

Central West Emmaus Newsletter – August 2019

**Community
GATHERING
2pm - 17th August 2019
Bathurst Uniting Church
140a William Street, Bathurst**

***Please bring a plate for the afternoon tea
at the Gathering***

(Board meeting commences at 9.30am)

Community LD Comment

Recently Sandra and I had the privilege of travelling through western Canada and parts of Alaska. Discovering the beauty of the landscapes that God had painted on the canvas of His world. No matter how hard I tried on Sandra's tablet camera to capture the vivid colours, the height of the mountains or the contrasts that took our breaths away I came up short. Although you can see glimpses of the wonder it is not the same as experiencing it. To take in the full power and majesty you have to immerse yourself in the moment of standing in the midst of it.



Lake Moraine

It is the same with God's love and grace. We can hear great talks at Emmaus or read wonderful words, or receive a glimpse through a song. But you will never get the full picture until you experience it for yourself. We need to immerse ourselves in the wonder of it. Then we can explore the full depth and meaning of it. Too often we remain unconvinced of what He can do through our lives. We will not change this by studying alone, but through giving fully to the relationship and coming into His presence.

The walks this year are a great way of inviting people to start on this journey of discovery for themselves (either for the first time or in a fresh and living way). The real beauty of what happens is in the connection created between God and each

person. Our privilege is in serving God and in the process, we get to explore and connect with God some more ourselves.

If you can get to either Candlelighting or Closing of either walks I would encourage you to be involved. Even if you don't know anyone, the beauty you will experience will take your breath away and remind you of the beauty of His love.

The Tapestry of Life

Life is made of many colours
That display a picture, many do not see,
For they are consumed by what's around them,
They fail to see the beauty
Of the landscapes of their worlds.

They are trapped in the blandness of this moment,
Failing to comprehend the importance in their story,
For the beauty God is weaving,
With the very fabric of their souls,
Shaping and creating, a mystery to behold!

The tapestry of life,
Cannot be viewed within one thread,
It needs a broader picture, of what He wants to show,
When combined with the knowledge of His creative heart,
Shines a display of His goodness, in a colourful array!

We may wonder at the wisdom,
Of the colour that He has chosen!
But when reflected with His mercy,
Arranged and woven, by His perfect hands,
We will marvel at the beauty, of the tapestry of our lives!

De Colores
Dave Mudford

Community Spiritual Director Comment

Well it's not long now until the Walks and I hope that we are all looking forward in anticipation to seeing the fingerprints of God all over the pilgrims who have said yes to coming. Please continue to bathe this time in prayer for all involved.

A pastor put a note on Facebook saying that he's working on a sermon based on Zechariah 4:10, "*Who has despised the day of small things?*" He then asked the question, "*What small things have you seen God use? Think of things I may have overlooked.*"

What would you answer be?

A song. A flower. A little boy's lunch. A baby in a manger. A teenage mother. A star. A cup of water. A couple of coins in the offering from a widow. Mustard seed.

How about the boy who gave his lunch to Jesus and ended up feeding five thousand (John 6:9) or the widow who dropped her two coins into the offering and went on her way (Mark 12:42). Neither had any way of knowing what this meant to the Lord or that we would still be talking about them 2,000 years later.

Sometimes we write off what we do as small things. We may think that they seem insignificant. Yet life is made up of many

small moments, small words and little decisions. We may feel like our contribution to people around us – to the Kingdom – is small, but we serve a BIG God who is able to multiply the seemingly small things we offer him.

That word of encouragement – the offer to help a mother in need – that phone call to say hi – that quick prayer for the person that came to mind.

God loves to use the small things – it means that there's hope for all of us – even me!!!

Des Colores
Allan Vincent

Prayer Time - God listens to us all the time and one of the ways we converse is through prayer.

Our prayers are with our community, family and friends as they continue to live and love like Jesus.



We rejoice with those who celebrate and share in the struggles of those carrying the heavy burdens of ill health, grief, loneliness and worry. Our prayers are for all whose families have been affected by hardship and turmoil. We also continue to pray for members of our community as they continue along the journey of health challenges with a positive attitude.

Rain is still desperately needed across this land of ours. Despite falls in some areas NSW is still slipping further into drought in most areas. We pray for those affected by these dry and dusty and harsh conditions.

We pray for those for whom life is not easy and all who are experiencing a time of great change. God's comforting hand is with each and every one of us, no matter what is happening.

Please continue to hold the Board in your prayers. The Board faces ongoing challenges each year as it looks at creative ways of caring for the community. As two members leave to move onto a different journey there is a place for you if you are interested. Your prayers are always appreciated and we give thanks for all who serve in any way.

Walks #41 and #42 will soon take place and we ask you to continue to keep the Lay Directors, Leanne Fragar and Bruce Walker, in your prayers as their teams prepare for the walks. Pray also for guidance as you consider who you might sponsor as pilgrims: it's never too early to start asking and encouraging people to be a pilgrim.

I received an email from Andrew Alder with a request that I share this link with the rest of our community plus the comment and prayer points that were in that email. Here's the link: <https://www.etermitynews.com.au/good-news/the-plumbers-pilgrimage/>

I quote this from the email received from Jenny Aitcheson "Ron Van Vuuren (Community Lay Director – Newcastle/Central Coast), Owen Butt (past National Spiritual Director) & myself, had the privilege of sharing the 'Emmaus Story' with Rebecca Abbott from 'Eternity News'. This follows an interview that Rebecca had with Brian & Vanessa Stuckings

who were pilgrims on our last Walks."

Thank you Brian & Vanessa (who were pilgrims on NCC walks this year) for sharing your story, for being open and vulnerable about your Walk to Emmaus experience with us and the rest of Australia".

Some Prayer Points

- * Praise God for the opportunity that "Eternity News" has given Emmaus in sharing the Good News of God's love to the Nation of Australia.
- * Pray that God will bless "Eternity News" and their publication.
- * Pray that God will bless & protect Brian and Vanessa in their fourth days.
- * Pray that people who have done the Walk to Emmaus in the past will want to come back, be enthused, set on fire for Emmaus and that they would want to connect with Emmaus communities within this Nation.
- * Pray that men and women who read this article will want to participate in a Walk to Emmaus in their area across this nation of Australia.
- * Another big prayer point is that this article will spark a flame back into the Sydney Emmaus community.(for those who don't know, Sydney is the first Emmaus Community in Australia and it currently is not functioning)

Thank you for your prayer support.



Jenny Gilbertson is a great encourager and is always willing to help you with any enquiries you may have about sponsoring. Now is the time to be asking and encouraging people to come on a Walk.

I have just learned there is a problem with the Emmaus Website so attached with the email newsletters are the sponsorship forms for the next set of walks. Feel free to print as many copies as you need to assist you as you sponsor new pilgrims or use the temporary page tinyurl.com/CWEmmaus

Community Corner

2019 is another year with much happening. We encourage everyone to attend the August Gathering and look forward to seeing many people celebrate together in praising our wonderful God, sharing experiences and our unity as one in the Body of Christ.



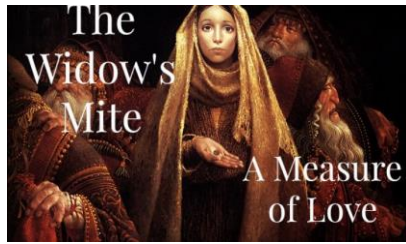
The June Gathering was held at the Cowra Baptist Church and was a wonderful celebration. In place of the Fourth Day talk we interviewed Ian and Carolyn Sharp on their experience with Emmaus over the past 18 years. We praise God for the worship and fellowship experienced by those who attended.



There are still a couple of vacancies for roles (which doesn't necessarily mean that you need to be on the Board to take them on) and there will be two more when Ian and Carolyn leave. Please pray for those who are trying new things and about who might be asked to take on the remaining roles.

We are always looking for Board members and if you feel you might like to be part of the board or contribute in some way please feel free to contact one of the members and chat about possibilities. Being on the Board is an exciting journey full of richness and diversity. New faces and new ideas are always welcome as we plan the future of our Central West Emmaus Community.

May I suggest that you think and pray about where you might contribute or be involved in the future – no contribution is too small!



Central West Emmaus Board 2019

Community Spiritual Director Team - Allan Vincent	Spiritual Oversight and prayer for our Community and Board Meetings and Walks and building up the Community in love.
Community Lay Director – David Mudford/ Avril Butler (Elect)	Connecting, loving, encouraging and building the Community, Oversight of Community and Walks, Inspiring the board and chairing meetings, running Gatherings, future direction.
Secretary – Carolyn Sharp	Taking and compiling Board minutes from meetings, maintaining community contact details.
Treasurer, Registrar & Ridgecrest Liaison Don Butler (caretaker)	All financial matters, updating forms, being registrar for the walks and our campsite communication person.
Reunion Groups and Newsletter - Ian Sharp	Inspiring and encouraging our Reunion Groups, Encouraging the Community to sponsor and following up on new Pilgrims. Putting the newsletter together and distributing to the Community.
Prayer – Andrew Alder	Sourcing Community for Prayer for walks. Praying for us all.
Supplies - Helen Harris	Obtaining all things necessary to run Walks including handbooks and equipping Lay Directors.
Copyright - Jenny Gilbertson	Keeping our song lists and music Copyright updated.
Music Coordinator – Leisha Chaseling	Coordination and delegation of music for Emmaus events.
Community Agape & Walk Agape - Jenny Gilbertson	Keeping us connected to Emmaus Communities, both Overseas and Australian, as well as organising local agape from Reunion Groups for Walks.

Gatherings - Geoff Hoskins	Sourcing the Fourth Day Speaker and booking venues for Gatherings. Looking after the kitchen at Gatherings and preparing the Communion Table.
Candlelighting – Avril Butler	Ensuring materials are available for Candlelighting.
Training – Helen Harris & Avril Butler	Overseeing One Day Team Training, Board Talks and lunch.
Website - Michael Flack & Andrew Alder	Keeping our website current, updated, interesting and informative.
IT Oversight Andrew Alder	Support with and custody of electronic equipment
Sponsoring – Jenny Gilbertson	Providing information and support to sponsors
Book Table – Michael Flack	Organising the Book Table for both Walks
Pack up and set up –	Overseeing set up and packing up for Training and the Walks

Serving God – in whatever we do



Central West Emmaus Website

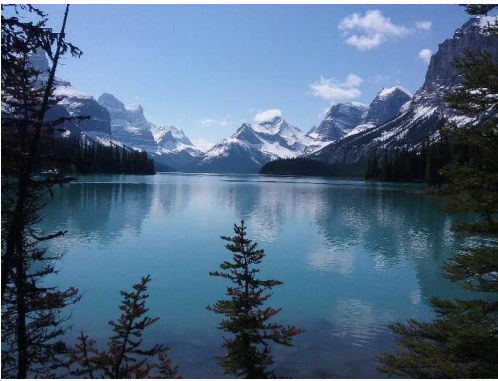
There is a new Emmaus website being developed for Emmaus Australia (emmaus.org.au) with links to and support for all the communities. While there are teething problems at present this should be a great resource.

Many people from all over the world have been checking out the Central West Emmaus website, including from England, Africa, USA and Canada. There is a link to the National Emmaus Newsletter so if you are interested you can check out what's happening on the national scene.

[centralwest.emmaus.org.au/](http://www.centralwest.emmaus.org.au/)

De Colores, Michael Flack and Andrew Alde

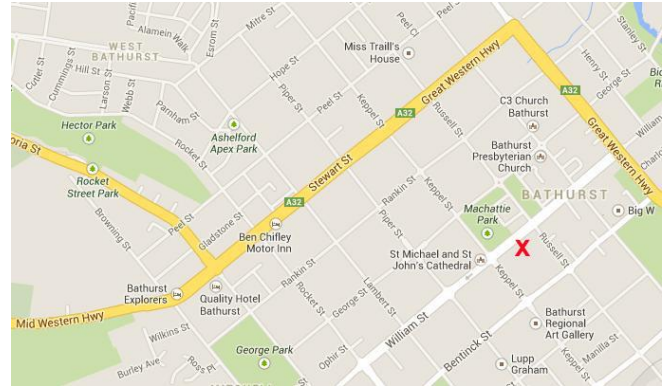




Lake Maligne

Gathering at Bathurst

Our next gathering is at the Bathurst Uniting Church and will be held on Saturday the 17th August 2019 commencing at 2pm. Please refer to the map below for the location and please bring a plate to share.



Reunion Groups

Emmaus encourages us to share in Reunion Groups: our joys, sorrows, delights and struggles as we walk our Fourth Day. They help us to be accountable to God and each other as we endeavour to share Christ with the community in meaningful ways. Reunion groups are a wonderful way to support each other as we share our experiences with others.

As our society has changed and become so busy with many demands on our time so we must adapt to stay relevant and faithful. When it is not possible to meet as a group in a physical location we can consider new ways of meeting. Technology can assist us as we keep up to date by phone, email, social networking and computer video calls.

I would encourage all people in the Emmaus Community to be creative. Coffee with a friend can be more than a social outing as we nurture relationships with God and each other, while keeping on the lookout to build community. Meeting face to face is not always possible so keep in touch any way you can.

Reunion Groups

Bathurst Butterflies (First Sat of month)	0417 479 676
Bathurst Gold	6331 2729
Bathurst Rainbow Connection	6331 9241
Dubbo Zooey Zebras	6882 2639
Dubbo Wild Ducks	6885 4454
Dubbo Misfits	6887 2191
Hassans Walls (Last Sat of odd months)	6351 4214
Lithgow Zigzags (Last Sat of odd months)	6351 4214
Mendooran Doers	6886 1265
Narromine Sunflowers	6889 1791
Nyngan Nutmegs	6832 1339
Oberon Pine Nuts	0411 636016
Orange Blossoms	6361 0127
Parkes Stargazers	6869 1969
Peak Hill Gold Seekers (First Sun of month)	6869 1784
WWW.com - Wellington	6845 2404



If the details above need to be amended please let me know so I can make the necessary changes.

Ian Sharp

CENTRAL WEST EMMAUS NEWSLETTER

If undelivered, please return to
41 Murrayfield Drive, Dubbo NSW 2830



REMEMBER THAT IF YOU CHANGE YOUR POSTAL ADDRESS OR SET UP A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS AND STILL WISH TO REMAIN IN CONTACT, PLEASE LET US KNOW!!



DO YOU HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS???

CAN WE USE IT TO SEND YOUR NEWSLETTER PLEASE

Newsletters are compiled and distributed a few weeks before each Gathering. We are always looking for items of news for our "Community Corner" and any other things that may be of interest to members of our Emmaus Community. If you have any items, please forward them to me at - ian.sharp41@gmail.com or phone 02 6884 3568

De Colores - Ian Sharp

