



Emmaus National
Newsletter

September 2023

newsletter@emmaus.org.au



On the **1st of each month**, we ask you to **pray** for our nation and for Emmaus, local, national & international. *Prayer is powerful*

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PERTH EMMAUS COMMUNITY

We in Perth feel truly Blessed to be holding two Walks this year.

Men's Walk 71# - 14-17 Sept and the **Ladies Walk 72#** - 22-25 Sept.

To be held at Advent Pk, Maida Vale.

Karen Handley was our Emmaus Training Person this year and brought in some new ideas that gave everyone a fresh view on some things.

It's always great when new people agree to work on our Board, as they bring new energy.

We look forward to the coming Walks with great anticipation for what God has in store.

DeColores

Heather Haggerty - Perth CLD

Psalm 86:11 "Teach me Thy ways O Lord, and I will walk in Thy truths; Unite my heart to fear Thy name"

A lifestyle of Christian living develops passion and determination in our hearts to be taught of the Lord and changed into His likeness. We have to make quality decisions which demonstrate that our hearts are united with our Lord and Saviour. Sometimes those decisions are not as popular as others might like them to be. But our Saviour was not one for popularity !

As a parent there are times when your heart sinks because you need to make a decision that you know your children are not going to like ! I will never forget the time when I had to use that word 'NO' to not letting my younger son go to play with his friend from school, mainly because I hadn't met his friends parents and didn't really know who they were ! Then there was the 'NO' when it just wasn't possible to pay for some clothing item that was the 'IN' garment at the time !

The path to success for every area of our lives has already been laid through the work that was done at the cross. This knowledge is un-folded in the truths and revelation of His Word. The path to success cannot be one of our own making. It cannot be laid by our works. We need to allow the word of God to renew our mind – time spent in the Word of God gives you a clear perception of what He desires for you and the path He has for you. Sometimes our path is not straight forward, that is perfectly ok !

When Joseph was thrown into prison after being falsely accused by Potiphar's wife, it must have seemed like he was the last man in that prison who would receive special note from the warden. Genesis 39:21 – 23 It is stories like this that give us a 'blue print' to share with our children and encourage them on their journeys.

Note here that Joseph had never strayed from the path that he was on, he spent time with the Lord, he heard from the Lord, he followed His directions, but look at the path he had to walk.....one of test and trial, one that would seem destined for destruction, but know the path of destruction was a path of favour, because it led to the wonderful end result of promotion, favour with those around, yes, even prosperity. Joseph walked the path of success because he walked on the right path that he was called to take.

Reverend Christine Rose
National Emmaus Spiritual Director

NATIONAL LAY DIRECTOR ROUNDUP

Hard to believe It has already been 5 months since the National Emmaus Conference hosted so ably by the Darling Downs Community. Sadly, I was overseas at the time but from all reports and feedback received it was a highly successful conference and AGM providing the opportunity to praise God, share experiences and look at options for dealing with the current challenges being faced by Communities in Australia.



But most of all seeking Gods direction for now and into the future.

The National Board has been working its way through recommendations from the AGM and are working on a number of key areas identified.

We are pleased to announce that **Australia's first Village Encounter** will be held next year, and that Sydney West Community will host the encounter. This is as per the recommendation received at the AGM. Members of the Sydney West Board have been looking into the Village Encounter, participating in a Village Encounter run by the Upper Room. It is envisaged that the Village Encounter will provide a further opportunity to increase community numbers particularly for those Communities who are finding it difficult to resource Walks in their area. Watch this space for further information!

The National Board is also currently reviewing the **new Upper Room Manual** to look how it can be implemented given the current structure and conditions in Australia. We are liaising directly with the Upper Room,

There were a number of issues raised around the Website and recommendations received on a possible way forward and how to build on the extensive work already undertaken. This work is ongoing.

The position of **National Training Officer** has been filled. We are pleased to announce Karen Hendley from Western Australia will be taking up this role. Welcome Karen!

These are just some of the actions taken since the AGM but of course the vital role of providing ongoing support of Communities in Australia in their endeavours continues.

The challenges continue for all communities, and we are well aware that some communities are really struggling to survive. It is increasingly difficult to find the human resources necessary to run events, but I firmly believe **God is taking us to a time of renewal**. We hear reports of successful events with solid numbers for example 25 at a recent Face to Face on the Gold Coast.

I encourage anyone who hasn't been involved or who haven't been involved for some time to come forward. If you haven't been to a Gathering lately it is always great to worship and fellowship with your Emmaus Family. There are growing numbers of events including Walks, Face to Face encounters, and Chrysalis flights planned for the last quarter of 2023 and into 2024.

May Our prayers continue for communities throughout Australia and for the Community and National Boards as we all seek Gods direction for the future.

De Colores

Jo Toia, National Lay Director

Prayer Vigils

Click on the Prayer Vigil link on our national website emmaus.org.au or go to vigil.emmaus.org.au

You can request to have your Walk added, so it is covered by prayer, both local & international.

Why not sign up to pray for some vigils whilst you are there

Community Websites

Are you having trouble logging in and updating your details on your community website? If so, contact webmaster@emmaus.org.au to get your login details, to gain access.

CHRYSALIS FLIGHTS - SE Queensland

We had our 73rd and 74th Chrysalis Flights on 21-23 July 2023 at QCCC Brookfield

We had 2 boys and 7 girls and also, three observers from the Adelaide Emmaus community who are looking to re-establish Chrysalis in South Australia.

Struggles to find spiritual team members continue, along with last minute sickness and cancellations as always.

However, with much prayer and persistence from team and board, we had a successful 2 and a half day flight with many wonderful stories shared and young people shown the generosity and amazingness of agape love.

During the closing, it was remarked that the candle-lighting ceremony and the mime communion were some of the powerful experiences and that many expressed interest in participation in future flights.

We have received acceptance from Bradley Lubbe and Leisel East to be our Lay Directors for next years' flight and we look forward to supporting them with team formation, spiritual and directorial support as they go forth and put together their teams for the upcoming 2024 flights.

Currently, we only accept sponsorship of caterpillars 18 years and over due to Queensland Blue-Card legislation, however the board are currently exploring the potential to return to the hosting of Chrysalis flights with caterpillars from 16 to 25 years old for future flights.

We look forward to the changes the new year will bring, and watching how our new butterflies spread their wings and continue on their Chrysalis journeys.

Jacky Richardson, CLD, South East Queensland Chrysalis



NATIONAL BOARD NEWS

Whilst communities are starting to come back and hold Walks, Flights and Gatherings, the National Board have been kept busy doing the necessary behind-the-scenes work.

Some of the items discussed at our Zoom meetings were:

- > We are still seeking a **National Webmaster**
- > **2024 Zoom National Conference**
23rd Mar 2024 2:00–4:00pm
- > **Village Encounter** -
Western Sydney is looking to hold a 'virtual' Face To Face Encounter. There is an International VE in Sept.
- > **Chrysalis age** has been lowered to **16 years old**.
The processes of 'Child-Safe' checks will need to be sorted.

- > **Karen Handley** has been appointed as our **National Training Officer**

Next Board meeting
Sept 21, 7:30pm via Zoom

National Training Officer

Karen Handley has accepted the role of National Training Officer.

The purpose of the role is to support the functioning of the local Emmaus Ministries Community in accordance to the Upper Room model, by facilitating the required and any other needed training to the local Board and any other interested community members.

We look forward to assisting Karen, as she starts out in her new role.

Position Vacant

National ICT Coordinator / WEBMASTER

There is an opportunity for someone with skills in website management using 'Joomla' programming language. Traditionally called webmaster, this role is to coordinate all National Information, Communication and Technology requirements.

Including, but not limited to:
National and Community Websites
Google Workspace accounts

Prerequisites:

Experience with **Joomla CMS** (see below)
or equivalent experience in other CMS types.

Experience with **Google Workspace**.

Handover training and ongoing support available.

For more details including a job description please contact:
Peter O'Loghlin (National Secretary) secretary@emmaus.org.au

Canberra Monaro Update

The Canberra Monaro Emmaus Community are half way through training for Walks #93 and #94. Training hasn't been without its hiccups, this usually indicates that the Walks, Teams, Pilgrims and the Community will be greatly blessed by God. Men's Walk #93 is 19 – 22 October and Women's Walk #94 on 2 – 5 November at Greenhills Conference Centre, on the western edge of Canberra overlooking the Cotter River and the beautiful Brindabella Mountains.



Please pray for the Walks, I encourage you to put your name down on our 72 hour Prayer Vigil (vigil.emmaus.org.au). If you have a Christian friend living in Canberra or the south-eastern NSW region who you would like to sponsor as a pilgrim, please contact us, we could even organize a co-sponsor to make the task easier.

In the lead up to the Walks each year, our Community holds a **Mega-Agape morning** where people can bring their agape projects for others to help complete them. We have just held this event on Saturday

August 12th. It was a great time of fellowship and lots of agape gifts were completed, ready to be a blessing to the Pilgrims. A really great way for us all to get focused on the upcoming Walks.



Face to Face - 1st Encounter Gold Coast Emmaus Community Queensland

It is with delight and thanks to God for the people from the above community for their trusting in God from the beginning.

The journey ... A presentation was held to the members of Gold Coast Emmaus Community in 2019.

In 2022 they made the decision to move forward and hold a Face to Face Encounter.

The Team was formed; training began and was completed over 4 sessions proving to be a very good time of foundation. The Team came from the GC community as far away as Lismore and Sunshine Coast. All Lay members were from GC community & members of Spiritual Leaders from a number of Queensland Communities. Trusting that God would provide all that was required.

The Encounter was held @ Paradise Point UC over 4 sessions within 2 weeks, 16 members of Conference Team, Prayer Warriors x2; with Logistics & Catering. This group meet the needs of 25 Pilgrims with God's help.

Members of the team met for a debrief on July 15, this was an important time for the future of Face to Face within this community; great learning's from this meeting. I feel the GC Community are equipped to move into the next Encounter.

Some of the learnings from this Encounter for the future of all communities were:

- > Look at where you want to be with the program into the future > Advertising – where /when /how.
- > Logistics – is the location suitable. > Venue - size of the space to cater for all sequences

Thank you to the GC Community; the team they assembled and the commitment to this Encounter & the one made for the future. For the joy it has been to meet Christ in this space with you all.

May God bless each one ... Margaret Niethé

ADELAIDE WALKS



The Nunyara Conference Centre in the Adelaide Hills is the venue for our Emmaus Walks. The fantastic facilities allow us to hold the entire Walk onsite, even the Community Candle-lighting and Closing Gatherings.



The view takes in the city of Adelaide. The Nunyara kitchen staff prepare delicious meals and morning & afternoon teas.

Men's Walk #93 was held 10th – 13th August with 6 pilgrims, and Women's Walk #94 was held 17th – 20th August with 23 pilgrims. Group photos were taken in the beautiful gardens.



Men's Walk



Women's Walk

An Adelaide tradition is rainbow cake for Friday night's supper. The Special Agape Coordinators for both Walks offered rainbow-iced cupcakes.

God touched lives on both Walks, as we heard in the testimonies at the Closing Services – even in Portuguese in the Women's Closing. Glory and praise to God for His blessings, poured out in abundance.

Kathy Walker, Adelaide (SA) CLD

RIVERINA EMMAUS COMMUNITY WALKS

On the 3rd September, our Community celebrated 30 years of Emmaus. This was also our Reunion Meeting with the Team and pilgrims from the Men's Walk 59.

Men's Walk No 59

The Men's Walk was held from the 3rd to the 6th August at Dept of Ag Yanco. After a lot of prayer, we decided to go ahead with the Men's Walk, even though we were short a few team members and had 3 eager pilgrims. On Thursday afternoon the enthusiastic team met to unload the trailer and set up for The Walk. The Pilgrims arrived at 7pm and were taken to their rooms to unpack and then join the team in the dining room for a light tea. What a wonderful Walk it was, great weather, great team, great food and wonderful fellowship. The 'walk had quite a few 'firsts; for me.

My first Walk as CLD

This was the first time I had been helping in the kitchen for the entire Men's Walk – a great time of fellowship, lots of talking and laughing. It was wonderful to be available to help, even though it was a very busy and tiring time. God provided us with a Pilgrim, who came with his guitar and had exceptional music skills, who helped with the music during the Walk. It was such a blessing to hear the men sing. One of our ALD's tested positive to Covid on the Sunday morning. He quickly left the Walk and headed for home. The other 2 ALDs stepped up to cover his spot.

Women's Walk No 60

During the following week, many of the Team contracted Covid so the Women's Walk was postponed. We have rescheduled the Walk for the 21st to 24th September. Thankfully most of the Team is available as is the cook, music leader and Agape lady. The downside is 4 of the pilgrims are unable to attend due to existing commitments.

I am looking forward to see God working amongst the Team and Pilgrims.

De Colores - Sylvia Evers, CLD Riverina Emmaus Community

From the Gold Coast Community Lay Director

– Greetings to you all, dear brothers and sisters in Christ – wherever you are!

My over-riding comment for the Gold Coast Community – and particularly the Board members – is that **we are practicing Talk 14 – “Perseverance”**.



Many of you will know of – or even be a part of - the joyful joining and active participation of many from the (in-recess) Northern Rivers Emmaus Community with the Gold Coast Community. Gatherings, Walks, Agape, Board membership and much more have been wonderfully enjoyed for several years now; all one in Christ.

Sadly, the Covid pandemic & the determined, if-often unfathomable regulations & restrictions imposed by the Federal Government & two State Governments - with virtually no consideration for employment, family connections, social connections, or business matters – caused a great falling away for many, again from both NSW and Queensland, particularly with Gatherings attendance & Walk involvement. Despite this, our Community continues to celebrate all our Fourth Days and we have been very active even with reduced overall numbers. Gatherings are held on the first Saturday of each month, commencing 2.00pm, at the Burleigh Heads Church of Christ (next one is September 2nd). Board Meetings are usually held at 10.00am on each second Gathering Saturday, with a shared Community Lunch in between those two events. In March I was privileged to attend (together with our Community Spiritual Director - Pastor Heather Couchman, and Community Lay Director-Elect - Peter Osborn) the Emmaus National Secretariat at Camp Koojarewon, Toowoomba.

In late June and early July our Community, with the selected Team members receiving training and loving guidance from the National Coordinator Margaret Niethe, conducted our first Face to Face Encounter - with 22 Pilgrims completing the 4 days. This made August 5th an enormous combination of Board Meeting, shared Lunch, and a wonderful Fourth Day or Next Day Gathering for the Encounter Pilgrims – so much to celebrate!

On Aug 19 we held a Gathering at Lismore Baptist Church, with a shared BBQ lunch prior.

We endeavour to hold two of these events each year, particularly to celebrate our unity & to offer members from the Northern Rivers who may not be able to travel an opportunity to share & participate.

Planning and preparations are currently well underway for our next Walks:

Men's #146 from October 5th to 8th, **Ladies #147** from October 12th to 15th, at Camp Tamborine.

We Have also booked Camp TLC, a nearby venue where servers and others will be able to stay (small charge applies) to eliminate travelling up and down the mountain.

Training Day 1 was held in August, with 5 Talks presented and critiqued.

The next Training Days are scheduled for September; our Board will convene a special “checklist”.

We will be meeting to ensure all the “l's” are dotted and all the “t's” are crossed.

God is good!

Blessings and De Colores - Charles Probin

**COMMUNITY
CONNECTIONS**



emmaus.org.au

www.facebook.com/AustralianWalkToEmmaus/

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Remember how you found encouragement on your Emmaus journey, Why not share and encourage others with it.

Send your story to newsletter@emmaus.org.au

Please include your name. A photo would be great (but optional).

**We'd love to
hear from
you!**

FACE TO FACE - GOLD COAST

The Gold Coast Community hosted our first Face to Face Encounter in June-July, at Paradise Point Uniting Church.

A few of us from our community started meeting with Margaret Niethé (National Face to Face Co-ordinator) in August last year. Without her assistance during the preparation time, I don't think this encounter would have even gotten off the ground. The knowledge that Margaret imparts and her willingness to assist our Emmaus communities is such a blessing. Margaret, may our Lord richly bless you as you are such a blessing to others.

Our Lay Director (Tracey Carlson) and Spiritual Director (Dave Thomas) called their teams, and all were there to be God's instrument and gave themselves fully to the process. I don't think you could have found a better / more faithful team.

We had 4 training days where Margaret trained our teams and all talks were critiqued. These were great days of camaraderie.

This event went well overall.

We began with 25 pilgrims and 22 completed the event, as some withdrew for family matters, but will connect again later.

Our kitchen staff did a fantastic job preparing food for all the team and pilgrims – especially catering for all those with special diets. I know that we all left each do with full bellies. Thank you.

Looking back, I feel that maybe the conference room was just a little too small, but then we never expected to get 25 pilgrims. There may have been a few things that we could have done better, but I know that the pilgrims all had a special touch from our Lord.

We are planning our next encounter in June/July 2024 – this one will be held in the northern NSW – probably around Lismore.

Blessings, Jill Ballinger

Sec. Gold Coast Comm, Immediate Past CLD, Face to Face coach

THE CSD'S ROLE

at the Gold Coast Emmaus Community:

- being in a state of humility before my Saviour;
- teaching the Gathering that King Jesus is everything to them. Despite that word 'all' [which includes the word 'us' who have fallen] the Saviour has given us 'great things' to walk in His power; we are restored by His Grace; we are seated at His right hand; we know that He is our advocate;
- We are more than conquerors. It's a privilege to pray for those who need a kind word; to be excited with a friend who has special news; lend a shoulder with the sad, yet remind them that the Lord walks with them through, and along, that path;
- challenge a Fourth Day speaker they do have a voice, and encourage and share their experiences. 'That was such a great talk' [and it was!];
- to listen to those who are still flabbergasted the Lord is still their Shepherd in their passion. 'I'm nearly 80, and still the Lord blesses me!';
- communicating with those who have lost a loved one - you are definitely loved by our Community';
- sharing the 'great Australian cuppa' and forever 'networking'. We still have roles to fill ! YES, you can be a difference !;
- communicating with those who have lost a loved one - you are definitely loved by our community.

We serve a mighty and awesome Father.

Heather

EMMAUS UNIVERSITY

A resource open to anyone in the Communities, to learn, grow and be encouraged in a range of areas within Emmaus Ministries.

After you register, you are led through a number of video.

The first being 'The Why', which discusses

'Why we do what we do', in Emmaus?

<https://emmausministriesuniversity.upperroom.org/>



The Upper Room
Emmaus Ministries

chrysalis DISCOVERY WEEKEND WALK TO EMMAUS JOURNEY TO THE TABLE FACE to FACE

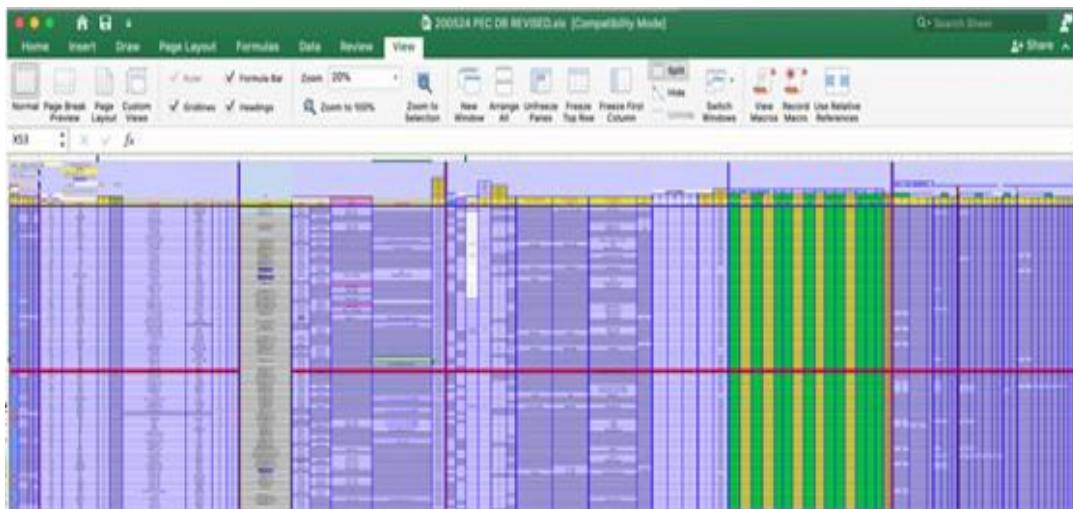
The WHY

THE WHY

EMMAUS ONLINE COMMUNITY DATABASE

My name is Paul Mulrone, and I was a pilgrim on Perth Emmaus Walk #9 in 1999. I served on team for the first Great Southern walks, and the first Perth Chrysalis flights. Over the three communities I have served many times in various roles. My day job is development manager for Logical Developments. Logical Developments produces customised database solutions for small business across a range of industries including transport, manufacturing, and accounting/finance.

In all three communities that I've served in, I've noticed that each one had a community "database" consisting of an Excel spreadsheet to track member information. The team selection process used this to choose team members, extract email and postal addresses for newsletters etc.



There were always problems! If two people updated the spreadsheet, which one is the "master" copy? The spreadsheet isn't searchable in a meaningful way. For example: it can't easily tell us who hasn't served on team; or who was asked but they responded with "no"; or tell us how many times someone has served on team. Spreadsheets are flexible but it's too easy to delete data accidentally or enter nonsense data into the cells of the workbook. You can enter so many details, that your spreadsheet can end up looking something like this screen shot!

The biggest problem with Excel is this: Excel is not a database!

In 2015 I started working on a prototype online database system, and when I have had the opportunity to attend the National conferences in 2018 and 2019 I spoke with other communities and found that there were people who wanted such a system.

Logical Developments and Emmaus Australia National Board have an agreement in place to offer the community database to all Emmaus and Chrysalis communities in Australia, to help ease the administrative burden of managing the community's membership database. To date, 6 communities use the online database, and 17 communities take advantage of the online prayer vigil system.

In coming newsletters, I hope to share some of the features of the system, so you can see how it can make your life easier. Wouldn't it be good to be able to have the membership information that you need at your fingertips? Imagine setting up a prayer vigil with a literal click of a button!

If your community would like some more information on the system, or migrate their existing data onto the system – please contact me and I can arrange a zoom meeting with your board to demonstrate the system and answer any questions you may have.

De Colores

Paul Mulrone pmulrone@logicaldevelopments.com.au

