

EMMAUS MINISTRIES AUSTRALIAN NEWSLETTER December 2020

From the National Lay Director

As we enter the advent season in preparation for rejoicing in our Saviour's birth, we can be grateful for so many things – Our life, our health and every good thing. As restrictions are reduced, my hope is that families and friends meet each other, rekindle relationships, and celebrate.

Following a year that we never dreamed about less than twelve months ago where we “locked down”, “zoomed around”, social distanced, rediscovered hand cleanser, and generally had much time to think, perhaps next year will be a little more like last year. Amongst other things, 2020 provided many opportunities for practicing patience!

Emmaus Ministries (through the Upper Room) have been working hard to develop a new model to reach pilgrims in different ways. A virtual model within the Emmaus Ministries will be tested globally in early December. The model aims to retain the Emmaus Talks that we all know so well but able to be presented online. There will be some teething challenges, I am sure, but let us see how it goes, even though we may be able to hold walks sometime in 2021. A new opportunity.

A virtual version of Face to Face ready to go – thanks to hard work by the Melbourne Emmaus Community – more information about the next event will be available early in the New Year. You can sponsor anyone from anywhere!

We had Australia wide CLD and CSD meetings in November and I look forward to our next meetings early in 2021. An Australia wide mega-gathering is also being considered and we will need help in organising and a request will go out soon. We understand that not everyone can attend these events but urge you to encourage others to attend.

The National Conference 2021 may need to be postponed again, depending on the directions given to us by our leaders and conference centre. The National Board will be seeking more information to negotiate our insurance premiums in the new year. It will be in our interest to deal with this promptly when the time comes

I was recently reminded of the ancient Japanese art of Kintsugi – where broken pots and other items are repaired with precious metals like gold. Instead of throwing away broken items, they highlight the cracks and flaws by filling them with gold restoring the item for continued use. The flaws are repaired, and they become a part of the beauty of the item.

Perhaps 2021 can be a time of allowing God to regild our lives and the people we meet through “Kintsugi-like moments” with His beauty and Grace.

Have a Blessed Christmas,
De Colores,
David Nivala, National Lay Director. email: nld@emmaus.org.au



From the National Spiritual Director

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

I have been trying to think of a way to describe this year that does not include the words unprecedented or challenging or once in a lifetime or !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! but I have obviously failed miserably. The one thing that I do want to do however is to encourage us all not to look back but to look forward. As we all know we can and do learn from our past but we must not dwell there.

Last week we were able to gather many of the Community Spiritual Directors from across Australia in a Zoom meeting. (Maybe we could describe this year as a "Zoom Year"). That was a good gathering of a dozen CSD's, Other members of the National Board. Rev Stephane Brooks, the Spiritual Director Emmaus Ministries based in Nashville also joined us. It was 3 in the morning over there.

It was a great sharing time as we heard of how God had been at work in all sorts of ways in many places. As a part of that meeting I invited the CSD's to reflect on the following 2 questions which I share with you all for your reflection as well.

- How has God surprised you with his presence this year?
- If there is a standout learning for you from this year, what is it?

As I write this most of the state borders in Australia are open and people are now free to travel to see family and friends and share holiday experiences. These are things we took for granted before but now hopefully see them as a privilege and not a right.

Christmas is a time to gather with family and I pray that many of us will be able to do that. A couple of years ago as I was reflecting on the meaning of Christmas and searching for something a bit different to say I came across this little poem which suggests the best gifts we can give at Christmas.

To your enemy.....forgiveness
To you opponent... tolerance
To a friend your heart
To a customer.....service
To all people charity
To every child a good example
To yourself respect.



To all this I add the words of a Christmas song which I have sung for many years in which the main line in the chorus is, "Christmas is a time to love." This love is not a sentimental, wishy washy love but a powerful expression of deep care and mutual respect. Sometimes that is tough love and not easy to give or receive but it is a choice we make. We choose to love.

I invite you this year especially to choose to love your community, your family, yourself as God loves the world, unconditionally and forever.

May God richly bless you and your family

De Colores
Bruce Cornish,
National Spiritual Director

Email nsd@emmaus.org.au

Face to Face Update



Some of us feel quite comfortable with this new Emmaus Ministry and feel that it is not so new! However, many of us are just hearing about it! And there are those who are excited about how they can participate. Face to Face is specially adapted to meet the needs of Men and Woman 60 years and over and/or those who cannot cope physically with a Walk to Emmaus program.

Have you heard or perhaps even felt or said; what does God want of me? I am old and passed my use by date! I feel most of life is over for me! I've heard these cries and my heart cries out Lord help them!

I can assure you that participating in a Face to Face Encounter will strengthen your resolve and find purpose, being part of the program whether as a Pilgrim or as a Team member will strengthen your spiritual life as well as that of your family, friends and Church.

Emmaus Ministries desires to see the hearts of all-believers captivated with the unveiled scriptures as they participate in an amazing journey!

The objective is to once again inspire, challenge, and equip local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities and places of work.

Join us in a journey with Christ filled with love and grace, revealed to you through other believers. Paced for our ages 60 and over; People who are over 90 have found their lives have more purpose.

Even in this Covid Climate there are opportunities to seek God in a new way! Encounters have taken place in Queensland, Victoria and South Australia.

Need to know more? Contact your Community Lay Director or Vince van Sant (National Co-ordinator).

Margaret Niethé
(National Co-ordinator elect)

Chrysalis News



Greetings from the Chrysalis Community! Perhaps as we have all been on a bit of a hiatus over the last almost twelve months, we could think of it as similar to being in a cocoon! As we emerge from our isolation and the changes to how we live our lives, let's all remember to keep on thanking our Lord for who He is in our lives, and open our eyes (and wings) for where He wants to lead us in our next steps with Him!! Blessings to all especially over the time we remember Jesus' birthday,

Fly with Christ,
Alison Holcroft

Community Updates

Communities were recently requested to share with others a brief synopsis of their activities during this different year . Following are some of the updates received:-

2020 for Canberra Monaro

Our Community had a normal Gathering on March 14th, by the 28th the team training and the 2020 Walks, set to be held in May and June, were cancelled. Board meetings have continued by zoom, and on June 13th a zoom Gathering took place, on what would have been Candlelighting for the Women's Walk. This was very successful and saw double the numbers that were at our last face to face Gathering.

Zoom Gatherings were then held in July and August. In September a face to face. Going Fourth was held with reduced numbers and maintaining social distancing. Since then we have been able to have face to face Gatherings in October and a BBQ and outside sharing time in November. To wrap the year up we will be meeting by zoom to have an Emmaus Christmas party in December.

Although it was sad to cancel the Walks, and meeting together physically was not possible for a while, the introduction of zoom Gatherings and Board meetings has opened up new ways for some people to be more involved in the Community.

De Colores,
Andrew Southwell

CLD Canberra Monaro Emmaus Community



Brisbane West Emmaus



Our board kept in contact with each other via zoom and emails. Gatherings began in September with a fireside picnic on the lawns of Forest Lake Uniting Church. What a blessing it was to meet in person around the campfire with guitar led worship. "It only takes a spark to get a fire going". How true this was as our fourth day speaker inspired us with their story. We were able to meet again for a picnic in October and our November gathering had us joined together with candlelight singing carols. Every month it has been a blessing to welcome more of our Community to share in the Gatherings. Now we look forward to 2021.

Graham and Jenny Hodgson
Community Lay Directors, Brisbane West Emmaus Community

South Sydney Illawarra Emmaus Community NSW

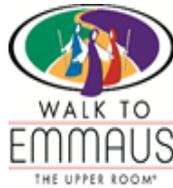
Whilst the Bushfires, Floods and COVID this year have taken its toll on our ability to gather together, conduct walks and other Community events, we have (albeit a little slow on the uptake) managed in God's grace and timing to adapt, improvise and generally overcome the obstacles presented. The one major event we held this year was celebrating our 25th Birthday as an Emmaus Community via Zoom. On the day, aside from our own Community members, we were also blessed to have members from the Western Sydney Emmaus Community as well as a couple of retired members now residing in QLD participate. Together we reminisced by sharing our Emmaus experiences in small groups along with 'Glimpses of SSI Emmaus' and 'Walk' slideshows demonstrating that since our birth in 1995 the SSI Emmaus Community has conducted 70 Walks and served over 1400 pilgrims in that time and shared many other memorable events together including our 4th Day witnesses, a family from Walks 2, 7 & 8 who have continued to faithfully serve our Community in a variety of roles since being pilgrims. We also shared Communion and prayed, asking God for direction on what He has in store for us and a Community doing His work going forward.

De Colores.

Grant Hornery

Community Lay Director, NSW South Sydney Illawarra Emmaus Community





CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2020 - 21

The *Emmaus Australia Secretariat* is the governing body of Emmaus Ministries in Australia and consists of two representatives of each community, plus a few appointed members. It meets once a year, in the national conference normally held in April or May. The *Emmaus Australia National Board* (EANB) is the executive arm of the Secretariat and handles the month-by-month business of the movement on behalf of the Secretariat. Officers generally serve for a three year period.

The EANB is now calling for nominations for the positions of

- National Lay Director elect,
- National Treasurer elect

for a three year term to take office in 2021, and attend National Board Meetings (Zoom and in-person) and understudy the respective roles for the remainder of 2020 – early 2021.

It is preferable that nominees have held the positions as mentioned in the attached relevant job description in an Emmaus Community. They must have given their consent and, nominations must be endorsed by the Board of their own Community.

Nominations will close on Friday 8th January 2021

Job Descriptions are attached to this newsletter.

Written nominations should be sent to the Secretary, Phil Jennings, at secretary@emmaus.org.au or post to 29 Ruthven Avenue Glandore SA 5037.

Job Description: National Lay Director

Short Description: The National Lay Director (NLD) is the leader and chairperson of Emmaus Ministries Australia, the Secretariat and the National Board.

Type: Secretariat Executive position

Reports to: Emmaus Ministries Australia Secretariat

Qualifications:

1. A committed lay person with a passion for the ministry of Emmaus Ministries at a national level.
2. Must have extensive experience as a Conference Room team member up to and including Walk/Flight/Encounter Lay Director; must have served several years as a member of an Emmaus Community Board.
3. Experience in management, leadership and group dynamics and team activities outside Emmaus is most desirable.
4. Must be an active member of his or her local church and of his or her local Emmaus Community, but should not be a concurrent CLD so as to minimise conflicts of interest and workload.
5. Must have ready access to the internet and be competent in the use of Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and email.

Term of office: Three years; no more than two three-year terms may be served consecutively.

Duties:

1. Provide guidance to Community Lay Directors and Boards.
2. Encourage growth, development and sustainment of Emmaus Ministries in Australia and the surrounding region.
3. Facilitate annual Emmaus Ministries Australia Secretariat and regular Emmaus Australia National Board meetings.

Job Description: Treasurer

Short Description: This person maintains the financial records of the Secretariat and the Emmaus Australia National Board (hereinafter EANB), and keeps the EANB informed of the financial position.

Type: Secretariat Executive position.

Reports to: National Lay Director.

Qualifications:

- 1 Must have served as an Emmaus/ Chrysalis/ Face to Face Conference Room team member and as a member of a Community Board.
- 2 Must be an active member of his or her local church and of his or her local Emmaus Community.
- 3 Must have ready access to the internet and be competent in the use of Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and email.
- 4 Should have some training or experience in accounting or bookkeeping.

Term of office:

Three years; no more than two three year terms may be served consecutively.

Duties:

1. Maintain accurate financial records for the Secretariat and the EANB in accordance with normal accounting procedures.
2. Report to each meeting of the EANB and the Secretariat the current bank balance and the receipts and payments since the last corresponding meeting.
3. Arrange to have the records examined at the end of each financial year and a report submitted to the EANB, and to the annual Secretariat.
4. Receive and record any offerings at Secretariat meetings and Conferences.
5. Receive record and bank all incoming funds; submit payments to the EANB for endorsement.
6. Receive and reconcile statements of any bank accounts, term deposits and the like held in the name of the Secretariat.
7. Communicate with Communities to remind them of their financial obligations with respect to the Secretariat.
8. Supervise the work of the Insurance Officer and act as the liaison person between that officer and the EANB.

EMMAUS MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA NATIONAL BOARD
NOMINATION FORM

We hereby nominate

of the Emmaus Ministries Community
for the position of **National Lay Director-elect**

and supply the following information about the nominee:

Address

Phone / Mobile: Email:

I confirm that

- The Board of the Community endorses this nomination;
- The nominee has been approached and consents to his/her nomination.

Why is this person considered suitable for the position?
(Briefly include Emmaus Ministries experience and specific capabilities relevant to the role).

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Signed

Date

Return nominations to the Emmaus Australia National Board Secretary, Phil Jennings
at secretary@emmaus.org.au or post to 29 Ruthven Avenue Glandore SA 5037

EMMAUS MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA NATIONAL BOARD
NOMINATION FORM

We hereby nominate

of the Emmaus Ministries Community
for the position of **National Treasurer-elect**

and supply the following information about the nominee:

Address

Phone / Mobile: Email:

I confirm that

- The Board of the Community endorses this nomination;
- The nominee has been approached and consents to his/her nomination.

Why is this person considered suitable for the position?
(Briefly include Emmaus Ministries experience and specific capabilities relevant to the role).

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Signed Date

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