The good news of the story of Jesus – a story that will give hope and meaning to their lives.

Justice and healing for our earth!

People who do wonderful things for the Gospel – often worry their friends and families – I hope that their will be a lot of worried friends and families around WA.

May our young people, the people whose hearts we touch see the Jesus story in action and hear the Jesus' story, Edmund's story, our stories and

let them have exciting experiences of doing wonderful things, have adventures, have fun, experience pain, feel injustice in their guts and hearts

and let us listen as they share their experiences and stories with us.

Then in prayer and reflection may they hear the Jesus, Edmund and our stories again with new ears and be inspired again to set off in new ways to change the world.

And may Jesus live in our hearts.