



EMMAUS MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ROUNDUP

Well, the National Secretariat meeting has finished. What a wonderful time of praise, worship, encouragement and empowering for all who attended Camp Koojarewon in Toowoomba.



There were 44 delegates with an amazing team of volunteers from the host Community of Darling Downs. People attended from WA, SA, NSW, Canberra & Qld.

The delegates were greatly blessed with a number of presentations by **Doc Hall** from **Upper Room** in the US.

His leadership and knowledge of what is happening with Emmaus Ministries around the world, was a great encouragement to us. We pray that that enthusiasm will be able to be focussed back into our local communities.

Online International Gathering on Saturday 22 April, at 10:00AM AEST.

All are encouraged to join. Register beforehand to get the Zoom link

<https://www.upperroom.org/emmausgathering>

THINGS WE LEARN T & SHARED

In our opening time of sharing, most Communities expressed the issue of ‘getting going again’ after our Covid-enforced break.

It is strangely-comforting, to hear that others were struggling with difficulties in holding Walk / Flights / Encounters; Cancelled events; low attendance at Gatherings; lack of team members and Board members; Burnt out community members; Vaccination issues; States with different Covid rules. You felt you were not alone!!

DOC HALL



Doc began his ‘Healthy Communities’ presentation with the results of a survey of current healthy communities. The common points across them were: ○ An active Board, ○ Healthy sponsorship, ○ Strong team selection, ○ An outreach team, ○ Vibrant 4th days and

○ Following the original intent of the ministry. They found that the ‘what and the how’ gets stronger, but the ‘why’ gets lost.

Another big factor was ‘simply providing room for the Holy Spirit’. Community members who practice piety, study and excellence in their daily lives, are an example to others.

Healthy sponsorship and mentoring, which helps turn us from a 3-day community (e.g. just focusing on the Walk), to a 4th Day one (continuing back into our church communities).

He outlined the 4 stages of healthy Mentoring:

I do you watch ... I do you help ... You do I help ... You do I watch

Outreach to new Churches, introducing them to Emmaus and

Doc challenged us to ask “Where is our community really shining?”

Doc Hall shared that “As long as there’s one person, there’s a remnant and there is hope.”

Doc also shared with us, how someone named ‘Bernard Hess Booth Hall Jnr’, goes by the name of ‘Doc’. It was due to the fact that, when born, this wrinkly new born, the family said “Hey, he looks like his ‘wrinkly’ old grandfather, “Doc Snr”” (who was a Doctor). So, the name stuck.



Artists impression :-)

DIGITAL MANUALS

Doc mentioned it seems the manuals will be coming in digital form in the not too distant future. Stay tuned.

How exciting!!!

Marge Amery - Supplies officer

Some Delegates Comments

“It was wonderful to see everyone greeting each other and feeling blessed in being able to get together once again. It was also really great to see how everyone got in and helped us getting the Conference Room tidied up so quickly at the end of the Sunday worship. What a great help that was to us.”

De Colores—Hennie Lowe, Darling Downs Emmaus Community & God bless you all



“My experience from the National Secretariat was one of positiveness, relationship building and catch ups! I was encouraged by the depth of sharing from participants and their wanting to also share information. I look forward to the follow-ups from communities interested in growing and learning about other Emmaus Ministries.”

Margaret Nieth National Board Co-ordinator Face to Face Ministries

“It was a pleasure to host the on and off again 2023 National Secretariat here on the Darling Downs. We had great weather, and the company was perfect. A big thank you to all who attended and to Doc Hall for coming from Nashville Tennessee.

We had a few false starts, but we got there in the end. We also had some issues with venues with local government putting on a public holiday which meant a change of venue however God provided all our needs.

We had many highlights; I think for me it was getting to know new friends. It was encouraging to sit and chat and hear what was happening in other communities. I personally grew as a CLD and the knowing that we are all in this together. I am looking forward to exploring the Emmaus Ministries University for myself and as a board.

God’s timing is perfect and felt that the NS was a refreshing time. A time where our fire and passion has grown and as we tend the fire it will spread through our communities. Gathering together always strengthens us for His Kingdom.

I would like to say thank you to the National Board for your support and to my local Darling Downs board a huge thank you for all that you have done to make this weekend a pleasure to be apart of.

I look forward to seeing and hear how God uses Emmaus and all the ministries under its umbrella across our great nation.”

Suzanne Essex - CLD Darling Downs



“It was great to meet in person; to hear how other communities had been faring through Covid; and the ways that other communities do things. Doc Hall’s presence was a real blessing. I appreciated his passion and wisdom.”

Kathy Walker - Adelaide CLD

National Spiritual Director's report

Mid-year of 2022 we began to see more 'face to face' contact in church life and activities as well as in our Emmaus communities. Some communities were blessed to have Walks, Flights and Face to Face Encounters; where some sadly had to go into a period of recession.

I feel a great sense of thankfulness to you all for giving me the opportunity of taking up the role of NSD last year. It has taken a little while to navigate through what this role entails which is to be 'responsible for the oversight of the spiritual health of all Emmaus ministries in Australia'.

With this in mind throughout the year it has been my delight to send out encouraging words to CSDs and CLDs of the Emmaus communities around our nation. Introducing a united prayer on the first day of each month has also been accepted and encouraged in some of the communities. I firmly believe that as we are 'united' with one vision that God will command His blessing on our Nation and Communities.

'Psalm 133:1-3 Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore'.

Visiting a few communities here in Queensland that are close to my home base has been a joy. Fellowshiping with others by zoom has been even more exciting when you consider we can link in to other parts of our nation. For all who have made these times accessible, thank you.

Prayer takes a huge place in my life and so with complete confidence I would like to say that you are all being prayed for on a daily basis.

During the end of last year and early this year I navigated my way through the module of the Spiritual Director's training on the Emmaus University site. I would encourage all CSDs, CLDs to work through these even though some of you might have been in these roles on and off over the years, the information and reaffirming of these roles, their portfolio descriptions are extremely encouraging and well worth the time spent on them.

On that note I found of particular interest a part of the module indicating the availability of 'Community Spiritual Director's Pack'. Having been involved in Emmaus for over 32 years I had never seen this before and it gave answer to many of my concerns over the years re the 'qualifications of clergy' and so on.

By the time you read this short report I will have sent out to all the CSDs this pack so they can commence to use this excellent clergy resource in their communities.

Hebrews 12:1 'Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us'.

Imagine with me that wonderful cloud of witnesses clapping us all on to run the race that is set before us, to encourage, equip the Saints for service as we all serve in our respective communities.

In God's Grace and Love

Reverend Christine Rose

De Colores

Emmaus Ministries news



EMMAUS UNIVERSITY

At the National Conference, great encouragement was given for **Emmaus University**. This is a resource open to anyone in the Communities, to learn, grow and be encouraged in a range of areas within Emmaus. Ministries.

After you register, you are led through a number of video. The first being 'The Why', which discusses 'Why we do what we do', in Emmaus?

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

Ministries of Upper Room

Walk to Emmaus - You will enjoy three days of singing, learning, laughing, worshiping, reflecting, praying and participating in small groups.

Chrysalis - 18 to 25 yo. An experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation that begins with a three-day short course in Christianity.

Face To Face - For 60+ age group. specially adapted to meet the needs of Men and Woman 60 years and over and/or those who cannot cope physically with a Walk to Emmaus program.

{NEW*} **Village Encounter** - A digital space for adults to experience God's grace in transformative ways. An on-line event, spread over 3 weekends.

{NEW*} **Journey to the Table** - mainly college campus age. Has a social media content. Can be over a weekend or other time

{NEW*} **Day Four Restore** - is a new one-day on-line retreat designed to refresh the spirit and renew the commitment of those who have attended an Emmaus Ministries event or that of another Fourth Day ministry.

Community Connections



<https://emmaus.org.au>



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

Business at the National Conference

Results of the **National Board Elections** held at the Conference were:

National Lay Director – Jo Toia of Brisbane South Community was the sole nominee, and was elected by show of hands, and was appointed to take effect from 17 April. Since Jo was overseas at the time Phil Jennings agreed and was appointed to serve as Acting NLD until 16 April, 2023.

National Treasurer – Norm Evers of Riverina Community, having served for the last 12 months as National Treasurer-elect, was confirmed as National Treasurer.

National Chrysalis Coordinator – Leanne Close. As reported at the October Secretariat Zoom meeting, Leanne Close of Brisbane North Coast had been appointed by the National Board as National Chrysalis Coordinator

Votes of thanks were extended to:

Phil Jennings (retiring NLD) & **Ruth Slater** (retiring Treasurer)
for their faithful and valuable leadership and service in challenging times;

Alan Carlyle, as noted above, for his role as ICT Coordinator, including developing and maintaining the website in the face of many difficulties and little encouragement;

and to the **Darling Downs Community** for the huge amount of effort they had put in to making this conference not only a success but a pleasure.



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