

# EMMAUS MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER MARCH 2023

## From the National Lay Director's desk

Greetings in Christ's name as we look forward to our first "live" annual National Conference in 4 years. Our hosts at Darling Downs Community have demonstrated incredible "perseverance" over this long delay.

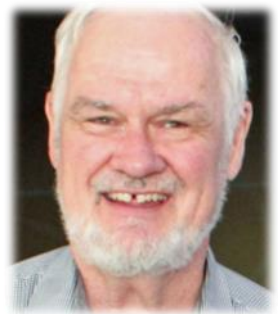
Despite Covid19 restrictions extending well into 2022, events in at least some communities, are slowly returning to normal. It's also good to hear from communities where gatherings are resuming and we continue to pray for those who struggle with filling Walk teams, finding suitable affordable venues and sponsoring pilgrims.

We had two successful National Secretariat Zoom meetings last year and two virtual gatherings.

Last April we farewelled David Nivala after an extended (4 year) term as National Lay Director, navigating us through the many obstacles of the pandemic and other challenges. Many thanks to Ruth Slater who will conclude her extended term as treasurer, handing over to Norm Evers. Thanks also to Alan Carlyle, who is stepping down as Information, Communications and Technology Coordinator and Webmaster. We are eagerly looking for someone or maybe two people with these skills to transition into these key roles.

That brings us to the National Lay Director position. After much prayer, I accepted a 12-month term last April after 4 years as Secretary-elect and Secretary. I have enjoyed all these roles, but it is now clearly time for me to

pass the baton on to a new leader to oversee the next phase of revitalising Emmaus Ministries programs in Australia.



We have welcomed some new board members during the year. My thanks to all the National Board members and supporters for their support and valuable contributions.

I have also enjoyed conversations with Rev Stephane Brooks and Hess "Doc" Hall from The Upper Room in the USA. Many overseas communities have not had any events during the pandemic, so we are indeed very blessed to have been able to achieve what we have in Australia. Doc will be travelling to Toowoomba for the conference and will have lots to share with us, including the ["Emmaus Ministries University"](#). This online facility has some exciting new training modules for both lay and clergy members of boards and events teams.

Looking forward to meeting many of you in person, some for the first time, at the conference. Best wishes to all as we look forward to celebrating Easter.

De Colores  
Phil Jennings  
National Lay Director

## CHRISTINE ROSE

### NATIONAL SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

## “A YEAR TO BANISH DISAPPOINTMENT !” Psalm 77

The difference between having confidence and lacking confidence can be the difference between success and failure, the difference between doors opening and doors closing. Confidence injects courage into us, lack of confidence sucks courage out of us.

Psalm 77 is a psalm about confidence.

I believe it brings a timely word to us all for all our communities.

The first nine verses of psalm 77 are complaints. We can go through a crisis of confidence in God and still believe all the right things about God. We believe generally, but struggle to believe personally at times – our mind says things like :-

*I know that God is faithful, but will He be faithful to me?*

*I know that God is compassionate, but does He feel compassion towards me?*

*I know God's promises are true, but do they apply to me?*

I think over these last two years Christians and our Emmaus communities have struggled with their confidence in God. Lack of confidence in God while holding onto our beliefs, keep us going in our faith walk; we still pray, but not with a strong confidence that God will hear our prayers and do awesome things; we still sing songs of worship, but we aren't moved the way we once were. Then as we continue to read this wonderful Psalm we read in verse 10 'a spark of confidence' can be seen this is a means to 'banish disappointment !' The Psalmist remembers what God has done, he remembers God's wonders of old, God's powerful work, His redemptive arm, and His mighty deeds in history he knows that all of history is God's history and God doesn't change. The God of then is the God of now! We are as much a part of God's redemptive history as the Psalmist was, as David was, as Joseph was, as Peter, James, and John were. God hasn't shrunk or moved or given up. Look at verse 14 in this Psalm 'you are the God who works wonders'. Not you were the God, you are the God! Now we see in the Psalm that confidence in God is rising!

Just as the Red Sea parted for the Israelites today is no different - God always makes a way for His people. I think the word confidence helps give us a understanding of what faith is. Faith is confidence in God: God will part the Red Sea.

### **God will make a way!**

In Hebrews 4:16 the Word of God tells us what Jesus has done for each of us, Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need'. Don't go timidly, with many 'maybe's' - Open the doors and say, "Father, I'm here and I need mercy and grace!" Confidently! this pleases our Father's heart! It is time to 'Banish Disappointment' and the years passed that have brought disappointment – rise with confidence today for this year and beyond:

- Pray confidently
- Meditate, repeat and learn the Scriptures with confidence
- Recount God's awesome deeds – listen and speak actively
- Let's encourage one another to be confident in our great God and powerful Saviour Jesus Christ.

God is still great and powerful! He is still doing great things! We can believe that with confidence and pray that with confidence we can say, we will 'banish disappointment' and move forward this year with expectancy that God is in control and His will be done in our lives and communities.

Please continue to join together on the 1st of each month to pray for Emmaus in our great nation of Australia.

### **In God's Love and Grace**

*Reverend Christine Rose*

*National Emmaus Spiritual Director*



## PETER O'LOGHLIN NATIONAL SECRETARY

### National Secretary's Report

The Emmaus Australia National Board (EANB) has met four times since the 2022 Zoom Secretariat meeting in April – June, September and November 2022 and February 2023. In addition there was a Zoom meeting of the Secretariat in October; minutes of this meeting will be found in the Conference booklet. The main topics discussed included the new policy documents and the new program offerings from The Upper Room – Village Encounter and Fourth Day Restore. Presentations on these will be given at this conference. There were also some updated arrangements for the provision of Emmaus/Chrysalis supplies such as manuals & worship booklets.



As we emerge from the COVID-induced torpor of the last few years, seven Communities held Walks last year, and the curve is sloping upwards: at least nine are planning to do so in 2023. In addition Western Sydney is planning to run the first Australian Village Encounter. We also have a new National Secretary, Peter O'Loughlin, a new Newsletter Editor, Mostyn Krollig, and a new National Chrysalis Coordinator, all appointed late last year. Still desperately needed are new occupants for the positions of National Lay Director, National Training Officer and ICT (Information, Communications and Technology) Coordinator.

Consequently, the National Board composition is as follows:

- ◇ National Lay Director – to be filled at this Conference
- ◇ National Spiritual director – Christine Rose
- ◇ National Secretary – Peter O'Loughlin
- ◇ National Treasurer – Norm Evers, as from this conference
- ◇ National Face to Face coordinator – Margaret Niethé
- ◇ National Chrysalis Coordinator – Leanne Close
- ◇ National Supplies – Marge Amery
- ◇ National Newsletter Editor – Mostyn Krollig
- ◇ National Web Master - Alan Carlyle (pending appointment of a new ICT Coordinator)
- ◇ National ICT Coordinator – Vacant
- ◇ National Training Officer – Vacant
- ◇ National Insurance Officer – Helen Drew

The new insurance cover, reported on last year, is proving effective. It includes both Public Liability and Volunteers cover, both rolled into one policy with a lower premium than we had been paying for the separate policies previously.

The Upper Room (TUR) has introduced a new reporting form to allow them to gain some feedback on the number of Butterflies and Pilgrims we are ministering to each year, so I will be contacting you periodically to gain those figures for your Community. I haven't been able to obtain full statistics for 2022 (HINT: CLDs, please return my calls or reply to my emails!) but it looks as though we had about 160 pilgrims last year.

It is Covenant time again! As you know, a condition of using any of the copyrighted materials from TUR is that all Board members read and sign the annual Covenant to use them in accordance with TUR's rules. The Covenant document was sent to all Communities on 17 February, and signed responses are due in today. Thank you to those who have brought or already sent them.

Decolores *Peter O'Loughlin*



# 2023 National Secretariat

## Toowoomba, QLD

Dates: **31st March—2nd April 2023**

### REGISTRATION FORM

WELCOME LETTER from Darling Downs Emmaus Community

More information on the following pages



## We would love to hear from you!

Remember how you found encouragement on your Emmaus journey,  
why not share and encourage others with it.

- Please include your name, and a photo would be great, but optional.
- When and where was your Emmaus Ministries event? (and your community.)
- Please share the way the event impacted your life.
- Growth in Piety – how you are further opening yourself to God?
- Growth through Study – what you have been reading/studying recently that has contributed to your ongoing spiritual formation in significant ways?
- Growth through Christian Action – What ministries you are involved with and how they are impacting your world?
- Please share any book(s) or writing(s) that you have published.
- Tell us about your hope for the future.

Please send all stories to: [newsletter@emmaus.org.au](mailto:newsletter@emmaus.org.au)



## Community Connections



<https://emmaus.org.au>



<https://www.facebook.com/AustralianWalkToEmmaus/>

## WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT A NATIONAL EMMAUS CONFERENCE?

Good question! It's a few years since we've been able to have one, so I don't blame you for asking! Here are few more questions you might like to ask.

**31 March to 2 April 2023**

[REGISTRATION FORM LINK](#)

[WELCOME LETTER](#)

FROM DARLING DOWNS EMMAUS COMMUNITY

**What is it?** It's the annual (well, usually!) get-together of all Emmaus Community members in Australia, and includes the National Gathering and the AGM of Emmaus Ministries Australia.

**Do I get a vote?** Well, the only part of the weekend where there is any voting is the AGM, usually an hour or two on Saturday afternoon. To keep it fair, each Community gets two votes, exercised by the CLD and CSD or their proxies.

**When is it?** Friday afternoon 31 March to Sunday afternoon 2 April 2023.

**Can I come?** Absolutely! In fact, all Community members are encouraged to come!

**What if my Community is no longer functioning?** No worries. If you have ever attended an Emmaus Ministries program, you are part of the wide Emmaus Australia Community.

**What about Chrysalis, Alarga and Face to Face members?** Yes, these are all part of Emmaus Ministries Australia. Members of other Fourth Day programs like Cursillo, Kairos, Tres Dias etc are also welcome as observers.

**So what else goes on?** Great fellowship, worship, teaching sessions, Communion, keynote speaker, ...

**Keynote speaker?** Yes! This year Hess "Doc" Hall, the International Lay Director, is coming out from The Upper Room HQ in Nashville, Tennessee. He will tell us about the new Emmaus ministries, and lots more.

**New Emmaus ministries?** Yep – such as The Village Encounter, Day Four Restore, and EMU – Emmaus Ministries University – all fabulous tools to help our communities stay alive.

**And the Gathering?** That's at a local church, on the Saturday night. Just like a Community Gathering, only bigger and better! Don't forget to bring your Community Banner for the parade.

**Can I come just for the Gathering?** Of course! If you can't stay for the whole event, come for the Gathering. But if you can stay for the whole weekend, you will find it really interesting and encouraging.

**So where do we stay?** Camp Koojarewon, Highfields – about 15 minutes north of Toowoomba. Accommodation (dormitory style) and all meals provided. It's a nut-free site, so you'd be nuts to bring anything (even chocolate!) with nuts in it.

**What does it cost?** Full time \$270, although many Communities pay the registration fee for their two voting delegates (CLD and CSD or their proxies). Also, those two can claim the cost of travel to and from the Conference from the EANB (Emmaus Australia National Board). Each Community pays an annual travel levy to the national Board, and this is used to cover those reimbursements and thus equalise the cost between those who live near and those who live far away.

**What if I have my own accommodation?** No problem. You just pay the day visitor cost of \$11 per day, plus \$17.25 for each on-site meal. Make sure you advise them on the rego form, which meals you want.

**Further details?** On the registration form **attached**, or contact Nigel Winkler (nigel.winkler@bigpond.com)

**See you in Toowoomba !**

# National Board Nominations

The Emmaus National Board is now seeking nominations for

## National Lay Director (NLD) Elect

for a three year term to take office in 2023, and attend National Board Meetings (Zoom) and understudy the respective role for a period of time.

**Nominees are to have been a CLD in an Emmaus Community. They must have given their consent and nominations must be endorsed by the Board of their own Community.**

Nomination Forms have been emailed to community CLDs, CSDs and Secretaries and are also available on the National Website:

### [Nomination Forms](#)

For further information please contact:

**Phil Jennings (National Lay Director)** [nld@emmaus.org.au](mailto:nld@emmaus.org.au) or

**Peter O'Loghlin (National Secretary)** [secretary@emmaus.org.au](mailto:secretary@emmaus.org.au)

Nominations should be sent to the National Secretary [secretary@emmaus.org.au](mailto:secretary@emmaus.org.au)

**Please prayerfully consider how you may be involved in this important service to Emmaus Ministries in Australia.**



## National ICT Coordinator

**Traditionally called webmaster, this role is to coordinate all National Information, Communication and Technology requirements.**

Including, but not limited to National and Community Websites

Google Workspace accounts

Prerequisites: Experience with [Joomla](#) CMS or equivalent experience in other CMS types.

Experience with Google Workspace. Handover training and ongoing support available.

**For more details including a job description please contact:**

**Peter O'Loghlin (National Secretary):**

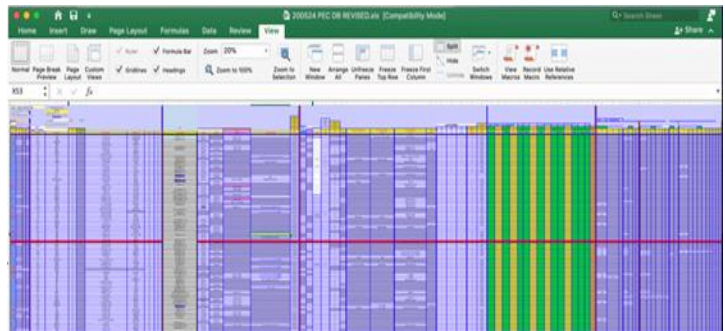
[secretary@emmaus.org.au](mailto:secretary@emmaus.org.au)



## Emmaus Online Community Database

My name is **Paul Mulrone**y, and I was a pilgrim on Perth Emmaus Walk #9 in 1999. I served on team for the first Great Southern walks, and the first Perth Chrysalis flights. Over the three communities I have served many times in various roles. My day job is development manager for **Logical Developments**. Logical Developments produces customised database solutions for small business across a range of industries including transport, manufacturing, and accounting/finance.

In all three communities that I've served in, I've noticed that each one had a community "database" consisting of an Excel spreadsheet to track member information. The team selection process used this to choose team members, extract email and postal addresses for newsletters etc.



There were always problems! If two people updated the spreadsheet, which one is the "master" copy? The spreadsheet isn't searchable in a meaningful way. For example: it can't easily tell us who hasn't served on team; or who was asked but they responded with "no"; or tell us how many times someone has served on team. Spreadsheets are flexible but it's too easy to delete data accidentally or enter nonsense data into the cells of the workbook. You can enter so many details, that your spreadsheet can end up looking something like this screen shot!

### *The biggest problem with Excel is this: Excel is not a database!*

In 2015 I started working on a prototype online database system, and when I have had the opportunity to attend the National conferences in 2018 and 2019 I spoke with other communities and found that there were people who wanted such a system.



Logical Developments and Emmaus Australia National Board have an agreement in place to offer the community database to all Emmaus and Chrysalis communities in Australia, to help ease the administrative burden of managing the community's membership database. To date, 6 communities use the online database, and 17 communities take advantage of the online prayer vigil system.

In coming newsletters, I hope to share some of the features of the system, so you can see how it can make your life easier. Wouldn't it be good to be able to have the membership information that you need at your fingertips? Imagine setting up a prayer vigil with a literal click of a button!

If your community would like some more information on the system, or migrate their existing data onto the system – please contact me and I can arrange a zoom meeting with your board to demonstrate the system and answer any questions you may have.

De Colores

**Paul Mulrone**y    pmulrone@logicaldevelopments.com.au

## MOSTYN KROLLIG NATIONAL NEWSLETTER EDITOR

### An introduction



Hello to the Emmaus Australia community,

This is my first foray into the world of National Newsletter Editor, so please bear with me.

By just starting to 'dip my toe' into this role, I so much more appreciative of all the effort the **Tanya and Alan Carlyle**, the previous Editors, have put in, to keep this ministry going.

There is an element of 'If it's not broken, don't fix it' and I am approaching the newsletter the same way. Over time, I will make changes, but I prefer to hasten slowly.

It is always an unknown entity of how far and wide Newsletters are read. I pray you can be encouraged and uplifted in hearing all that is happening around Australia in the Emmaus movement.

#### ARTICLES WELCOMED

Of course, you are welcome to be part of the newsletter by submitting articles and images (with permission of those photographed) of events in the life of your own Emmaus community.

**De Colores**  
*Mostyn Krollig*



**MARGE AMERY**  
SUPPLIES OFFICER

### Supplies Report 2021 - 2022

Since the last report the supplies have been moved to my house in Leeton from MediaCom Adelaide and the system is working well. Of course, due to COVID, there have not been many orders during the past twelve months.

I apologise for any orders that have taken longer than they should during 2021/2022. The last year or so has been a trying time for us personally with family sicknesses and dramas, but the Lord is good and we are hopefully back on deck and raring to continue.

You can send your orders through as a list to [supplies@emmaus.org.au](mailto:supplies@emmaus.org.au) and I will put it onto an order form and email it through to you and the Treasurer as well as a written copy in the box when sending the order to you.

I would also like to thank the National Board for all their help and support during our many issues and I pray that God will continue to bless the entire Emmaus/Chrysalis movement and bless you all as you lead your communities.

Thank you everyone

*Marge Amery*



## Emmaus Ministries News

### Village Encounter Experience

Can you imagine a virtual walk that still has the impact of a cloistered environment? Can you picture an ALD from South Africa, Table Leaders from Zimbabwe, Great Britain, Australia, a ASD from Australia, an IT Technician from the Philippines all joining together with our brothers & sisters from the US for an Encounter with Jesus over three weeks. Now add Pilgrims from Kenya and USA, and a multitude of times Zones, all relying on technology. No, we relied on our amazing God.

Four members from Western Sydney Emmaus had the privilege to participate in such an event. And yes, the terminology changed. It was emphasised that it was not an Emmaus Walk, but a new and different offering in the suite of Emmaus's Ministries. We not only participated, but contributed to the ongoing development of this amazing program.

**So, what is it all about? We saw the benefits as:**

- Not limited to a geographical area
- Not limited to local Team Members or potential Pilgrims
- A modernising and perhaps a more relevant equivalent Emmaus Walk concept that met the current environment.
- Significant resource savings and certainly savings in expenses compared to a cloistered environment.
- A joint Men's and Women's program, that integrated both genders (Separate discussions in Chat Rooms)

- Teams were a proportional mix of genders which in effect halved the numbers required for an equivalent separate male and female walks
- The fundamental Emmaus Program was retained, but run over 3 Friday evenings, Saturday Mornings time periods with an Orientation session on the First Thursday evening. 15 Talks were presented in 10 minute segments.

Western Sydney in planning to begin a **Village Encounter** on **4 May, 2023**.

For more information, contact

[info@westernsydneyemmaus.org.au](mailto:info@westernsydneyemmaus.org.au)

or visit

<http://westernsydneyemmaus.org.au/events>



*Michael Edwards (CLD) and Rev Amelia Koh-Butler (CSD) Commissioning Andrew Alder (LL) and Rev Ann Perrin (SL) for Australia's first Village Encounter*

## Emmaus Ministries University

*The apostle Paul wrote to the evangelist Timothy, 'Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth' (2 Timothy 2:15).*

*I recall encouraging us all to continue studying the Word of God whenever and wherever we can. More recently I have been conscious of the great need for us to continue our study of the ministries within the Emmaus Communities. To equip ourselves to be better servants of this amazing programme of service and fulfil its mandate of 'equipping the saints for service'.*

*It is a real privilege to serve our precious Lord in such a programme that brings people into a renewed relationship with Jesus and gives them hope and fulfilment for their future journey with Christ.*

*Therefore, I encourage you to use this link and fulfil the training that is offered to us freely from the Upper Room. You will be blessed as I was.*

<https://emmausministriesuniversity.upperroom.org/>