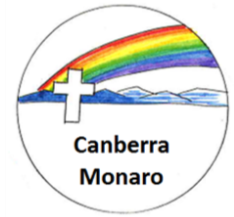


EMMAUS NEWS



Newsletter of the Canberra Monaro Emmaus Community

PO Box 2286, Canberra City ACT 2601

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A message from our Community Lay Director



Welcome to 2021 and an exciting year ahead for the Canberra Monaro Emmaus Community. I pray that you have had a restful holiday time and are ready to serve the Lord

through the Emmaus ministry this year.

The Emmaus Board met on Saturday January 16th for a Board Workshop followed by the first Meeting of the year. The Workshop was a good time of fellowship, sharing and planning for the year ahead.

In my work I often am pulling machinery out of bogs, lifting items onto trucks, tying loads down and pulling or lifting trees off fences or roads. A few months ago I was pulling a rock drill out of a bog using a chain when the chain snapped under pressure, causing damage to machinery and almost injuring a worker. The lesson for me is that every link in the chain needs to be strong and healthy. The latest in technology has replaced chains with straps for lifting, hauling and tying down, and every strand in that strap needs to be strong and undamaged for maximum strength.

In Emmaus every person and team needs to be strong and healthy for the ministry to be active, effective and healthy. Perhaps in the past we have been too

focused on just the Walk Teams. Every team, whether Prayer, Agape, Sponsorship, Reunion groups, Dining room, Gatherings, Board, Candlelighting or Training, etc, is vital to our work.

This year as a Board we want to spread the focus and encourage all Emmaus Community members, to let them know they are all vital for the Emmaus ministry. Although our Walks are a focal point for our year, they require much more than a Walk team to happen; every other team previously mentioned is needed too.

For 2021 the Board would like to focus on Sponsorship, Gatherings and Reunion Groups; teams that are vital strands in a strong healthy community. During the year you are going to hear much more about these teams through these Newsletters, at Gatherings and on our Facebook page

Walk team updates: Both Mike Rowe, Men's Walk #89 Lay Director and Jan Pearsall, Women's Walk #90 Lay Director, report that team formation is nearly complete. Both are still looking (at the time of writing) for a couple of team members to complete each team. Team training begins on Saturday February 27th at O'Connor Uniting Church, this includes Board Training.

Below is the current team lists, please keep them in your prayers.

2021 WALK TEAMS		
Role	Men's Walk #89	Women's Walk #90
WLD	Mike Rowe	Jan Pearsall
WSD	Jim Curtis	Mary McNiece
ASD	James Ramsey	Rosemary Myers
ASD	Vicky Cullen	Gail Curtis
ASD	?	Jenny Moore
ASD		
ALD	Dean Warwick	Trish Dooley
ALD	Andrew Chenery	Megan Watts
ALD	Andy Fleming	Tracy Randall
ALD	Gary Bates	Lynda Douglas
TL	?	Deb Glassford
TL	Richard Poire	Liz Bates
TL	Greg Cole	?
ATL	Rod Hemley	Alison McGregor
ATL	?	Kat Santosuosso
ATL	Daniel	Kate McFarlane
PD	Owen Graham	Michelle Southwell
PD	Susie Graham	Miriam Carrick
MD	Mick Brown	Trish Winterbotham
MD	Steve Wray	Beth Doyle
BR	Dale Cooper	Von Chenery



Covenant Prayer



At the first Gathering for the year, on February 13th, the Board feels it is important and appropriate that we Covenant together in prayer before the Lord. As we serve the Lord this year, in whatever capacity or role, it is empowering to know that the rest of the Emmaus Community is supporting you in prayer. So, at the Gathering during our prayer time we will pray this prayer together.

We, the Canberra Monaro Emmaus Community commit to Trust in the Lord with all our hearts, to lean not on our own understanding, but in our service as a

Community, to submit to Him. We submit our Gatherings, our Walk Preparation, our Sponsorship, the Men's' and Women's' Walks, our Going Fourth and our Fourth Day journeys. Lord, we submit it all to you, make our paths straight for Your glory, in Jesus name. Amen.

De Colores

Andrew

A message from our Community Spiritual Director

The Grace of People Fishing - a reflection on Mark 1:14-20



Faithfulness does not guarantee a smooth path. John is inside a cell. Too much truth for some.

Yet the mission continues.

The description of Jesus' 'good news' message strongly echoes John's: 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

As yet, Mark – so far – has offered very little content to this 'kingdom of God'. Perhaps we only know that it is *close*, requires *repentant turning*, and a response of *trust*.

To be sure, Jesus' kingdom message will be fleshed out as Mark's account unfolds. Each healing, parable, and miracle will contribute to the reader's understanding. So far, however, the reader is left wondering – and hopefully eager to discover what it all might look like.

Mark's first content-giving story is the calling of four Galilean fishermen.

Fishing boats were unlikely sources of promising rabbinic students. By the time a young man was working the family business – whatever that was – the local religious teachers had already selected the most promising. Only some received their invitation: 'Follow me'. *Those who were not invited went, well, fishing.*

Simon, Andrew, James, and John have already proven themselves to be below par.

The kingdom Jesus represents is, however, *uncommonly gracious*. On Galilee's beach these four men are unexpectedly – unimaginably – given a *second chance*.

And each grasps it with both hands.

Mark's description of their *response*: Simon and Andrew '...immediately they left their nets and followed him', James and John '...left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.'

None will let such an opportunity fly away.

The other aspect I love about this story is Jesus' description of the kingdom's

call: 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' It *acknowledges* their work. Adapts to their *gifts*. Speaks their *language*. It builds not on ungrounded, distant ideas, but on *familiar things*.

*So what can we derive from this story about Jesus' 'kingdom of God'? Perhaps that it is characterised by *grace*; offers a *second chance*; connects with the *common*; asks for our *trust-filled* embrace of *another way*.*

It is an early glimpse of Jesus proclamation: 'The Good News'.

It leaves me pondering my all time favourite question: *What if the universe-creating God is like this Jesus?*

Conversation Starters:

What are the images you think of first when you consider the 'Kingdom of God'?

When does God's grace surprise you most?

What 'language' would you most readily hear the message of the kingdom in? What gifts might God use as a metaphor to call you?

Peace,

Mark

Mark's Blog

Our Community Spiritual Director, Mark Beresford, publishes weekly Bible reflections on his website, Barefoot Follower: Inviting Reflection on the Stories of Jesus (<https://barefootfollower.life>). You are welcome to visit this site anytime.

February Gathering Saturday 13 Feb 2pm @ O'Conner Uniting Church



The first Gathering for 2021 will be at O'Connor Uniting Church on Saturday February 13th at 2pm. We are all looking forward to seeing you there for a time of fellowship, worship and our excellent 4th day speakers - **Wayne Scott and Katrina Dickson**.

Walk Dates 2021



Canberra Monaro Emmaus Community Prayer Grid

If you'd like to pray for a person in our Emmaus Community AND be prayed for...Join our **Prayer Grid**.

The names on the Grid will be randomly mixed every month – so every month you can pray for a different person in Emmaus and a different Emmaus person will pray for you!



How to join

- Email your name and contact details to the Prayer Grid coordinator: aychen@grapevine.com.au
- Your name will be added to the Prayer Grid
- You will receive an email asking for permission to share your contact details with your Praying Person
- You can communicate through the month to share specific prayer requests and praise points

This is what the Prayer Grid looks like... Every person will be covered in prayer!

Praying Person	Focus person for Prayer this month...
<i>You</i>	<i>Someone in Emmaus</i>
<i>Someone Else in Emmaus</i>	<i>You</i>
<i>Someone in Emmaus</i>	...



Get to know more about ... our Reunion Groups Coordinator



Hello, I am Jenny Best (Walk 74, Greenhills, Table of Naomi)

I am the Reunion Groups Coordinator. Being a member of a Reunion Group provides ongoing support through friendship, prayer and fun. Reunion groups also serve the community at Gatherings and on Walks at Greenhills. If you are not already in a Reunion Group I encourage you to join one or better still start your own. Feel free to come and have a chat about reunion groups when you see me at the next Gathering.

I am Mum to the delightful Ashlee, who is a lovely young adult. She is blessed with not feeling compelled to conform to convention, preferring to do things her own way. Sadly her father passed away some years ago, but we look forward to catching up with him again someday.

Favourite food – anything I don't have to cook! And chocolate!!

Favourite music – I am currently enjoying listening to old favourites by Amy Grant and Michael W Smith.

Favourite hobby – Scrapbooking is my main hobby and I also recently picked up crocheting again early last year when some people at work organised us to make little pouches for joey animals injured in the bushfires.

I work as a Reporting Officer in a small federal government agency. I am very grateful to have a secure job and also one that is flexible to fit around my role as primary carer for my daughter.

I grew up in a Christian family and enjoyed going to Sunday school, after school club and youth group. I have always been actively involved in church and faith

communities. Throughout all the challenges and celebrations in my life, my faith in God has been the one constant, enabling me to not only get through but also rejoice.

After my Emmaus walk I joined the Honey Joys reunion group. I really enjoy when we get together to share, pray and do lots of chatting while making agape. Being on team presents a practical challenge for me so I have found other ways to be involved with Emmaus such as the Reunion Groups Coordinator, mentioned above. I was also the Serving Roster Co-ordinator for a few years, and a speaker at the most recent Going Fourth.

De Colores

Jenny



Sponsorship

Sponsorship Spot



A different view of Sponsorship

“The personal character of sponsorship underlines God’s personal care and commitment to each pilgrim. The fact that the Emmaus experience passes from person to person reflects the relational nature of God and the manner in which God reaches out to people through people.”

The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus, p13

Good sponsorship is vital in helping the Emmaus movement hold walks to strengthen God’s church in our wider community.

How were members of our Emmaus family impacted by being Sponsored and taking on the role of Sponsor?

Our Sponsorship Stories



Kirsty Ross

What was a highlight of being sponsored to do a Walk to Emmaus?

A highlight of being sponsored to do my Walk to Emmaus was receiving my cross and knowing that my sponsor spent time with it praying specifically for me.

Another highlight of being sponsored to do my walk is how my sponsor was there for me to answer my questions before the walk and is still there now supporting me.

What was the best part of being a Sponsor?

The best part of being a sponsor was being able to share the wonderful experience of love that I had at my walk with others and to see how much the walk affected them.

What was a highlight of being sponsored to do a Walk to Emmaus?

One of the best parts of being sponsored was receiving and reading the letters they had so carefully gathered.

What was the best part of being a Sponsor?

One of the chief delights in being a sponsor is having the privilege of helping someone also experience an encounter with Jesus. And the fruit of that is changed lives, and sometimes very changed lives. Just like the people in the Gospels who met with Jesus and were never the same again, so today, when our friend meets Him, there is healing, growth and renewal that is every bit as special as the famous stories we read, for it is the same Saviour and Lord that is met.



Jim Curtis

Tell us your Sponsorship story

Share your Sponsorship story with our Emmaus family. Send your story, answering the two questions:

What was a highlight of being sponsored to do a Walk to Emmaus?
What was the best part of being a Sponsor?

Send your story and a photo to: canberramonaro@emmaus.org.au

You might like to print out the Sponsorship Overview and Timeline included below.

Emmaus SPONSORSHIP - the Most Important Job of All Sponsorship

(Community strength lies in good sponsorship)



What is Sponsorship?

- ♥ Sharing the Walk to Emmaus experience with a person God lays on your heart.

Preparation to Sponsor

1. Commit the Sponsorship process to God in prayer. Listen for discernment. God’s timing not mine.
2. Identify who God is leading you to ask. Be God’s instrument, receive God’s instruction, die to self.
3. If you do not ask, you will not get a “yes”.

Why Sponsor?

- ♥ Revitalisation of Christians who will pay it forward to family, church, community.
- ♥ Build up the Body of Christ.

Christians to Sponsor?

- ♥ Bringers of vision, commitment and understanding to the church.
- ♥ Quiet servants of the church.
- ♥ Seekers of rekindling and reconnection.
- ♥ Seekers of personal spiritual growth.
- ♥ Willingness to be servant leaders.
- ♥ Respected by clergy and lay people who encourage others to attend to build a balanced leadership base for Emmaus.

Don't Sponsor to:

- ♥ Fix a Pilgrim issue.
- ♥ Replicate your Emmaus experience in your Pilgrim.

People not to Sponsor

- ♥ Non-Christians.
- ♥ Believers defensive of unique beliefs.
- ♥ Non-mainstream believers.

Responsibilities of the Sponsor

Before:

- ♥ Pray, Pray, Pray!
- ♥ Approach potential Pilgrim... ask them to pray.
- ♥ Follow up ... God’s timing.
- ♥ Complete Application and send in.
- ♥ Source agape letters.

During:

- ♥ Take Pilgrim to Walk venue, settle in.
- ♥ Send off and Sponsor’s Hour, Chapel Prayer.
- ♥ Support Pilgrim’s family and home (if needed).
- ♥ Servanthood for mealtimes.
- ♥ Attend Candlelighting.
- ♥ Attend Closing and take home.

After:

- ♥ Invite to first community Gathering.
- ♥ Encourage to join a Reunion or Accountability Group.
- ♥ Shepherd 4th Days by staying in touch.
- ♥ Encourage silent servanthood.
- ♥ Encourage serving at next Emmaus Walk.
- ♥ Encourage to become a Sponsor.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How many Pilgrims can I Sponsor?
A: One Pilgrim per Walk is ideal.



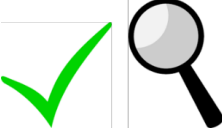

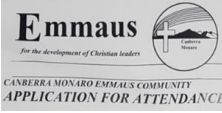



Q: Can I be on Team and Sponsor?
A: Not ideal... be invisible to Pilgrim to allow them to be themselves.

Q: Could I sponsor a couple?
A: Yes – try and get them in the same year to enable open discussion between them.

Q: Could I Sponsor Clergy?
A: YES!

Q: Can I co-Sponsor?
A: Yes, share the mission and the organizational tasks.

Timeline for Sponsors

	<p>4 months before the Walk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek God in prayer about who you should ask to attend the next Emmaus Walk. • Continue in prayer though the whole Sponsorship process.
	<p>3 months before the Walk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach the person and ask if they would like to attend a Walk.
	<p>2 months before the Walk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek the response about attending the next Walk. • Start the sleuth work in finding and contacting family, friends and significant people in the pilgrim's life for Agape letters.
	<p>6 weeks before the Walk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send info about Pilgrim Letters to friends, family of your Pilgrim. • Provide a date for the letters to be back to you.
	<p>3 weeks before the Walk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure your Pilgrim's Application form with any dietary or special needs is sent to the Registrar. • Organize to serve on tables at your Pilgrim's Walk – at least once.
	<p>1 week before the Walk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilgrim letters should be back to you on the Monday, follow up if required.
	<p>During the Walk</p> <p>Thursday night of the Walk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take your Pilgrim to the Walk, collect their badge, room number and help set up their room. • Attend supper with them. • After supper, take Agape letters to Prayer Chapel and pray for your Pilgrim. <p>Saturday night</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend Candlelighting and invite Emmaus friends to come too. • During the Candlelighting service, pray out-loud for your Pilgrim. <p>Sunday afternoon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend Closing. • Take your Pilgrim home and debrief if appropriate.
	<p>After the Walk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your Pilgrim is now on their Fourth Day and a new community member. • Keep in touch with your Pilgrim during their Fourth Days. • Invite your Pilgrim to the next Gathering or Candlelighting and Closing. • Encourage your Pilgrim to sponsor someone else and share the Emmaus experience.

Canberra Monaro Emmaus Dates 2021

JAN	Sat	16	Board Meeting and workshop	2pm	Board Member's House
FEB	Sat	13	Board Meeting	11.00am	O'Connor UC
	Sat	27	Gathering 1st Training #89 and #90	2.00pm 9.00am-4.00pm	O'Connor UC
MAR	Sat	13	Mega Agape Morning	10.00am – 1.00pm	O'Connor UC
	Sat	13	Board Meeting	11.00am	O'Connor UC
	Sat	27	Gathering 2nd Training #89 and #90	2.00pm 9.00am-5.00pm	O'Connor UC
APR		16-18	National Conference		Toowoomba
	Sat	10	Board Meeting	11.00am	O'Connor UC
	Sat	17	Gathering 3rd Training #89 and #90	2.00pm 8.45am-4.45pm	O'Connor UC
MAY	Sat	8	Final Training #89 and #90	9.00am-1.00pm	O'Connor UC
	Sat	8	Gathering	2.00pm	O'Connor UC
	Mon	17	Commission Team #89 and #90		
	Thu	20	Board Meeting	7.30pm	
	Sat	22	Men's Walk #89 Candlelighting		Greenhills Weston Creek UC
	Sun	23	Closing – Men's Walk #89	8.00pm 3.45pm	Greenhills
JUN	Thur	3	Women's Walk #90	2.00pm	Greenhills
	Sat	5	Candlelighting	8.00pm	tbc
	Sun	6	Men's Debrief	1.30pm	Greenhills
	Sun	6	Closing – Women's Walk #90	3.45pm	Greenhills
	Mon	21	Board Meeting	7.30pm	
	Sat	26	WLD training with CLD & PCLD	Time	tbc
JUL	Sat	10	Women's Debrief	11.30am	O'Connor UC
	Sat	10	After Walk Gathering – meet the Board	2.00pm	O'Connor UC
	Sat	17	Commission WLD& WSD #91 & #92 Commission - #15 Going Fourth LD and SD Going Fourth #15 Training	8.45am-5.00pm	O'Connor UC
	Mon	19	Board Meeting	7.30pm	
AUG	Sat	14	Board Meeting	11.00am	O'Connor UC
			Gathering	2.00pm	
	Mon	16	Commission Team Going Fourth #14 Team selection meeting Board Meeting	4.00pm 7.30pm	
SEP	Sat	11	Going Fourth #15	8.45am - 5.00pm	O'Connor UC
	Mon	13	Board Meeting	7.30pm	
OCT	Sat	9	Country Gathering	2.00pm	tbc
	Mon	11	Board Meeting	7.30pm	tbc
NOV	Sat	13	Board Meeting Final Gathering (Board Elections if required) BBQ lunch	11.00am 12.30pm	O'Connor UC