



EMMAUS NEWS



Newsletter of the Canberra Monaro Emmaus Community

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A message from our Community Lay Director



Hello Emmaus Family,

Can you believe there are only 34 days til Christmas Eve!

As we approach the end of another action-packed year, I'm feeling pretty whacked – not sure about you. This year has been a big one. So...after sitting here at my desk for over an hour trying to figure out how to summarise our year, and feeling my seven functioning brain cells slowly power down... I may, or may not, have co-opted Copilot to help out. (Of course I re-edited it – as impressive as AI is... it isn't me!)

Reflecting & Looking Forward

2025 has been a testament to our commitment, faith, and fellowship. I am filled with gratitude for the wonderful moments we have shared as a Community. We are truly blessed to be in the Emmaus Community.

National Conference in Bonnie Hills – Joy (CSD) and I had the privilege of attending this bi-annual, in-person opportunity to connect with folks from 11 other Emmaus communities. We gained a strong sense of being part of God's Australian Emmaus Community, all wrestling with the same issues, and being encouraged/prompted by the growing Chrysalis movement in other Communities. **Should we reinstate Chrysalis?**

Last Gathering 2025

Saturday 13 Dec: 12.30pm BBQ
Gathering @ O'Connor UC

Walks 2026

Men's #99: 30 April - 3 May
2026

Women's #100: 14 - 17 May
2026

Walks to Remember #97 & #98 - In May and June, the countless months of preparation came to fruition at Greenhills. 12 Pilgrims were blessed with 72 hours in God's Time. Walks are transformative experiences for all of us. Community on Team, serving in the Dining Room, praying in the 72hr Prayer Vigil, Sponsoring, creating Agape, attending Candlelighting and Closing. Walks bring life-changing spiritual renewal, growth, friendships and memories. **Pray for our Walk #99 and #100 LDs Andrew Johnson & Jill Pearson and their Teams as they prepare for Training kick-off of in early Feb 2026.**

OCUC Community Day in September - A day to be Jesus hands and feet and actively bless the O'Connor UC community. Thank you for the generosity of all who volunteered, donated (including Franklin Woolies and Dickson Coles), cooked, served and showed up! **Do you know of a group that our CMEC Community could bless?**

Going Fourth in October - A time of reflection, renewal, and recommitment to our journey with Christ. A day bought to you by the 'letter S' and the beautiful Going Fourth team lead by Trish Dooley. A great reminder that Jesus is our strength, song and salvation.

Have you been a WLD? Would you like to lead Going Fourth #20?

Bunnings BBQ in October - A sizzling success! We raised funds to support CMEC, while serving up a lot of fun connecting with the wider Belconnen community! A big thank you to our trusty BBQ Captain Michelle Southwell and all the volunteers. **Do we make this a part of our Calendar for 2026?**

Country Gathering in November – Our last Board meeting for 2025, then a lovely lunch in Yass, with our Gathering held at St Andrews Uniting Church. Henna Watson led Worship for the last time before moving to Cairns, and Michael Young presented a thought provoking Fourth Day talk with his photos capturing God's glorious creation. **Where will our Country Gathering be in 2026?**

The Thank you's – To the wonderful servants of the CMEC Board, thank you for your support and willing perseverance across the year. It can be a juggle to do work, life, church and Walk involvement as well as a monthly Board meeting with its range of tasks to action.

Please join with me in thanking the Board Members who are stepping down after their 3 years of faithful service.

· **Gary Bates – Music Coordinator:** Gary, your gentle guidance, diligent Music Coordination, rousing Worship at Gatherings has been 'stella' across the time you've been on Board. We pray God's rich blessings over your growing involvement in your Coast church and look forward to seeing you and Liz whenever you can make it back for Gatherings.

· **Dean Warwick – Outreach Coordinator:** Dean, you are an 'ideas man' and we've been privileged to have your insight and support on the Board. Your willingness and focus on keeping CMEC relevant as an outreach to the whole region has been encouraging and at times the provocation needed to help us stay focussed on being a useful channel for God to reach all His people. Bless you in your work and family life and thank you for being a faithful servant in our Community.

Thank you also for Kat Santosuosso, who has agreed to continue for 1 more year on the Board. Kat will keep her Training & Education Coord role but will step down as Gathering Coord. Kat, thank you for the years of Gatherings you have organised! We're so glad you're staying on to stitch your way through another year of Board meetings, providing your insight & out-of-the box thinking!

Thank you to our ongoing Board Members. Bless you for your faithful ongoing service. **CSD:** Joy Waldron, **Secretary:** Andy Visser, **Treasurer:** Andrew Chenery, **Community members:** Jane Barr and Brad Ramage.

BBQ Gathering – 13 Dec at 12.30 – O'Connor Uniting Church

We've so much to thank God for, so let's do it together! See you on Saturday. Bring a hat, your appetite and we'll serve you up a sausage or two! It is an informal Gathering, but we will have a time for 'reflections' to share. What God story will you share?

As we look forward to 2026, I see opportunities for us as a Community. Thank you, every single one of you, for your prayers, joyful involvement, constant support, and love. As I see it, we have a job to do together - paying forward God's gift of grace to the people in our worlds who need it.

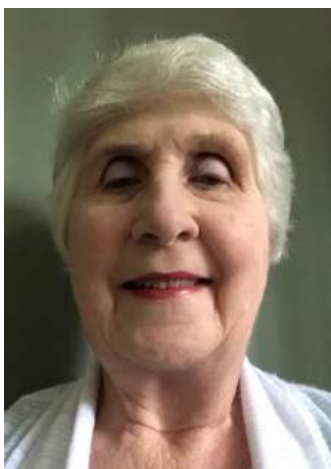
***For by grace you have been saved through faith.
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8 ESV***

De Colores and God Bless

Von

PS: Please reach out if you have questions or ideas about our Community – I'd love to chat with you.
Mobile: 0412 800 266 or email: cld@canberramonaro.emmaus.org.au

A message from our Community Spiritual Director



Hello Community.

As I write this today it will be the last of our Newsletters for 2025.

My how the year has flown!

I have been pondering on a couple of rhetorical questions that the newly elected National Spiritual

Director, Neil Storey left with us after the devotional at the National Emmaus Zoom Board Meeting in September. These were:

1. Have we robbed the Cross of its power?
2. Have we robbed service of its power in the Emmaus Community?

I will first look at question 2.

Neil is based in Queensland so I can't answer for Queensland Communities, only as I see it, our own. I see many serving in different ways, eg. the recent Fete Day and BBQ, our monthly Gatherings and our annual Walks as well as those who do a great deal behind the scenes. Serving is for everyone so let's not take away its power.

When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness by the devil He told him, "You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve." [Matt 4:10b]

Jesus connects service as worship. Therefore service is a form of worship to our Lord and when done with a servant heart it pleases our God. Jesus Himself is sometimes referred to as the Servant King.

Phil 2:7 says about Jesus that "He emptied Himself by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men."

A serving servant is God's heart; it is fun, and an opportunity to connect with others with the added bonus of knowing it is worship to our Lord. So let us not take the power out of serving, but do it with a joyful and willing heart, and bless our Lord and Saviour.

Now the second question, "Have we robbed the Cross of its power?"

It is interesting to ponder the many ways we see a cross - as a gold necklace, embroidered, or screened, onto tees and tops, tattooed on bodies for both Christians, and non Christians, upside down crosses in heavy metal bands, wooden crosses in Churches, both rugged, and fancied up!!! The list goes on.

With so many representations have we robbed the cross of its power?

I have been in Churches where a very rugged cross stood. Probably very like the cross Jesus was crucified on, but its ruggedness was almost completely covered by beautiful fabrics. Again I ask "Have we robbed the Cross of its power?"

The other day I was at a funeral and the Chapel had a cross cut out of the wall - a full, cross window. As I sat there in the quiet I sensed the presence of God as I gazed through the cross window at nature outside.

A story I read in The Voice of the Martyrs devotional was about the instructions given to a person intending to defect from North Korea. He was told that if he got through to South Korea to look for a building with a cross. He found his target, was helped by Christians and later gave his own life to Jesus. I think there was power in that cross.....

What about the jewellery kind? Again I heard another story where a non-Christian saw a person in the street who was wearing a gold cross around their neck. The person went to them with questions which resulted in a cafe cuppa, a long chat, and a new member to

God's Kingdom. Was it another cross with power in it?

That decorated cross in the Church - I've seen people prostrate before it, reaching out to touch it to receive forgiveness, or release a worry or concern to the Lord. Power in the Cross!

It is not the tangible cross itself like any other tangible thing, but what it means to our hearts.

At the Walks we have Dying Moments where leaving a piece of bread at the foot of the cross is symbolic of that which we don't want to carry any more, and wanting to seek the healing and freedom that Jesus wants to give us.

That Jesus died on that rugged Cross for our sin, giving us hope for eternal life with Him, is an amazing gift from God. It is something tangible we can see. something natural, that we can embrace to help us encounter our God in the Spiritual.

I think there is power in the Cross when we approach it with a seeking after God in our hearts. But, like anything it can also be misused and even scoffed at by those who don't believe in our resurrected Lord.

As I draw to a close a song comes to me:-
"Power, power wonder working power, is the precious blood of the Lamb."

That blood Jesus shed on that rugged Cross which the words of the following song by Stuart Townsend express so well.

"This power of the Cross
Christ became sin for us
Took the blame, bore the wrath
We stand forgiven at the Cross".

De Colores
Joy Waldron

December BBQ Gathering Saturday 13 December, 1230pm @ O'Connor Uniting Church

Come along to our final gathering of 2025 - the traditional end of year BBQ Gathering at 12.30pm on Saturday, 13 December for a time of socialising, reflecting on the year that was and God's goodness.

It has been a busy year for our Community. We have been privileged to host two Walks, welcome new pilgrims to our Community, continue to gather on a monthly basis at O'Connor Uniting Church and host another Going Fourth. We are fortunate to be part of such a thriving Emmaus community.

This is a lovely opportunity to connect with friends, and share our gratitude for all God has done for us individually and as a community.

But shhhhh There's more

Silent Auction

If you keep it quiet, you can participate in our Silent Auction courtesy of Bunnings Belconnen who donated the goods for auction.

Whether it's just what you need for your own camping or outdoor set up, or the perfect gift for that someone who has everything, be sure to come along to the BBQ and place your bid.

shhh



How our silent Auction works...

1. Make a bid of the \$ amount you wish to pay for Item A or Item B (or both).
2. Email your bid to: cld@canberramonaro.emmaus.org.au
or
Text your bid by mobile to: 0412 800 266
3. **Last day for bids – 5pm Wednesday 10 December 2025.**
4. Winners will be notified by email or text.
5. Items can be collected from the Saturday BBQ on 13 December from 12.30pm-3pm.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

(Nb: All \$ raised go to CMEC to support Community running costs).



Item A
Jumbuck Camping Cast Iron
Set of 4
Valued at \$150



Item B
ALL SET Melamine
Dinner Set 16 pieces
Valued at \$39



Worship Songs for Gathering – Praising God Together as Community

Psalm 95 (NIV)
1 Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
2 Let us come before Him with thanksgiving
and extol Him with music and song.



Isn't singing together a wonderful way to begin our Gatherings?

What are your favourite Gathering Worship Songs?

We want to know!

- Email us the names of your top 5 or 10 Gathering Worship Songs.

Worship Leaders for Gatherings – Slots available!

Do you like to worship God through Song?

Do you love to sing praise to God along with other people?

Can you explain to people what songs mean to you in your walk with God?

Our Worship Leaders don't have to play an instrument.

It's about selecting songs, and leading Community from the busyness of life into the place of praise and thanksgiving.

EasyWorship has a list of songs to choose from, and other songs can be downloaded. Songs can come with backing tracks so the music is taken care of.

Would you like to serve our Community this way?

Let's chat!

Email: secretary@canberramonaro.emmaus.org.au

Email: cld@canberramonaro.emmaus.org.au



Thank you Darrell Armour

The Board and Community extend our heartfelt gratitude to Darrell Armour (Walk #31, 1998) for repairing the Bible holder that is used on the front table in the Conference Room during Walks.

This repair was not an easy one and we are extremely grateful for Darrell's support in helping with the restoration of this valuable asset.

A Note from Kairos Outside Canberra

Kairos Outside Canberra #21: While the ultimate Thanks be to God first and foremost, next we want to thank you for your prayers and support for our recent guest weekend. It was a Holy Spirit-filled time and a blessing to our guests and team.

Belconnen Bunnings BBQ on Sunday 19th October



A HUGE thank you to everyone that came to help run the Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser on the 19th October.

From 8am to 4:30pm people set up, cooked sausages, served and then cleaned up. We even had a few non- Emmaus people rostered on to serve, and we thank their families for dragging them along. It was a time of fellowship and fun as we worked together.

We were even serenaded by 2 cooks! I'm sure people came to see if anyone was hurt or in pain - it certainly was a talking point. We ended up selling 936 sausages, 20kg of onions & 145 drinks, using 55 loaves of bread and 6 litres of sauce.

A total of nearly \$2700 was raised by this simple sausage sizzle. The money raised will go towards supporting the running of Walks and the needs of our community. Make sure you don't miss out on the joy & fellowship of a Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser next year (date is yet to be confirmed).





Treasurers Report

Hello Emmaus community.

Since my last update, we've had our Going Fourth and Country Gatherings, as well as two very successful fundraising events — the O'Connor Uniting Church Open Day and the Bunnings BBQ. I'm delighted to share that the Open Day raised \$773 for our community, and the Bunnings BBQ raised \$2,639 after covering all expenses. These are fantastic results, and we want to give a big thank-you to Jim and Michelle for leading each event so expertly.

As mentioned previously, the cost for next year's Walks at Greenhills will be \$360 per person. If you'd like to pay this off slowly, you can! Paying \$30 every fortnight from now will cover the full amount in time for next year's Walks.

In terms of our community's overall finances:

We currently have \$10,780 available in our main day-to-day account (as at 31 October).

We also have \$13,787 saved in a 12-month term deposit with Uniting Financial Services.

Thank you again to everyone who has helped, participated, or supported all our events. Your contributions continue to make a real difference!

Blessings all,

Andrew Chenery

Treasurer



Emmaus Board Members - contact details

Emmaus Role	Name	Email
Community Lay Director (CLD)	Von Chenery	cld@canberramonaro.emmaus.org.au
Community Spiritual Director (CSD)	Joy Waldron	csd@canberramonaro.emmaus.org.au
Secretary	Andy Visser	secretary@canberramonaro.emmaus.org.au
Treasurer	Andrew Chenery	treasurer@canberramonaro.emmaus.org.au
Gathering Coordinator	Vacant	
Music Coordinator	Vacant	
Training & Education Coordinator	Kat Santosuosso	
Community Member	Jane Barr	
Community Member	Brad Ramage	
Non-Board Member Roles		
Registrar	Michelle Southwell	registrar@canberramonaro.emmaus.org.au
Web Administrator	Neil Glassford	webadmin@canberramonaro.emmaus.org.au

Noticeboard

Direct donations

Have you thought that instead of making a one-off donation at a Gathering, you could make a regular weekly, fortnightly or monthly donation? By doing this, you will help ensure that we can keep supporting Pilgrims and meet the running costs of Emmaus. To make a direct deposit use the following details:

Name of bank account: Canberra Monaro Emmaus Community

Bsb: 634634, Account Number: 100021977

Reference: your name

Credit card payments

Our Community utilises a Square Card – tap and go service.

You don't have to pay with cash. Pay with credit or debit card at any Gathering - a Board member can help!

Emmaus Newsletters

You can opt in to receive Newsletters from both the Australian Emmaus Community and the Upper Room.

News from the Australian Emmaus Community

[News \(emmaus.org.au\)](https://emmaus.org.au)

News from the International Emmaus Community

The Upper Room Newsletter can be accessed through their website [here](#)

Reunion groups can use zoom

Emmaus has a Zoom license that is available for all the Emmaus Community. If you would like to use it to hold a Reunion Group Meeting, Bible Study, Team Meeting or to have a chat with friends over coffee, then please use it, that is why we have it.

Just contact Andy Visser at secretary@canberramonaro.emmaus.org.au to book in your meeting

Lost your Emmaus Name Badge??

You can order a new Emmaus name badge by sending your name (first and last name) to our Registrar Michelle Southwell at

registrar@canberramonaro.emmaus.org.au



Canberra Monaro Emmaus Calendar 2026_{v2}

JAN	Sat	17	Board Workshop and Meeting	10am – 3pm	TBC
	Sat	24	Two weeks of Prayer		via Community Email
		25	Australia Day		
	Fri	30	Newsletter		Email to Community
FEB	Sat	7	Walk #99 and #100 LDs, ALDs & MDs Training	11am – 1pm	O'Connor UC
		7	Gathering – Commissioning of WLDs and WSDs Includes two Board talks – teams to attend	2pm – 4.30pm	O'Connor UC
	Mon	9	Board Meeting	7.30pm – 9.30pm	Zoom
	Sat	14	Training Day 1 Walks #99 and #100	8am – 5pm	O'Connor UC
	Sat	28	Training Day 2 Walks #99 and #100	8am – 5pm	O'Connor UC
Mar		9	Canberra Day		
	Mon	9	Board Meeting	7.30pm – 9.30pm	Zoom
	Sat	14	Mega Agape Morning	10am – 1pm	O'Connor UC
		14	Gathering	2pm – 5pm	O'Connor UC
	Sat	28	Training Day 3 Walks #99 and #100	8am – 5pm	O'Connor UC
	Tue	31	Newsletter		Email to Community
APR		3-6	Easter Weekend		
	Mon	13	Board Meeting	7.30pm – 9.30pm	Zoom
	Sat	18	Training Day 4 Walks #99 and #100	8am – 1pm	O'Connor UC
		18	Gathering – Walks #99 and #100 Team Commissioning	2pm – 5pm	O'Connor UC
		25	ANZAC Day		
	Thurs	30	Men's Walk #99 – Team 3pm onward	7pm Pilgrims	Greenhills
MAY	Sat	2	Men's Walk #99 Candlelighting Service - Community	8pm	Weston Creek UC
	Sun	3	Closing Ceremony – Greenhills	3.45pm	Greenhills
	Mon	4	Board Meeting	7.30pm – 9.30pm	Zoom
	Thurs	14	Women's Walk #100 – Team 3pm onwards	7pm Pilgrims	Greenhills
	Sat	16	Candlelighting Service – Community	8pm	Weston Creek UC
	Sun	17	Closing Ceremony - Greenhills	3.45pm	Greenhills
	Sun	31	Newsletter		Email to Community
JUN		1	ACT – Reconciliation Day		
		8	King's Birthday		
	Sat	13	Walks #99 and #100 Teams Debrief	11am – 1pm	O'Connor UC
		13	Gathering – After Walk Celebration Meet the Board	2pm – 5pm	O'Connor UC
	Mon	15	Board Meeting	7.30pm – 9.30pm	Zoom
JUL	Sat	11	Board Meeting	11am – 1pm	O'Connor UC
	Sat	11	Gathering	2pm – 5pm	O'Connor UC
	Thurs	31	Newsletter		Email to Community
AUG	Sat	8	Team Selection Walks #101 & #102 (2027)	11am – 1pm	O'Connor UC
		8	Gathering + Commissioning GFLDs and GFSD #20	2pm – 5pm	O'Connor UC
	Mon	10	Board Meeting	7.30pm	Zoom
	Sat	22	Going Fourth Team Training	10am – 5pm	O'Connor UC
SEP	Mon	7	Board Meeting	7.30pm	Zoom
	Sat	12	Going Fourth #20	10am – 5pm	O'Connor UC
	Wed	30	Newsletter		Email to Community
OCT	Mon	5	Labour Day		
	Sat	10	Country Gathering	2pm – 5pm	TBC
	Mon	12	Board Meeting	7.30pm	Zoom
NOV	Sat	14	Board Meeting	11am – 1pm	O'Connor UC
		14	Gathering (Board Elections if required)	2pm – 5pm	O'Connor UC
	Mon	30	Newsletter		Email to Community
DEC	Sat	12	BBQ Gathering	12:30pm	O'Connor UC

Canberra Monaro Emmaus Walks

2026 Walks - Greenhills

- **Men’s Walk #99** 30 April-3 May
- **Women’s Walk #100** 14-17 May

2026 Going Fourth #20 | 12 September 2026

2026 Public Holidays

ACT		NSW	
New Year’s Day Holiday	Thursday 1 January	New Year’s Day Holiday	Thursday 1 January
Australia Day Holiday	Monday 26 January	Australia Day Holiday	Monday 26 January
Canberra Day	Monday 9 March		
Good Friday	Friday 3 April	Good Friday	Friday 3 April
Easter Saturday	Saturday 4 April	Easter Saturday	Saturday 4 April
Easter Sunday	Sunday 5 April	Easter Sunday	Sunday 5 April
Easter Monday	Monday 6 April	Easter Monday	Monday 6 April
Anzac Day	Saturday 25 April	Anzac Day	Saturday 25 April
Reconciliation Day	Monday 1 June	King’s Birthday	Monday 8 June
King’s Birthday	Monday 8 June	Bank Holiday	Monday 3 August
Labour Day	Monday 5 October	Labour Day	Monday 5 October
Christmas Day	Friday 25 December	Christmas Day	Friday 25 December
Boxing Day	Saturday 26 December	Boxing Day	Saturday 26 December
Additional Day	Monday 28 December	Additional Day	Monday 28 December

2026 School Terms

School Terms	NSW 2026	ACT 2026
Term 1 (Eastern)	Mon 2 Feb – Thur 2 April	Mon 2 Feb – Thur 2 April
Term 1 (Western)	Mon 9 Feb – Thur 2 Apr	-
Term 2	Mon 22 Apr – Fri 3 July	Tue 21 Apr – Fri 3 July
Term 3	Tue 21 July – Fri 25 Sep	Tue 21 July – Fri 25 Sept
Term 4	Tue 13 Oct – Thur 17 Dec	Tue 13 Oct – Fri 18 Dec