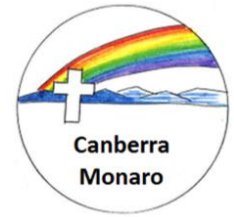




EMMAUS NEWS



Newsletter of the Canberra Monaro Emmaus Community

PO Box 3398, Belconnen DC ACT 2617

email: secretary@canberramonaro.emmaus.org.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2351465338485753/>

A message from our Community Lay Director

Gatherings

Saturdays

- 11 Feb - 2pm @ O'Connor UC
- 11 Mar - 2pm @ O'Connor UC
- 1 Apr - 10am-4pm **Going Fourth #17** @O'Connor UC
- 13 May - 2pm @ O'Connor UC
- 3 Jun - 2pm @ O'Connor UC
- 8 Jul - 2pm Country Gathering @ Yass
- 12 Aug - 2pm @ O'Connor UC
- 16 Sep - 2pm @ O'Connor UC
- 7 Oct - 2pm @ O'Connor UC
- 18 Nov - 2pm @ O'Connor UC
- 9 Dec - 1230pm BBQ @ O'Connor UC

Walks 2023

- Men's #93: 19-22 Oct 23
- Women's #94: 2-5 Nov 23



Welcome to 2023, the 33rd year of the Emmaus Ministry in the Canberra Monaro Community. We can look back and give thanks to God for many blessings and His faithfulness. At the same time we can be bold enough to look forward to what God will do this year. One thing is sure, God never changes, but how He ministers to and through us does change.

The Board met on January 14th for a Workshop and Meeting. It was great to welcome new members Kat Santosuosso and Andy Visser, as well as those continuing on the Board. We spent time reflecting on the strengths and weakness of the Canberra Monaro Emmaus Community (CMEC) as well as thinking about the concerns and opportunities that CMEC faces. At the end of that time we all felt that though there are challenges we face, overall we are very optimistic for the future, especially with God as our guide and strength.

At our first Gathering for the year on February 11th, we have the privilege of Commissioning the team for Going Fourth #17 and the Walk #93 and #94 Lay Directors and Spiritual Directors.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find more details for Going Fourth #17. It will be held on Saturday April 1st at O'Connor Uniting Church. The Team is:

- LD: Mary McNeice
- SD: James Ramsay
- PDs: Laurie & Maree Roebuck
- MDs: Trisha Winterbotham & Beth Doyle
- Speakers: Carolyn Duck & Steve Wray
- ALDs: Jane Barr & Dan Santosuosso
- Coordinator: Andy Visser

Please keep them in your prayers; they will be training on Saturday February 25th.

Team Selection for Walks #93 and #94 are well under way. Please pray for the Walk Lay Directors Andrew Chenery and Tracy Randall and their Spiritual Directors Jim Curtis and Mary McNeice as they ask people onto team and walk preparations begin.

Don't forget to check out the updated 2023 Calendar in this Newsletter and then get the dates into your phone calendar, notebook Calendar, Wall Calendar and your partner and family's calendars. I wouldn't want you to miss a thing this year. You would be an April fool to miss Going Fourth in 2023! You will also see that in July we will be having a Country Gathering in Yass. A big thank you to our Community members from Yass on taking the initiative on this, it will be great.

In the 2023 Calendar you will notice that not all Gatherings will be on the second Saturday of the month. This is due to long weekends and Easter occurring then.


I am looking forward to catching up with you at the February Gathering.

De Colores

Andrew

February Gathering

Saturday 11 Feb 2023, 2pm @ O'Connor Uniting Church



A Fourth Day talk to encourage us, and Commissioning of our Going Fourth Team #17 LD, Mary McNeice, and 2023 Walk Lay Directors, Andrew Chenery and Tracy Randall, and Walk Spiritual Directors Jim Curtis and Mary McNeice.

Zoom option available: (2-4pm) join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5303577916?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5303577916?pwd=ek1yNmJPR2RIMnQ3cmVRNDBIMVowdz09)
pwd=ek1yNmJPR2RIMnQ3cmVRNDBIMVowdz09

Meeting ID: 530 357 7916 Passcode: 123789

A message from our Community Spiritual Director

Getting in



A teacher, a middle manager, and a lawyer die and go to heaven...

St. Peter meets them at the pearly gates and explains that to get in they each must answer one question correctly.

The teacher goes first. St. Peter says, "What was the name of the famous ship that sank after striking an iceberg in 1912?"

"The Titanic!"

"Right, off you go." The teacher runs through the gates and the middle

manager goes up next. St. Peter asks, "How many people were on board?"

"Oh! I know that one! 2,208 on board and 712 survived!"

"Right, off you go." The middle manager runs through the gates. St. Peter takes a look at the lawyer and asks, "Name them."

There must be a million and one St Peter jokes about people trying to get into heaven. These jokes pass from generation to generation because they touch a deep psychological note within all human beings regarding the drive to "get in".

We all want to get in. If there is a heaven, we want to get in. For now, however, we are constantly trying to get into something. Last year's clothes that seem to have shrunk; we wait at the doctors; we stand in line to get into the theatre; on Saturday nights they stood in line to get into my taxi when I was a driver; someone trains hard to get into a team; another hits the books to get into university; we try to get into a good job, to get in with the right crowd. We put varying amounts of effort

into getting into what we want, I suppose depending on how important we think it is.

Getting in, the drive for community

The drive to be part of a group is very strong, while the trend in the world is toward cultural diversity. There is a rampant proliferation of all sorts of subcultural groupings as a result of the cultural fragmentation and mobility of both urban and rural communities. These groups form and reform in an attempt to recreate roots, place, and a sense of belonging that used to exist in the "Tribal extended family" of the last century. The various migrations of large numbers of people have split up the old groupings, mostly based on geographical groupings, and the drive for a sense of community leads people to band together in likeminded groups where they can find a sense of roots, place, belonging and caring and sharing. I think that our Emmaus community meets a real and deep need in this way.

Almost as strong as the drive to be part of a group is the tendency to make the group exclusive. In Acts 11 we find just this tension. The circumcision party almost carried the day with their demands that the gentiles toe the Jewish line (we've always done it this way; It is good for unity that we are all the same). Peter's reminder that God had accepted the gentiles and given them the Holy Spirit brought the council to an agreement that their unity is not on human terms, but God's.

In our Community, let us not be exclusive, but may we hear Jesus' words ring out, "It shall not be so among you!" "Love one another, as I have loved you." And so, we are called to be a community where the world can see the reality of God's love being worked out as together we help to construct new communities of reconciliation, wholeness, caring, and justice.

Getting in, the drive for eternity

The drive to 'get in' is also spiritual. It is a search to secure a place with God, though God has already assured us of that place through the life, death, resurrection and continuing presence of Jesus Christ. The incredibility of that gift sometimes overwhelms us. We search frantically, with good deeds, and righteousness, for the place that is already ours! The gates are always open, they are never shut, and there is no St Peter sitting there conducting entrance examinations. The one question is; is your name written in the book of life?

Now we spend lots of effort in getting 'in' the things of this world, but how much effort do you put into getting into the most important thing of all, the Kingdom of Heaven? Just as we spend much time getting 'in' in the matters of daily life, we must also put in an effort to get

into the Kingdom of Heaven; a too casual approach won't do it. It actually costs us everything we have. If we love someone, we will give all for the loved one. Shakespeare knew this, for in *The Merchant of Venice*, suitors come to try for the hand of the lady and must choose which of the three caskets is the right one. The lead casket is correct and has the inscription "Who chooses me must give and hazard all he has." This is true in marriage and true in the kingdom as well. Getting in costs us everything, but as David Livingstone once wrote, "Paradise will make amends for all our privations here."

May God spur us on as we continue to build our Emmaus community in 2023 and beyond.

De Colores,

Jim

Get to know you spot Minute Secretary, Andy Visser



Walk 125, Table of Sarah, Son Valley Emmaus Community (Benoni, South Africa)

Coordinator role: Agape Fairy

During the course of a Walk weekend, the Agape Fairy sorts the agape for distribution by the ALDs and Dining Room Coordinators. The Agape Fairy collates

and prepares the pilgrim packs, and is responsible for sorting and preparing the pilgrim letter bags for that very special time at the end of the Walk, when pilgrims receive their letters from sponsors, family, friends and loved ones.

Who is Andy? A little bit about me

I grew up in South Africa, the youngest of three siblings. My husband, Fred, and I have two beautiful daughters – Nicole and Caitlin; and

two sweet granddaughters – Emily and Mika. I am also the mum to the sweetest miniature dachshund, Chloe.

Our eldest daughter (Nicole) and granddaughters live in South Africa; and our youngest (Caitlin), moved to Australia with us in January 2017. We have since 'adopted' Australia as our home and celebrated our Australian citizenship in September 2022.

Favourite food: This is quite a tough one, because I quite simply love food. But if I had to choose, I enjoy a good homemade vegetable soup, roast lamb and freshly baked chocolate cake.

Favourite music: I enjoy classic pop, and Abba is among my favourites. More recently, I tend to choose Christian music and some of my preferred artists are Chris Tomlin, Jeremy Camp and Brooke Ligertwood

Hobbies: I play Djembe (Ghanaian drums), and enjoy mosaicking.

My day-job: I work in the Media and Communications unit at the University of Canberra

Christian background: I grew up attending our local Anglican Church with my parents. As an adult, I chose to worship in the Methodist Church (Uniting) in South Africa. During that time I participated in many courses, activities and programs which have all contributed to deepening my faith and strengthening my love for Jesus. I have been privileged to journey with many as a Christian counsellor (South African-registered), and have led many Alpha Groups.

Currently, as a family, we worship at Fusion City Church located in Mitchell where I serve in ministry as part of the pastoral care team, and oversee the church Café and hospitality team.

Involvement with Emmaus: My Emmaus journey has taken me from behind the scenes as part of Walk support teams to ATL and TL, presenting talks, coordinating entertainment, signing up for prayer vigils (locally and internationally) and supporting a number of pilgrims in their Fourth Days. I have witnessed God move and work miracles in many wonderful and profound ways during this time and value the friendships and fellowship that comes with being part of the Emmaus community.

De Colores

Andy

The Joy of Reading by Mike Rowe



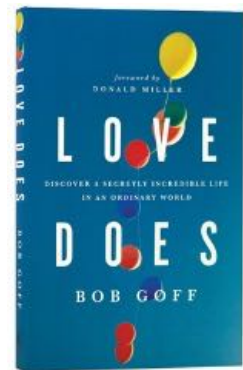
Mike and Theo

I am not the world's most prolific reader, but one of the great joys of life (that I've recently rediscovered), is to take some intentional time-out to enjoy reading. Any comfortable place that has good light and minimal distractions will do. A nice cup of tea or coffee, while not essential, certainly complements the experience.

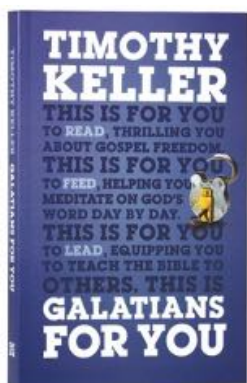
Of course, nothing surpasses meditative Bible reading, but I'd like to touch on three books that have featured in my life recently.

THE FIRST, Bob Goff's book *Love Does*, was recommended by an Emmaus Community member. I recall it being described as, "One of the most uplifting books I've read in a while." High praise indeed. So, I bought a copy and discovered that it was a series of short stories

taken from the author's life. After reading the first story, I thought, "Hmmm... That doesn't sound very believable to me. Who would do that?!" So I put the book away. A few days later I discussed the book with my son – telling him that I thought the first story was quite unlikely. He wanted to hear it, so I read it aloud to him, and the strangest thing happened as I did so. I became a little emotional (not so much that my son would notice tho'). As I re-read that first vignette, the love of Jesus bubbled up through the story. My son loved it. He thought the story described an act of incredible selflessness – and that was the catalyst for a chat between Shallow Hal and his son about Christian love. I



am very grateful to my Emmaus brother for recommending **Love Does**.

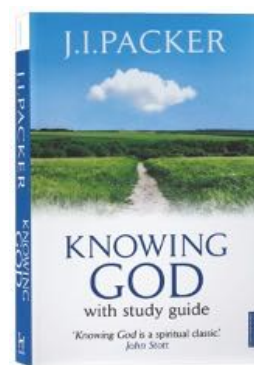


THE SECOND is Timothy Keller's **Galatians for You**. I am reading this one with my Emmaus Agape Group (which is also my Church Growth Group, which is also a group of long-term friends). I've been listening to an audio version of this book while walking my Rottweiler (Theophilus Maximus

Adorabilus), and I'm loving Keller's teaching gift as he slowly leads us through the theologically profound book of Galatians. He helps us to unpack one of the most difficult things for a mortal mind to properly understand – the difference between law and grace.

THE THIRD is **Knowing God**, by JI Packer. This book has been a regular feature on our Walk book-tables for years. It's aimed at Christians of all backgrounds and denominations, as well as new believers and those seeking to strengthen their faith. The book challenges us with the humbling truth that, while we may know **about** God, it is not the same thing as actually **knowing** Him. I was looking for a chance to re-read this timeless classic and, happily, I've been

blessed with an opportunity to go through it again, over several weeks, with an Emmaus brother.



I'll wrap-up with some wisdom from that great 19th century English preacher Charles Haddon Spurgeon. About reading, he says...

*“Master those books you have. Read them thoroughly. Bathe in them until they saturate you. Read and reread them...digest them. Let them go into your very self. Peruse a good book several times and make notes and analyses of it. A student will find that their mental constitution is more affected by one book thoroughly mastered than by twenty books merely skimmed. **Little learning and much pride comes from hasty reading.** Some students are disabled from thinking by their putting meditation away for the sake of much reading. In reading let your motto be ‘much not many.’”*

De Colores

Mike

Emmaus Contact Details

Emmaus Role	Name	Email
Community Lay Director (CLD)	Andrew Southwell	ald@canberramonaro.emmaus.org.au
Community Spiritual Director (CSD)	Jim Curtis	csd@canberramonaro.emmaus.org.au
Secretary	Von Chenery	secretary@canberramonaro.emmaus.org.au
Treasurer	Andrew Chenery (one year - 2023)	treasurer@canberramonaro.emmaus.org.au
Registrar	Michelle Southwell	registrar@canberramonaro.emmaus.org.au

Emmaus Board Meeting Outcomes

On 14th January, the Board of the Canberra Monaro Emmaus Community conducted a workshop to examine the Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats (SWOT Analysis) of our Community. This is a popular and effective technique to get a reading on where things stand. It's basically a snapshot in time that allows us to identify and explore what we do well, and what we could do better, and what we can do to prepare for challenges ahead. We welcomed two new Board members – Andy Visser and Kat Santosuosso – and it was great to have new faces at the table (with new giftings and experiences and perspectives).

It was reassuring to note that we identified more strengths than weaknesses, but it is worth noting a few of the key points that were raised. These will inform the governance of the Board going forward:

- *There is a general sense of acceptance, optimism and positivity throughout our Emmaus Community.*
- *The diversity in our age profile, perspective, denomination, and Christian experience makes us stronger as a Community.*
- *We have an excellent relationship with management at the Greenhills Conference Centre – and the venue is ideally located.*
- *We could build stronger linkages with church leaders in our region – in particular to showcase the benefits of working with Emmaus to enhance the strength of their own congregations.*
- *People are willing to serve when asked (but it's often the same faces doing the do).*
- *We could be more deliberate in encouraging new pilgrims to become more actively involved in the life of the Community.*



4th Day Speakers

What is a 4th Day Talk?

At most Gatherings we have a Community member share a brief message about how God has been working in their life since they did their pilgrim Walk. 1 Peter 3:15 tells us to be ready to explain the hope we have within us. A 4th Day Talk is just that! It doesn't need to be long (10 minutes is plenty), it just needs to be real.

You might have just done your Walk or it might have been many years ago, it doesn't matter. If you share what has God done in your life I can assure you, what you say will powerfully impact others within the Community.

If you would like to give a 4th Day Talk, see or email our Gathering Coordinator Kat Santosuosso and she will find a time at a Gathering for you to share and bless us all.



Going Fourth #17

Saturday 1st April 10am to 4pm

O'Connor Uniting Church



Come along to hear three special messages on the theme

Fully HIS

*Teach me your way, Lord that I may rely on your faithfulness;
give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.*

I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever.

Psalm 86:11-12

Join us on Saturday 1st April
O'Connor Uniting Church, 10 am to 4 pm

Bring your *lunch, name badge and Worship book*

A time for sharing, fun, fellowship, food opportunities
and hearing God's word

Morning and afternoon tea supplied

Please register by sending an email to
registrar@canberramonaro.emmaus.org.au

Cost \$10 - direct deposit to Canberra Monaro Emmaus

BSB: 634634 Account Number: 100021977

Please put your name as the reference

Or

pay at the door (cash or EFTPOS)

2023 Emmaus Board Members and Coordinators

Community Lay Director (CLD)	Andrew Southwell
Community Spiritual Director (CSD)	Jim Curtis
Treasurer	Andrew Chenery (2023, non-Board position)
Secretary	Yvonne Chenery
Minute Secretary	Andy Visser
Community Member	Kirsty Ross
Community Member	Mike Rowe
Community Member	Gary Bates
Community Member	Kat Santosuosso



2023 Canberra Monaro Emmaus Coordinators

Registrar	Michelle Southwell
Newsletter Editor	Dale Cooper
Training/Education Coordinator	Mike Rowe
Music Coordinator	Gary Bates
Supplies Coordinator	Matthew Smith
Agape Coordinator	Deb Glassford
Reunion Group Coordinator	Jenny Best
Web Coordinator	Neil Glassford
Candle Lighting Coordinator	TBA
Walk Prayer Coordinator	Vacant - can you help!
Gathering Coordinator	Kat Santosuosso
International Agape Coordinator	Kirsty Holmes
Walk Dining Room Coordinator – Men’s Walk	Vacant - can you help!
Walk Dining Room Coordinator – Women’s Walk	Vacant - can you help!
Walk Serving Coordinator	Kirsty Ross



As you can see there are some vacancies. Can you help? Would you like to know more...?

Contact us - Speak to a Board Member at the Gathering or email:

Andrew Southwell cld@canberramonaro.emmaus.org.au

or Von Chenery secretary@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 \(emmaus.org.au\)](http://emmaus.org.au)

News from the International Emmaus Community

The Upper Room Newsletter can be access 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 Von Chenery 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 2023

JAN	Sat	14	Board Workshop Board Meeting	10am-12noon 1-3pm	
			2 Weeks of Prayer Focus – via Community Email	2 weeks before Gathering	
FEB	Fri	3	Newsletter		
	Sat	11	Board Meeting	11am	O'Connor UC
			Gathering: Commissionings: Going Fourth Team #17 WLD and WSDs #93 & #94	2pm	O'Connor UC
	Sat	25	Going Fourth #17 Training	10am - 4pm	O'Connor UC
MAR	Sat	11	Gathering	2pm	O'Connor UC
	Tues	14	Board Meeting	7.30pm	Zoom
	Fri	24	Newsletter		
APR	Sat	1	Going Fourth #17	10am - 4pm	O'Connor UC
	Sat	8	NO GATHERING Easter weekend		
	Tues	18	Board Meeting	7.30pm	Zoom
MAY	Sat	13	Board Meeting	11am	O'Connor UC
		13	Gathering	2pm	O'Connor UC
	Fri	26	Newsletter		
JUN	Sat	3	Meet with Walk #93 & #94 LDs, ALDs & MDs + WLDs Runsheets & Easy Worship Training	10am- 1pm	O'Connor UC
		3	Gathering (date changed because of long weekend)	2pm	O'Connor UC
	Sat	10	NO GATHERING - Long Weekend		
	Tues	13	Board Meeting	7.30pm	Zoom
	Sat	24	1st Walk Team Training #93 & #94	8.30am - 4.30pm	O'Connor UC
JUL	Sat	8	Board Meeting	11am	O'Connor UC
		8	Country Gathering - Yass	2pm	Yass Baptist Church
	Sat	22	2nd Walk Team Training #93 & #94	8.30am - 4.30pm	O'Connor UC
AUG	Fri	4	Newsletter		
	Sat	12	Mega Agape Morning	10am - 1pm	O'Connor UC
		12	Gathering	2pm	O'Connor UC
	Tues	15	Board Meeting	7.30pm	Zoom
	Sat	26	3rd Walk Team Training #93 & #94	8.30am - 4pm	O'Connor UC
SEP	Sat	16	4th Walk Team Training #93 & #94	8.30 - 1pm	O'Connor UC
		16	Gathering and Teams Commissioning	2pm - 4.30pm	O'Connor UC
	Tues	19	Board Meeting	7.30pm	Zoom
	Fri	29	Newsletter		
OCT	Sat	7	Gathering	2pm	O'Connor UC
	Tues	10	Board Meeting	7.30pm	Zoom
	Thurs	19	Men's Walk #93 – Team 3pm onwards	7pm Pilgrims	Greenhills
	Sat	21	Candlelighting	8pm	Western Creek UC
	Sun	22	Closing Ceremony - Greenhills	3.45pm	Greenhills
NOV	Thurs	2	Women's Walk #94 – Team 3pm onwards	7pm Pilgrims	Greenhills
	Sat	4	Candlelighting	8pm	Western Creek UC
	Sun	5	Closing – Greenhills	3.30pm	Greenhills
	Sat	18	Men's & Women's Debrief	11am – 1pm	O'Connor UC
		18	Gathering - Meet the Board. Board Elections.	2pm	O'Connor UC
		18	- Commissioning GFLDs and GFSD #18		
Tues	21	Board Meeting	7.30pm	Zoom	
DEC	Fri	1	Newsletter		
	Sat	9	Team Selection #95 & #96	10:30am	O'Connor UC
		9	BBQ Gathering	12.30pm	O'Connor UC

2023 Walks (booked with Greenhills)

Men's Walk #93 Thursday 19 - 22 October

Women's Walk #94 Thursday 2 - 5 November

2024 Walks (booked with Greenhills)

Men's Walk #95 Thursday 17 - 20 Oct

Women's Walk #96 Thursday 7 - 10 Nov

2025 Walks (booked with Greenhills)

Men's Walk #97 Thursday 23 – 26 October

Women's Walk #98 Thursday 6 - 9 November

2023 Public Holidays

ACT		NSW	
New Year's Day Holiday	Monday 2 January	New Year's Day Holiday	Monday 2 January
Australia Day Holiday	Thursday 26 January	Australia Day Holiday	Thursday 26 January
Canberra Day	Monday 13 March		
Good Friday	Friday 7 April	Good Friday	Friday 7 April
Easter Saturday	Saturday 8 April	Easter Saturday	Saturday 8 April
Easter Sunday	Sunday 9 April	Easter Sunday	Sunday 9 April
Easter Monday	Monday 10 April	Easter Monday	Monday 10 April
Anzac Day	Tuesday 25 April	Anzac Day	Tuesday 25 April
Reconciliation Day	Monday 29 May		
Queen's Birthday	Monday 12 June	Queen's Birthday / Volunteer's Day	Monday 12 June
		Bank Holiday	Monday 7 August
Labour Day	Monday 2 October	Labour Day	Monday 2 October
Christmas Day	Monday 25 December	Christmas Day	Monday 25 December
Boxing Day	Tuesday 26 December	Boxing Day	Tuesday 26 December

School Terms	NSW 2023	ACT 2023
Term 1 (Eastern)	27 Jan – 6 Apr	27 Jan – 6 Apr
Term 1 (Western)	3 Feb – 6 Apr	-
Term 2	24 Apr – 30 June	24 Apr – 30 June
Term 3	17 July – 22 Sept	17 July – 22 Sept
Term 4	9 Oct – 19 Dec	9 Oct – 15 Dec