October 1, 2012

Dear friends and colleagues,

Further to Queensland Government’s decision to move Year 7 into Secondary education from 2015, Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) has previously announced that Nudgee Junior College in Indooroopilly, Queensland, will extend to include a Catholic education for boys in the Edmund Rice tradition from Year 8–12, from 2015.

The new Year 4–12 school will be known as Ambrose Treacy College.

The name has been endorsed by The Most Reverend Mark Colleridge, Archbishop of Queensland, and will be announced on October 2, 2012 at a commemorative service being organized by the Christian Brothers at the graveside of Brother Ambrose Treacy to celebrate the 100th anniversary of his death.

Patrick Ambrose Treacy was born in Co. Tipperary, Ireland, in 1834, and entered the Order of the Christian Brothers in Waterford, aged 18. He was a dynamic and inspiring teacher for 14 years, and at age 34 was commissioned by the Superior General to take a young community of Brothers to Australia and establish a school in Melbourne. Upon arrival, undaunted by the unexpected lack of funds (the Education Act of 1872 implemented a state department-controlled system of free, compulsory and secular education, and the Catholic Church were obliged to pay for their own school system), Ambrose began a colony-wide campaign to finance new schools. His tireless journeys across the rugged Australian landscape and into the goldfields are the stuff of legend. Ambrose was a courageous entrepreneur, a tenacious man of good business acumen, incredible perseverance and stamina (he travelled on horseback as far north as the Gulf of Carpentaria during his collecting tours), and a builder of communities. He is upheld as a role model, whose commitment to the mission and trust in Providence was absolute.

Upon his retirement in 1900, Ambrose had established 27 schools around Australia, and one in New Zealand. He died at St Joseph’s College, Gregory Terrace, on October 2, 1912.

“One man in his time plays many parts, but rarely with such style and consuming energy as Brother Treacy.”

Rev Dr T Bolland

I’m sure that all agree Brother Treacy will be a magnificent inspiration for this new college, and we wish the whole college community well as they embrace their new identity.

With best wishes,

Wayne Tinsey
Executive Director
Edmund Rice Education Australia