



23 August 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers

On Friday 9th September the College will join as a community for the first Founder's Day since 2018.

Like many events that have been impacted by COVID cancellations, what were once strong traditions are now new or unfamiliar to many. As such, I write to share information on the history, tradition, and significance of Founder's Day to St Edward's, especially regarding the fundraising aspect of the day.

Founder's Day;

Date: Friday 9 September

Donation: All staff & students donate \$20 (payable to Office before day)

Day Outline: A Day of Activities, and fun – all for a good cause

Dress: Mufti

Lunch: BBQ Lunch provided

Founder's Day traditionally was conducted every second year, but not recent years due to COVID restrictions, and has been a part of our St Edward's College tradition since the 1990's. The purpose has always been to build community among us but also to raise money for worthy and relevant Christian Brothers or Edmund Rice ministries.

In recent years, the fundraising effort has solely focused on the Mary Rice Centre in Nairobi Kenya. The Centre transforms the lives of many young people with physical and intellectual disabilities and their families living in the Kibera slum of Nairobi. The Mary Rice Centre is run by Christian Brothers and their co-workers, lay people, combining to provide food, clothing, shelter, education and pastoral needs for many young people and their families. Education and pastoral care needs are a big focus, to help give that community better hope for their individual and their community's future.



Eddies team presenting laptops to the Mary Rice Centre

Many previous senior students and staff from St Edward's have visited the Mary Rice Centre in previous years, as part of an annual school immersion program. Quite simply, the Centre could not survive without the support of the money raised and donated by the St Edward's College community. The College has donated approximately \$250,000 in the time it has supported the Centre, with our goal for this year to raise another \$20,000. This aim is more than achievable if all staff and students donate \$20 each.

As a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition our mission is to live the four Touchstones of Edmund Rice Education Australia. These include a call for us to support social justice activities, where we stand in





solidarity with those most at the margins in our world, those who suffer poverty and other disadvantage. When we do so, we truly live Jesus' greatest commandment to "love thy neighbour".

Together, we can make a real difference. It is much harder to do that on our own and action speaks louder than words can. On Founder's Day, we will have a fun day together (BBQ lunch and over 30 opportunities of rides, games, and activities, with approximately 100 raffle prizes), but more importantly we will raise funds for this most worthy of causes - our donation will give to young people in Kenya who have very little and suffer poverty every day.

In advance we thank you for your support of the community effort to raise funds for the worthiest of causes. Your son will be receiving information at school about our fundraising efforts, as well as the details for Founder's Day. I encourage you to also speak to him about the wonderful contribution he can make through his \$20 donation.

Kind Regards

Cameron Alexander
Acting Principal



Playing games at break time



Water tank donated by St Edward's



Two students who attend the Mary Rice Centre with Kai Darwin

