

Central West Emmaus Newsletter – October 2019

Community Events

19th October 2019

12.30pm Community lunch – please bring food to share.

2pm Gathering – a plate for afternoon tea would be appreciated.

Orange Church of Christ (Burrendong Way)

(Board Meeting commences at 9.30am)

Community LD Comment

Greetings everyone. We have had an eventful few weeks in the Emmaus community. Recently we held an impactful Women's Walk that saw the pilgrims encouraged and challenged (see report elsewhere). Thanks Leanne and team for your love and care. We also had to postpone and rearrange the Men's Walk. It will now be held from 21-24th of November. Applications are now open and need to be in ASAP – please try to have them in by the 18th October so that the Board can make timely decisions. Please make this a priority in your prayers and thoughts.

Bruce Walker is still the Lay Director for this walk. Having postponed the walk already, we really don't want to be having to change the event again. The walk will be a positive thing for your family and friends. Seek God and act now if he is leading you. Also remember Candlelighting on the Saturday night and the closing on the Sunday – such a blessing and encouragement to attend. Bruce needs to fill a few vacancies on team due to the change of dates. Please reply promptly to him if he contacts you so he can finalise the team.

I am coming to an end of my time as Community Lay Director. It has been a challenge and I have enjoyed working with a lot of you. Thanks for your patience with me. I have been supported by a cohesive and committed Board which has made my limitations less of an issue. I plan to continue to help out where I can around our community.

The Board has appointed Sandra Mudford as secretary till the end of the year given the resignation of Carolyn. So, if you have any correspondence, please now send it to her at s.muddy17@gmail.com. The board appreciate her willingness to fill this role.

Board nominations for the 2020 to 2022 period are now open (see nomination form). Consider this as the Board numbers are now quite small. My 2nd term finishes at the end of the year and as such I will not be standing. If you have any questions please talk to me or one of the other Board

members as to what is involved. The community cannot continue without an effective Board. The Board nominations will close by the 12th of November.

I will leave you with one last poem written on something that has been on my heart lately (the need to mentor, support and walk beside).

Spiritual Parenting

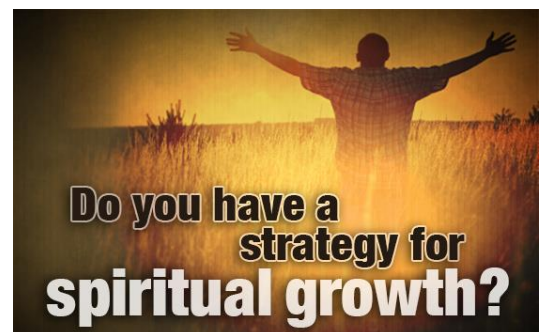
We should have many sons and daughters,
But they are orphaned by our neglect,
There should be an aroma, from our lives, to give them breath,
They are suffocating while we're indifferent,
Too afraid to take our courage calling.

We should nourish not just from our knowledge,
But from compassion that grows from grace,
There should be a lifting, from their shame, to give them hope,
They are doubting in their value, we should love, to show them worth,
Too relentless in our pursuit, to let them struggle all alone.

We should give them time and a safe place,
But crowded schedules cloud our priorities,
There should be a persistent longing, to parent lives with more than words,
They are confused by life's harshness, needing to see our honest battles,
To comfort their insecurities, as we learn together to rest in Him.

We should cherish our sons, our daughters,
But our "self's" disturbs our care,
There should be a giving, that flows out from His strength,
They are searching for connection, but we are waiting for our perfection,
Too afraid in our weakness, time to let our pride subside.

Decolres
Dave Mudford



At the last gathering at Cowra Ian and Carolyn Sharp were interviewed as they prepared for a new chapter in their journeys as they prepared for a move to Wauchope. They were interviewed about their experiences, amongst other things, of their 20 year association with Central West Emmaus.

For those not aware, Ian & Carolyn Sharp recently moved to Wauchope. This newsletter you are reading will be the second last produced by Ian, who has done a marvellous job for the last few years after taking over from Tim Collette. This job also involves the maintenance of the community data base.

After 19 years of involvement and support for the Central West Emmaus (CWE) we took the opportunity at the Cowra gathering to quiz the Sharps about their CWE experience. They were prompted by questions from Avril and the community, and this is what we discovered:

Carolyn's Walk was No.2 at Parklands in Dubbo on the river near the zoo. There was an outside chapel in a tent and it was freezing and the frost was thick.

Ian's Walk was No.1 at the same location with 6 pilgrims and the number of the team he found daunting. He remembered it being fairly cold but a very great experience.

Food, cooking and serving was provided by the community. They were sponsored by Bill and Joan Paul (now residents of Parkes) who have been a major part of CWE for a long time.

What impact did your Walks have on your faith and on your life journey with God?

Carolyn: "It was a real battery recharge for me and I was so energised. And I know it was the same for Ian because when he returned home he didn't walk through the front door, he floated!

It gave me such an appreciation for the love of God and what was done for me and what I then wanted to do for others and so I started doing more in the community and the church"

Ian: "What Carolyn has said was the same for myself, except we were told on the men's Walk not to share our experience with our wives so I had to spend the week ducking, dodging and weaving, but Carolyn could see the great impact it had had on my faith journey as well"

Were there any specific "God-moments" in your CWE experience you can share?

Carolyn explained about a very special moment at Carcoar when it unexpectedly began snowing and everyone gravitated to the windowseventually everyone drifted back to their tables. Another time, also at Carcoar, they were heading for Candlelighting and a pilgrim started singing "going to the chapel and we're going to be blessed....." and the others joined in and they were absolutely gobsmacked when they walked in on the candles...it was very beautiful"



Ian talked of watching the growth of the pilgrims from when they initially came in till returning to their homesand their grins getting wider and wider. He spoke of one instance when he was muso and there were about

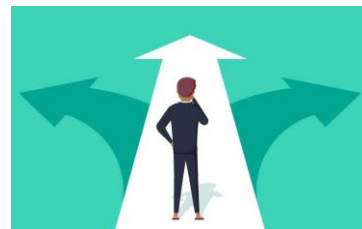
15 pilgrims of various nationalities and all great singers. He would start them off and then stop playing to listen to the beautiful brilliant harmonies and how it sent tingles up his spine.

And how at Candlelighting a group of pilgrims joined together on their knees in front of the cross and invited the Spiro to join them and prayed ... and that was a very special time for everyone.

They both agreed that there were just too many "God-moments" to mention.

What was your favourite talk and your most challenging talk?

Carolyn: "my favourite is one most people don't like, Priorities. I really like doing Priorities because that's the heart, that's the starting point. If you get that right everything follows on from there.



The one I found most challenging, and the one I really didn't want early on (but God gave me), was Changing our World because I didn't see myself as a world changer and yet when I got into it, it virtually wrote itself and it was so comfortable when the time came to deliver it ...and people told me I made it sound so possible, not great things but little things one-on-one...."

Ian: my most favourite talk I've been privileged to give is the same as Carolyn's. Priorities is that foundation for your whole life

Most difficult, I guess, is a toss-up between Changing our World and Fourth Day but I lean towards Fourth Daybecause you're going back to realityand it's so different for everyone because of our different backgrounds & different journeys..."

Do you have favourite songs that you've learnt on the Walks

Carolyn: "My list of favourite songs is this long, there are just so many. But one we don't use much at Emmaus that is a favourite is 'This is all our Joy'...and it starts 'something we have known from the beginning' and that's the joy of knowing God....."

Ian: "Like Carolyn I have a huge repertoire of songs, but I guess there are two songs that stick out for me. That's Graham Gardiner's 'We Will Love' because it cuts to the chase and is about how I should live my journey, not only me but everyone. The other is TIS number 687 - God Gives Us A Future'

Do you think Emmaus has changed much since you did your Walks? Does it need to change? Is it still blessing people the way you were blessed?

Carolyn: "In some ways Emmaus hasn't changed and the blessing comes and is different for every person. Everyone starts from a different place, everyone's going back to a whole

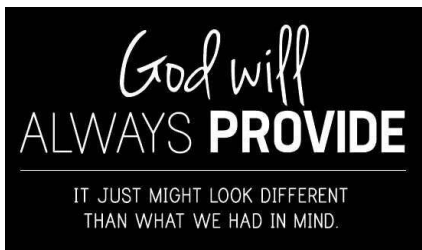
different situation and what you get out of the Walk partly depends upon how much you will let go because if you hang on too tight you don't get the blessings as early, but most people get there ...I've only seen one or two really struggle with it."

But Carolyn believes (& Ian agreed) that there is a need for change and we need to be more flexible. We are broader in the people we accept, numbers are much lower, and distances are greater than other communities. We need to consider Skype & consider teleconferencing

So talking about distances we believe you are going to a far flung place?

Ian and Carolyn explained that after 22 years in Dubbo they are going to live in Wauchope, which is closer to some family but further away from others. They will be sad to leave Dubbo and the things they love here....but time moves on and they feel the time is right to continue their journey and they believe it's meant to happen. They are heading for an active local community church, a strong Emmaus community and a strong Kairos community. They will be visiting CWE from time to time.

We thank them for nearly 20 years of input into our community and wish them every blessing for their continuing journey.



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.

We are thankful for the five women who were Pilgrims on Walk #42. We pray that their Fourth Day might be fruitful; that there will always be people to celebrate the great gifts of God with them and that they may find support when reality is difficult to deal with.

We give thanks for all those who through their prayer ensured that the recent Walk was a wonderful life giving experience for all concerned. We give thanks for the Women's team and the Lay Director, Leanne, who led the walk. We give thanks for the Ridgecrest staff and the Background team for their care, love and consideration. There are so many people and things

to give thanks for so prayers of thanks and praise are appreciated.

Please keep praying for Bruce Walker as he gathers a team for the Men's Walk which is now being held from the 21st to the 24th November at Ridgecrest. Our main prayer focus should be on the upcoming Men's Walk: we need prayer, and sponsors, and pilgrims, probably in that order. In your daily prayer time, please remember sponsors, pilgrims and the team. If you don't have a daily prayer time, consider starting one.

If you're not on team, you can join the Prayer Vigil. Are you a recent sponsor? Is your pilgrim on the Prayer Vigil? Would you be comfortable to give them a phone call or email and recommend it? Perhaps this is a good opportunity for follow-up. The Men's Prayer roster can be found online at tinyurl.com/CWEemmaus

Please pray for prospective pilgrims and if you know someone that you think might benefit and could be sponsored please not only pray for them but ask them to come.

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 and in some places the situation is dire. We pray for those affected by these dry, 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 there for 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 Ian and Carolyn 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.



Some Prayer Points:

- Please pray for Rebecca Fowler, Ingrid Jeffery, Pedr Corderoy, Julie-Anne Wagstaffe and Roslyn Yates, Pilgrims on the recent Womens Walk #42, as they continue their fourth day journeys.
- Please pray for the Community Spiritual Director, Allan Vincent, as he journeys together with his wife and family and the challenges they are facing at the moment
- Pray for rain in the Central West and beyond to break the devastating drought conditions as many centres face the prospect of being without water.

Your prayer support is invaluable.

Sponsorship forms for the next walk can be downloaded from the temporary page tinyurl.com/CWEmmaus Feel free to print as many copies as you need to assist you as you sponsor pilgrims.

It's not too early to start praying and thinking about sponsoring



someone for next year's Emmaus Walks
- ***if you are thinking about sponsoring ... start now!***

- Begin by praying when you are considering a potential pilgrim.
- Consider inviting the potential pilgrim's partner. Emmaus wants to strengthen relationships so experiencing the Walks at similar times is better.
- It is not for everyone. It is meant to grow and revitalize the commitment of someone who has already commenced the journey.
- Choose carefully who to sponsor. Pray. Consider the attitude the person will bring to their table.
- Describe the experience fully. The pilgrim needs to be able to trust the program and those running it.
- Explain it is a structured weekend not a restful retreat. It works best if pilgrims can relax and flow with it rather than trying to analyse or consume.
- The focus is time with God away from the world ... no watches or cameras and you don't need your mobile phone.
- Share what your Walk meant to you. Remember your pilgrim's experience will be different to yours.
- Then there are the jobs ... explain the form, send it in, help them pack, encourage and reassure, bring them to the site, help with luggage, beds, registration and pray over their cross.
- Tender loving care is the way to go from you, their sponsor, from the team and from the community.
- Tender loving care for their family at home while they are on the Walk.
- Guess what? There is still more to do ... organise and collect letters - 8 to 12 especially from family (with F marked on the outside of the envelope, they will get these first) and close friends, any more, and especially gifts, give them to them after the Walk as a surprise, be a part of the 72-hour Prayer Vigil, attend Candlelighting and closing and take your pilgrim home.
- The love continues support their Fourth Day by bringing them to their first Gathering, helping them find a reunion group, picking them up for future Candlelightings and closings and training them in being a good sponsor.
- There is a cost to you in time, maybe money and it calls for sacrifice. At some time in the past, someone did this for you.



- It is one of the most important roles you can contribute in Emmaus. It calls for your best.

Our God of love, hope and freedom has given each one of us special gifts and talents and one of those beautiful people who has had the gift of encourager bestowed on her is Jenny Gilbertson, so if you want to have a chat about sponsoring I encourage you to make contact with Jenny.

Community Corner

Due to the date change for the Men's Walk it is possible that the final Gathering for the year will be moved a week to give a bit longer break between the Walk and the Gathering. This will be decided at the Board Meeting on 19th October and you will be advised as soon as is practicable. The Gathering will be held in Dubbo and the venue may need to change as well. Look out for the details in the next Newsletter.



The August Gathering was held in Cowra and was celebrated in the usual Emmaus tradition. There was much enthusiasm, community and sharing of the Spirit, which carried on into our regular fellowship over a cuppa and cake.

The Board is looking for new members and indeed has been considering the question of succession planning. Each person has a gift and something to offer. If you feel you are being drawn into becoming a Board member don't hesitate to contact one of the members with any questions you have. Attached to this newsletter is a nomination form to become a member of the Board.

The Prayer Vigil for this year's Emmaus Walks was on the Emmaus Website in a section called "active prayer vigil sign-up sheets". The site shows all the walks that are happening, not only in Australia, but overseas as well and this proved to be a great way to put your name down for the prayer vigil. It allows us to pray for other walks and for people from different Emmaus Communities to pray for our walks. Thank you to all those who prayed for the walks and who will pray for our Men's Walk next month - it certainly helps the success of the walks.

Speaking of walks – as I said earlier the Women's Walk has just been completed and Avril Butler has kindly forwarded and article for your information:

Ladies Walk 42.

Did you miss the Closing Ceremony for the Ladies Walk?

It was a very meaningful time as all 5 pilgrims spoke clearly about how God had been speaking to them during the weekend. The overall theme that came through the weekend was that each of us is a child of God, loved by God and called into relationship with Him. One pilgrim recommitted her life to Christ and others spoke of a much deeper understanding of God's love that is poured out on each and all of us. The musos who led worship beautifully chose a song for Closing that included the lines "I'm a child

of God, Yes I am” and “I am who You say I am”, which affirmed the theme of the weekend. The presence of the Holy Spirit was very clear, both in the prayer chapel and in the conference room.

The team was well led by Leanne, and the tables melded well together. Everyone enjoyed the Poster parties, in particular the dramatic renditions of the creative responses. And the formal dinner was very enjoyable with a polished performance of the Rainbow Skit.

All praise to God for another amazing Emmaus walk.

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Carolyn and I have moved and are now living in Wauchope. As we unpack boxes and settle into the community the Central West is constantly in our thoughts and prayers. I will be doing the newsletter until the end of the year but after that there will be an opportunity for some new blood! If you are being led into that role please don't hesitate to contact me or one of the Board.

If you have something special or in fact anything you would like to contribute to the Newsletter please don't hesitate to send it in and we will make every effort to include it. Everyone has a story to tell that can be of benefit to someone.

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 – Sandra Mudford	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

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	0412 907 843
Orange Blossoms	6361 0127
Parkes Stargazers	6869 1969
Peak Hill Gold Seekers (First Sun of month)	6869 1784
WWW.com - Wellington	6845 2404



DO YOU HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS???

CAN WE USE IT TO SEND YOUR NEWSLETTER PLEASE

Newsletters are compiled a few weeks before each Gathering and are distributed prior to the 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 0403 837 458

De Colores - Ian Sharp

Orange Gathering

Join us at our next Gathering, being held at Orange Church of Christ on Saturday 19th October 2019. A Board Meeting is scheduled to commence at 9:30am, with a Community Lunch at 12.30pm and this is a great way to get to know each other. The Gathering, which is held in the complex in Burrendong Way, will start at around 2pm and will be followed by the mandatory Emmaus cuppa.



"You must shine among them like stars lighting up the sky, as you offer them the message of life." Philipians 2:15-16.



If the above details are incorrect please let me know so I can amend them accordingly.

Ian Sharp

Central West Emmaus Website

For the time being we are still operating with a temporary website, hopefully only for another month or so, and then the new National server will take over. The new webpage should be up and running soon as the developers work as quickly as they can. Like all Emmaus people they are volunteers and your prayers would be appreciated.

We will let you know when you can visit the new webpage and the address will be included in the newsletter when it is ready. Previously we have had people visiting our site from all over the world and as Prayer Vigils are now included we can also support communities in other places, just as they support us. There will be a link to the National Emmaus Newsletter so if you are interested you can check out what's happening on the national scene.

De Colores, Michael Flack and Andrew Alder

CENTRAL WEST EMMAUS NEWSLETTER



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!!

