



EMMAUS NEWS

Newsletter of the Canberra Monaro Emmaus Community

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A message from our Community Lay Director

Gatherings 2025

Saturdays 2pm - 5pm

8 Nov: Country Gathering @ Yass including Board elections if required

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

Events

11 Oct: 10am-5pm Going Fourth @ O'Connor UC

19 Oct: BBQ Fundraiser @ Belconnen Bunnings

Walks 2026

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

Women's #100: 14 - 17 May 2026

(Oct - Dec 2025 calendar is at the end of the Newsletter)



Hello Emmaus Family,

“Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!”

Psalm 107:1

I'm so thankful to God. He cares for us. He hears our prayers. I know you all know this. I know you all

have examples of when God has answered your own prayers. Isn't it powerful? Doesn't it just blow your mind a little **or a lot** when you acknowledge that the Creator of the Universe answered your prayer?

The **O'Connor Community Day** yesterday is an example of our amazing God answering multiple prayers.

I know it's easy to 'pass things off as coincidence' but the prayers below were clearly, undeniably answered by God.

Prayer	World's Answer	God's Answer
God, please give us a fine day for Saturday.	Massive thunderstorm Fri night with a threatening Sat forecast.	Fine day, with wind to dry the grounds.
God, please give us favour as we ask for donations to cover the Sausage sizzle	Coles Dickson – Everyone is asking for donations. Woolies Metro Franklin – not sure we do that?	\$100 gift card to cover all sausages. \$100 gift card to cover all bread, sauces and onions.
God, please let the ACT Fire and Rescue truck come for the full hour and not get called away.	Acton Emergency Services Truck can only stay – IF no calls come in. No guarantee.	Emergency Services Truck stayed the full hour with 5 crew members.

On behalf of the Board, a **huge thank you** to Jim Curtis for the mountain of hours he spent in preparation for the day. Weeks of collecting, pricing, and storing goods for the Trash & Treasure, collecting and storing books for the Bookstall, creating and printing flyers, emailing & phoning stall holders and his technical genius working with the sound equipment for the Choir and ConneXion big band. Jim, we could NOT have run the Community Day without you.

Thank you also to our **wonderful Emmaus Community** for your support in baking delicious treats, and donating goods, books, or sheep poo to sell. A massive thank you to those who came to serve on the day.

Combined with the O'Connor Uniting Church team, the day raised just over \$1300, which will be split with O'Connor to help support the mission work they do locally and overseas.

As an Emmaus Community, it was a wonderful way to serve OCUC, who generously support us every year by giving us free use of the Hall and Church for our Gatherings and Team Training.

Thank you Lord Jesus for Your spirit and Love in the hearts of our Emmaus Community!

And there's MORE...

Going Fourth is just 20 days away! **October 11th** at O'Connor from 10am – 4pm. Have you booked in? Lay Director Trish Dooley and the Going Fourth Team held their Training in late August. From all reports, God worked His mighty way connecting Talks in content, answering prayers and knitting the Team together as one.

Don't miss Going Fourth. Come and be a part of a day guaranteed to inspire, challenge and refresh you. Please uphold the Team in your prayers.

October 19 we'll also hold our very **first Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser** at Belconnen Bunnings. This is a great opportunity to serve Canberra, as the Canberra Monaro Emmaus Community. It is a way to let people know **who** we are. More details are provided later in the Newsletter.

I'll close my CLD Report with a question...

"If someone were to ask, 'What is Canberra Monaro Emmaus Community?' – what would you say?"

I'd love to hear your answers, so please send me an email: cld@canberramonaro.emmaus.org.au

God bless your week ahead and **De Colores**

Von





Going Fourth - Saturday 11 October, 10am - 5 pm @ O'Connor Uniting Church



A message from our Community Spiritual Director



Greetings Emmaus Community.

I have been reading a very well known book, *The Hiding Place*, by Corrie Ten Boom which I'm sure many of you have read. I was challenged by the way Corrie saw and described her sister, Betsie's Spirituality.

When they discovered that Jan Vogel was the person who had betrayed them to the authorities for hiding Jews, Corrie said that if he stood now in front of them she would kill him. Those feelings truly troubled her yet Betsie who suffered along with her seemed to carry no such distress. She questioned Betsie. "Betsie, don't you feel anything about Jan Vogel? Doesn't it bother you?"

"Oh yes, Corrie! Terribly! I've felt for him ever since I knew - and pray for him whenever his name comes into my mind. How dreadfully he must be suffering." [pages 168-169] This made Corrie ponder the hate in her heart which the Bible equates to the same as murder. She sought the Lord's forgiveness.

I was blessed by Corrie's honesty but even more blessed by the profound ability to forgive

those who have hurt us, as Jesus calls us to do. And even in the evil and unbelievable hardship and cruelty in the Concentration Camp Betsie chose to show compassion to her betrayer.

This reminded me of two betrayers of Jesus in the New Testament, Peter and Judas, and how Jesus reacted to both of these men. Judas betrayed his Master for 30 pieces of silver, thus betraying innocent blood and tried to make some sort of amends with the authorities by throwing the money back, but not to his victim, and then he went and hung himself. [Matt 27:3ff]. Peter on the other hand remembered Jesus' words about his imminent denial and when it happened he wept bitterly [Matt 26:75]. John's Gospel 21:15ff relates Jesus' restoration of Peter and commissions him to '*Feed My sheep.*' [John 21:17].

This caused me to ponder how I respond to those who hurt me just in little everyday issues, but betrayal, as to cost me my freedom, or lead to death, is worth thinking about how we might react or respond.

Do we have hate in our heart which is as murder, or moved to compassion to forgive? How well do we fare in this area? I think Ephesians 4:32 is worth reading and maybe even learning.

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

Also worth remembering in difficult and troubled times where we need to change our thinking, or our attitude, is Ps 46:1 *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."*

We are not alone and don't have to deal with difficult issues and times by ourselves and in our own strength. It is our relationship with Jesus, as it was for Peter, that helps in time of need.

Just another thought going back to the book which I found a gem, was when Corrie was worried and concerned about some issue as a

teenager which she asked her earthly father for answers. He was such a wise father that he replied to his young daughter with a physical demonstration by asking her to carry a case which had much in it. Corrie said, "It's too heavy." And his reply was, "Yes, and it would be a poor father who would ask his little girl to carry such a load. It is the same with knowledgefor now you must trust me to carry it for you [p29]. Corrie was content to leave things at that time in her father's keeping.

How about us in the things we can't understand, or fix; are we willing to leave them in our Heavenly Father's keeping?

De Colores

Joy Waldron

Dear Community

I am starting to get excited as Going Fourth is coming up real fast.

We had a great day of training and, can I say, the talks are moving, uplifting and just awesome. The speakers have done a great job of crafting a talk that shows the power and passion of God and how God is their Strength, Song and Salvation. For me, I was greatly moved and impacted by the power of this deceptively simple verse drawn from Psalm 118:14 - "The Lord is my strength and my song".

There is so much in this little verse that you can unpack and really dwell on. My prayer is that when you come to Going Fourth and hear what my speakers have to say that you will be able to relate to their stories and understand just what it means to have God as your Strength, Song and Salvation. Please continue to uphold the team in prayer.

Come and join us on 11th October 2025 at O'Connor Uniting as we celebrate as a community the things of God and all that he has done for us and continues to do for us.

**Going
Fourth!!**

Strength, Song, Salvation

De Colores

Trish Dooley

Belconnen Bunnings BBQ on Sunday 19th October

We will be running the sausage sizzle at the Belconnen Bunnings from 8am - 4pm

When: Sunday 19th October

Where: Belconnen Bunnings

Time: 8am - 4pm

Roster: 2 hour shift (or however long you can stay)

What will I be doing: There is a job for everyone from taking orders, cooking sausage, taking money. All very simple.



This simple BBQ will raise a lot of money to help keep the Walk Fees down. Please contact Michelle 0458 199490 or see her at Going Fourth to put your name down .

Agape Update



Hi everyone!

Thank you everyone for all your efforts in making Agape again this year. Thank you also to our Agape Fairies that organise it all at Greenhills. I am blown away every year at the tables groaning with Agape, representing God's unconditional love, which gets distributed bit by bit each year. I even took a photo this year to show you! But now I can't find it, so sorry about that. 😊

Carpet bombing the pilgrims with Agape is only possible through the dedication and time that the community gives to making and preparing Agape. I myself as coordinator even get overwhelmed by the Agape, but the role is so easy when amazing people like you make Agape, and it seems to appear out of nowhere!

If you haven't started already, this is your friendly reminder and encouragement to start making and creating Agape for next year's Walks! Just a heads up in preparation for next year - the Walks are a month earlier in 2026.

Agape does not have to be complicated or expensive; it just needs a little thought, a little time, and a little money to buy supplies. Some reunion groups make Agape, but individuals can as well. One Agape I make involves printing a tag, cutting it out, and sticking a lolly to it. Simple!

If you haven't made Agape before, for any reason, please consider making some for next year. If you need any help, please feel free to call, text, or email me (details below). I generally get Agape ideas either by seeing something quirky/yummy/interesting/fun/etc. at the shops, and then finding a Bible verse that might fit that thing, or I start with a Bible verse and try and work out an item I can make from there (I love a good pun – and bad ones too!).



Some useful Google Image searches are:

Agape gift ideas

- Gifts for him/her under \$1
- Small Bible gifts to make
- Guides swaps
- Scouts swaps
- Sunday school gifts



Also, you could think along the lines of the following to produce Agape: Useful Agape, wearable Agape, edible Agape, fun Agape. Just remember Greenhills is a nut free site, so nothing with nuts in it.

Agape can be just for the pilgrims, or can be for the whole Team. Pilgrim numbers vary, but if you aim for 16 pieces, that should be enough, and if you are doing them for the whole Team, aim for 35-40 pieces. We need Agape for both the Mens' and Womens' Walks, so please consider doing some for both.

If you are in a reunion group, please put your group name on the tag. If you are an

individual, please put Canberra Monaro Emmaus Community on the tag, or CMEC. In making and giving Agape, we serve humbly and anonymously, but when your group is acknowledged over the weekend, it gives everyone a chance to cheer for you in thanks, and celebrate the Agape love they've been shown.

If you are tight for space, bring any completed Agape to any of the gatherings, and I can store it until the walk.

I am looking forward to seeing all that we create as a community to show the love of God to each pilgrim and to the team.

De Colores

Deb Glassford

0411 481 447

deb@nooooool.com.au



Getting to know ...Jill Pearson

Jill Pearson, Walk 54, Table of Esther, Greenhills,

Since attending my initial Walk in 2004 I have been part of several Emmaus Walks in the capacity of ATL, TL, PD & ALD. I've also been co-opted into giving a Fourth Day talk at a couple of Gatherings. I recall finishing one fourth Day talk with an interpretive dance with my husband Jim of "The Blessing" which was choreographed by a dear friend Rachel Horne – that was fun!

My husband Jim & I were Candlelighting Co-ordinators for a number of years. We received the baton from Andrew & Michelle Southwell & two years ago handed that same baton onto Dan & Jess Rogers. Thank you so much 😊

I didn't really think about the implications of becoming a WLD when accepting the role of ALD when I was asked four years ago, but like every role in Emmaus there is readily available support.

A bit about my background. I spent my formative years on a farm in South Australia. I grew up in a Christian household with my parents and four brothers & enjoyed being a part of that rural community. Sport was an integral part of my childhood & as a family we would travel up to 160km each way to play a game of Aussie Rules Football/Netball in winter & Cricket/Tennis in summer on a Saturday.

I left home at 17 years to start my hospital-based Nursing training in Adelaide & over the years have added a range of different post graduate courses (e.g. Midwifery, Maternal & Child Health) to complement my basic training. As I was leaving school, I thought I would end up being either a Physical Education teacher or an Outdoor Education Teacher, but that year I needed a University Entrance score higher than if I wanted to study law (which I didn't get), so opted for Nursing.

At times I have been very aware that by choosing Nursing as my career pathway that I have been in the right place at the right time and have keenly felt God's presence. He is an amazing God.

Geoff & Jenny Moore sponsored my husband Jim to do Walk 53, & Jim in turn sponsored me to be on Walk 54. Thanks Geoff & Jenny for opening the Canberra Monaro Emmaus Community to us.

I have enjoyed being a part of Emmaus. At times I have felt that I have floundered a bit, but in hindsight have found that the support of the Emmaus Community has been very enabling. There are some real gems in this Canberra Monaro Emmaus Community.

Sporting wise I have continued to be a cycle community & even though I primarily don't run any more, I have taken up Race-Walking with enthusiasm. In other words I love being physically active.



De Colores

Jill Pearson



Chrysalis

Do you want to be influential in your children's lives? Do you want you to have them experience the joy of Emmaus like you have? Do you want to walk this path with them? Let me tell you that you can. There is a youth version of Emmaus called Chrysalis and even though the talks are about different subjects, God works just as much.



I remember attending Chrysalis and how influential this was in my spiritual walk. The amount of love I felt, and that I still talk to people about it, shows what a major step Chrysalis was in my walk with Jesus.

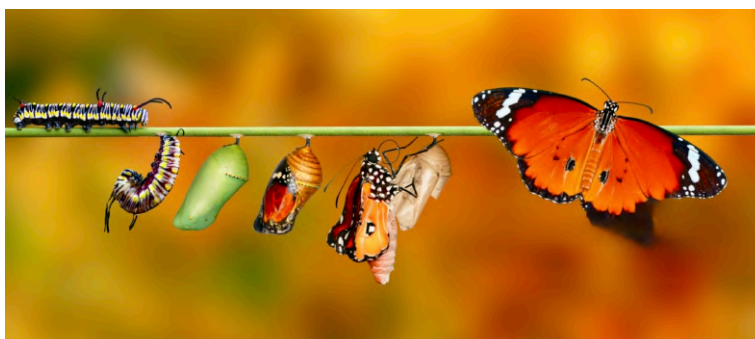
There is now an opportunity to be involved in Chrysalis. However, before committing to reinstating Chrysalis into the Emmaus Community program, the Board wants to gauge the interest of the Community - would you like to be involved in Team, serving, attending candlelighting, closing etc. I know that my children have heard a lot from me about how amazing Emmaus has been for me. Imagine if we can support our children in their walk with Jesus.

If you'd like to see Chrysalis included in our Emmaus Program, please speak with me anytime or email the secretary at secretary@canberramonaro.emmaus.org.au

De Colores

Dean Warwick

NB: For a little more background information, this link: [Adelaide Chrysalis](#) is to a short video about Chrysalis produced by the Adelaide Emmaus Community, or if you don't have Vimeo as a video play and prefer YouTube, this link is to a promotional video from the US: [Chrysalis Promotional video](#)



O'Connor Uniting Church Community Day 20 Sep 25

Article by Jim Curtis

The day proceeded quite well in my opinion. The Lord came through with a dry, if somewhat cool and windy day.

Attendance was not spectacular. Whether this was due to insufficient publicity or competition with other events (Floriade, Football finals and the like) it is hard to say. However those attending enjoyed a pleasant day.



There were 5 community stalls selling jam, toffee apples, cakes, craft items and promoting issues such as Refugee action and cat fostering. The O'Connor church ran a White Elephant stall, while Emmaus ran stalls for Trash and Treasure, Books, Sausage sizzle, Tea & Treats and Sheep Poo. The Poo proved a winner, and we sold lots at \$10 a bag. Thanks to the Southwells!

The Fire brigade brought a heavy rescue truck for an hour, and St Johns Ambulance also manned a stall with some information and giveaways. Strange Weather Choir and ConneXion Big Band each played an hour set; they were very good and professional.

I had set up our PA and played background music for the day, as well as amplification for the choir and ConneXion Band.

The community garden permitted self-guided tours around the garden on the day and allowed Sheep Poo buyers to use their wheelbarrow to cart bags away to local homes.

We advertised starting at 10am and closing at 3:00pm but once the band concluded at 2pm, stalls mostly packed up, and we closed early as well. Setting up and pack up took about 2 hours each.

Something like 15 to 20 Emmaus members attended, helped and manned stalls which was a great help. Fewer helpers would make the day difficult to run I think.

Fundraising resulted in \$673 each to Emmaus and O'Connor.



De Colores

Jim Curtis



Treasurers Report



Hello Emmaus community



Now that our annual Walk to Emmaus retreats have come and gone, and all the bills have been settled, we can see that our community generously subsidised the two Walks by \$3,392 in 2025. This wasn't a surprise, as we

knew late last year that the Greenhills Conference Centre costs had risen considerably. At that time, it was too late to change the communications around the cost of the Walks. While we stated the cost was \$300 per person, the actual cost was closer to \$355.

Looking ahead, we already know that the cost for next year's Walks at Greenhills will be around \$363 per person. So, the Board has agreed to set the cost for team members and pilgrims at \$360 each for the 2026 Walks.

We understand that \$360 per person can be a lot to pay all at once, especially just a few weeks before the Walks. So, if you're on the Men's or Women's Walk team next year,

please consider paying your Walk Registration in advance.

One way to do this is by paying \$30 every fortnight over 12 fortnights, starting 11th November 2025 for the Men's Walk, or starting 25th November 2025 for the Women's Walk [\$30 x 12 = \$360].

Another way is to pay \$90 per month over 4 months, starting from January 2026 for the Men's Walk, or from February for the Women's Walk [\$90 x 4 = \$360].

Using these part payments over time will help alleviate the larger cost when we get closer to the Walks!

From a financial health-check perspective, our Community has \$4,630 in our Operating account as of today (21st September), and a further \$13,787 invested in our 12-month Term Deposit account with Uniting Financial Services.

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
Registrar	Michelle Southwell	registrar@canberramonaro.emmaus.org.au
Web Administrator	Neil Glassford	webadmin@canberramonaro.emmaus.org.au
Music Coordinator	Gary Bates	
Community Member	Jane Barr	
Community Member	Kat Santosuosso	
Community Member	Dean Warwick	
Community Member	Brad Ramage	

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 2025v7 October – December 2025

OCT	Sat	11	Going Fourth	10am – 5pm	O'Connor UC
	Mon	13	Board Meeting	7.30pm	Zoom
	Sun	19	Bunnings BBQ Fund Raiser	8am – 5pm	Belconnen Bunnings
NOV	Sat	8	Board Meeting	11am	O'Connor UC
	Sat	8	Country Gathering (Board Elections if required)	2pm – 5pm	Yass (Venue: TBC)
	Fri	28	Newsletter		Email to Community
DEC	Sat	13	BBQ Gathering	12:30pm	O'Connor UC

Canberra Monaro Emmaus Walks

2025 Going Fourth | 11 October 2025

2026 Walks - Greenhills

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

2025 Public Holidays (Oct – Dec)

ACT		NSW	
Labour Day	Monday 6 October	Labour Day	Monday 6 October
Christmas Day	Thursday 25 December	Christmas Day	Thursday 25 December
Boxing Day	Friday 26 December	Boxing Day	Friday 26 December

2025 School Terms (Oct – Dec)

School Terms	NSW 2025	ACT 2025
Spring Holidays	Mon 29 Sep – Fri 10 Oct	
Term 4	Mon 13 Oct – Fri 19 Dec	Mon 13 Oct – Thurs 18 Dec
Summer Holidays	Eastern Mon 22 Dec – Mon 26 Jan 2026	
	Western Mon 22 Dec – Mon 6 Feb 2026	