

EMMAUS MINISTRIES AUSTRALIAN NEWSLETTER May 2021

From the National Lay Director

Greetings,

I hope your Easter season was filled with joy and the knowledge that God loves each and everyone of us so much. During these somewhat different times, the struggle to do things the way we used to do them can be a challenge. So it is with Emmaus. Most communities around the world are asking questions about the future. Some communities have made decisions to withdraw for a little while. Others have embraced new ways to meet and to manage.

The good news is that new programs are being developed to complement existing ones.

Our Melbourne Community has been working on a virtual Face to Face and are ready to run a major trial – more on this later in the month.

An international group has been working on a virtual model for a “three-day event”. The name is yet to be chosen, and hopefully more information will soon be available. The program has been completed and the training manual is currently being worked on.

Another program to be released in 2021 is the Fourth Day Restore and we hope to be one the first to take part as soon as it is available.

Work is being undertaken on the Chrysalis program.

International gatherings are taking place – recently several hundred connections were online with simultaneous translations. The languages were English, Mandarin and Spanish. I attended the event and found the event inspiring and fun. The “break-out room” time was particularly precious, spending time with some new American friends. There will be another one later this year and we will aim to get the details out as soon as it is available.

I hope to see the Community Lay Directors and Community Spiritual Directors at our May Zoom meeting which will be followed by a National Gathering. Please invite your community members to the gathering.

In other parts of this newsletter, you will see information about upcoming positions vacant on the National Board – please pray for guidance on who you could suggest from your community.

We thank you for your efforts and ask you to pray for each other and your communities so that we can work together to bring the real Christ to new pilgrims.

De Colores,

David Nivala

National Lay Director. email: nld@emmaus.org.au

From the National Spiritual Director

Our Hope in Christ

As I write this article, there have been 3,300 recorded deaths from Covid 19 in the past 24 hours in India. India's total recorded cases is around 18 million and their recorded death toll is over 201,000. I suspect these figures are well short of the true number as many in more remote areas (or in the city slums) may well not have been counted as people did not (or could not) seek medical help. When one considers that Australia's population is around 25.4 million, we see something of the magnitude of the crisis in India. This story is repeated across the world in so many places.

Of course, we are glad to be living in Australia and for our government and medical leaders to have led us so well to this point where we are living a fairly normal life in the midst of a global pandemic. We do know however that there have been some significant changes and adjustments that we have had to make that may well have lasting effects.

One of those effects involves our journey with Emmaus in Australia. Emmaus has been such a blessing for so many people including I would say those who are reading this article. Part of that blessing has been our Emmaus Walks and Chrysalis flights where the gathering and living in community for a weekend has been a significant part of the experience. We cannot imagine Emmaus without those physical gatherings and yet there are many things we are now doing with technology that we did not imagine doing prior to March 2020.

In the upper room after Jesus' death those who gathered were devastated and could not imagine a positive future. It was then that to their astonishment, Jesus appeared as flesh and blood and invited them to touch him and to see him eat something with them. He was bodily raised. A new and different future was inaugurated because Jesus was bodily raised.

Recently I have been reading works written by NT (Tom)Wright, an English theologian, and New Testament scholar. He is currently senior research fellow at Wycliffe Hall in the University of Oxford. A book that has significantly encouraged me and helped my faith journey is "Surprised by Hope". It is well worth a read.

In today's "pandemic" world one sentiment that is very much needed is **hope**. The Christian faith with our strong belief in the bodily resurrection of Jesus which is a precursor to the renewal of all creation, and our resurrection as part of that, has so much to say about hope. We have much that is hopeful to share with our communities. May I encourage you to share our Christian hope, even in the midst of the challenges of life at the moment.

One final thought to leave with you all. Many of us are in the habit of saying the creeds regularly in worship or as part of our devotional life. I quote here the last part of the Apostles creed and invite you to allow these words to sit not just in your mind but to rest in your heart, for that is our hope:

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

De Colores
Bruce Cornish,
National Spiritual Director

Email nsd@emmaus.org.au

From the National Treasurer

Hi Everyone,  I have had a few questions pertaining to our Insurance.

One of the questions that was raised is “why are we renewing our Insurance when we are not having walks?”

Our Insurance covers more than our walks, Chrysalis flights & Face to Face Encounters.

It covers our Gatherings, Board Meetings, Reunion Groups, Zoom meetings & any time we gather together under the Emmaus Ministries.

We have renewed our Insurance for the period of 30th April 2021- 30th April 2022. When I receive the Certificate covering these dates, I will send it to you, or you can download it off the Emmaus Australia Website.

Each Community including the National Board is responsible for their share of the cost, as I pay the full amount up front you can appreciate the need to cover our cost.

On another note, there are quite a few outstanding Supplies Invoices over the past couple of years, if your Community has ordered Supplies can I please encourage you to ask your Treasurer to check if your Community has any outstanding Invoices to please forward payment. Sometimes the Supplies are ordered & sent to a particular person with the Invoice & possibly they assume the Treasurer of your Community receives a copy the Invoice this is not the case.

As we have new people in the Treasurers Role on a Board, I know things can be forgotten or go astray, so I would like to thank each Community for all their hard work & support.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to send me an email.

THANK YOU LOVE &

DE COLORES & FLY WITH CHRIST

RUTH ELIZABETH SLATER National Treasurer.



From the National Secretary

As always, this has been quite a busy time of the year as many communities have elected new board members and are working out what can be achieved during this extended pandemic time.

There will be a special **Zoom meeting of the National Secretariat** on Saturday 22 May, which includes all CLDs, CSDs and national board members. Details have been emailed separately. This will be followed by our first **National Zoom “Mega-gathering”**.

The **2021 National Conference** is “tentatively” scheduled for 17th – 19th September at the Glennie School Toowoomba. We hope to have a clearer picture of the Covid-19 risks levels soon (around June-July) so a decision can then be made to hopefully go ahead, and the Darling Downs Community (as hosts) can then call for registrations.

If your community is planning Walks, Encounters or Flights this year and **needs to order supplies**, please note that the on-line shop on the national website is no longer available and we are working on developing our own new platform. Meanwhile you can contact our national supplies coordinator Marge Amery via supplies@emmaus.org.au

We thank Maureen Jennings for her diligence in gathering articles and producing our **national newsletter** for several years. Unfortunately, Maureen has had to step down from this role for health reasons, so I have compiled this newsletter while we look for another person to volunteer for this important role.

We are also working on updating our **events calendar on the national website**, so please send me details of any Walks, Encounters, Flights or other events you have planned. Better still, why not include me on your community newsletter emailing list, i.e. secretary@emmaus.org.au

A number of communities have not yet sent me their **signed covenant pages**. If your community has not done so, please give this your priority as these signatures are necessary so we can renew our national covenant with The Upper Room.

Finally, we are calling **nominations for positions on National Board** (refer position descriptions in this newsletter):

- a) **National Lay Director** – David Nivala’s 3-year term expired April 2021
- b) **Treasurer** – Ruth Slater has offered to continue for a limited period until a replacement is found.
- c) **National Spiritual Director** – Bruce Cornish’s term expires April 2022 – seeking nominations for “NSD-elect” (understudy) for initial 12 months then assume NSD role in April 2022.
- d) **Secretary** – Phil’s term expires April 2022 – seeking nominations for “secretary-elect” (understudy) for initial 12 months then assume secretary role in April 2022.

Please give the filling of these vacancies your prayerful support so new enthusiastic people can be raised up to continue our vital Emmaus Ministries throughout Australia.

De Colores

Phil Jennings
National Secretary
Email: secretary@emmaus.org.au

Face to Face Update



Hello! To all!

This is the first time I am writing in regard to the National Face to Face Encounter Program; if you as yet haven't had an opportunity to speak to someone about this amazing enlightening program for our older community members both within the Emmaus family and in our churches and the broader community; call me today, send an email and open the door to renew your walk with Christ!

I want to say a big thank you for the teaching and guidance of Vince van Sant over a number of years to allow me to walk in footsteps that God planted in Australia through the Face to Face Encounter. The learning has been a joyful experience! The Face to Face Encounter Program has been taken up by a number of communities. Brisbane North Coast Emmaus Community, this community was the first to run an Encounter in Australia and has since held 3 in total; Melbourne (1) and South Australia (2). Congratulations to both Melbourne and South Australia who held the first Encounter for Melbourne and the second for South Australia at the beginning of Covid-19; Congratulations! For the perseverance of these faithful people who have continued to uphold and have finalized the Encounters.... To South Australian Emmaus Community for completing Encounter 2 after facing two lockdowns from the start of the Encounter 2.

As I have travelled in 2018, 2019 and 2020 to be part of the experience of the first Encounters in South Australia and Melbourne; the commitment of the faithful has strengthened my resolve that God has given us an amazing tool to re-invigorate our Walk with Christ.

Brisbane South Emmaus Community will hold their first Face to Face Encounter Program in May 2021, please look for the Prayer Vigil and uphold this community in Prayer for this event.

I look forward to hearing from our communities as we endeavor to step out with Christ in this Covid Climate in which we find ourselves living. God is with us as we journey into new horizons!

Blessings to all!

Margaret Niethe (National Coordinator - Face to Face Encounter)

Information, Communication & Technology Update

May 2021



Community Websites

The following community sites are now online:

Adelaide, Brisbane North Coast, Melbourne, Northern Inland and Perth. Brisbane West is being prepared for release soon.

At this time no other communities have provided the requested information to build their sites. Your community web admin person has all the required information about what information has been requested and how to upload it so your community site can be built.

Google Workspace (Previously Gsuite)

As you may or may not know we have been using the Google G Suite accounts for many years but were always limited to 50 accounts.

We have now been able to register Emmaus Australia as a valid non-profit organisation with the Connecting Up organisation. This connects us to major technology companies such as Google, Microsoft, and Adobe to name a few.

As an organisation we are now eligible for Google Workspace for Non-Profits. This means instead of the 50-email limit we had previously we can now have up to 2000 email accounts.

So basically, each community, if they choose, can now have their own role-based email accounts like National has, including their own domain (same as their website domain), this means we don't need to keep chasing new email addresses every time someone changes roles. (Definitely making the webmaster and secretary roles easier.)

Example:

National Board use *position@emmaus.org.au* eg. *nld@emmaus.org.au*

Communities will use *position@communityname.emmaus.org.au*

eg Brisbane North Coast CLD has the email address: ***clld@brisbanenorthcoast.emmaus.org.au***

The Perth CSD has the email address: ***csd@perth.emmaus.org.au***

Management of all these email addresses can be done in one place, by myself and/or other approved persons, and each community web administrator will have full control over their own community email accounts.

Each of the communities that have their websites online are currently using Google Workspace accounts and after some transition we will no longer use personal email addresses for those communities.

I know this can be a bit technical, but the basic concept is to make communication significantly easier and more efficient for all Emmaus Ministries in Australia.

If your community would like to utilise Google Workspace, please contact your Community web admin person.

Website Updates

Several updates including an event applications page and increased security for email forms, using the latest Google Captcha (V3), this will help prevent spam emails etc.

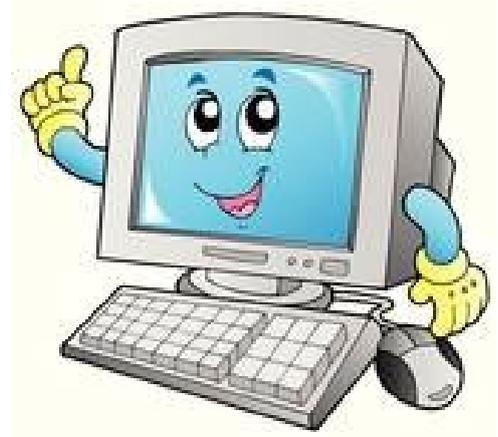
Feedback, Suggestions & Assistance

If you have any feedback, suggestions or require assistance on any Emmaus related ICT matters, please feel free to contact me: **Alan Carlyle - National Web administrator**

webmaster@emmaus.org.au

*All Emmaus Ministries Community Members
are warmly invited to our first*

National Zoom Mega-Gathering



Saturday 22nd May 2021 at

4.30pm Eastern Standard Time

4.00pm Central Standard Time

2.30pm Western Australia Time

A Zoom link will be emailed to all newsletter recipients closer to the date.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2021 - 22

The *Emmaus Australia Secretariat* is the governing body of Emmaus Ministries in Australia and consists of two representatives of each community, plus National Board members. It meets once a year, in the national conference normally held in April or May. The *Emmaus Australia National Board* (EANB) is the executive arm of the Secretariat and handles the month-by-month business of the movement on behalf of the Secretariat. Officers generally serve for a three year period.

The EANB is now calling for nominations for the positions of

- National Lay Director elect,
- National Treasurer elect
- National Spiritual Director elect
- National Secretary elect

for a three year term to take office in 2021-2022, and attend National Board Meetings (Zoom and in-person) and understudy the respective roles for the remainder of 2021 – early 2022.

It is preferable that nominees have held the positions as mentioned in the attached relevant job description in an Emmaus Community. They must have given their consent and, nominations must be endorsed by the Board of their own Community.

Nominations will close on Thursday 20th May 2021

Job Descriptions are provided below. Nomination Forms have been emailed to CLDs, CSDs and Secretaries.

Written nominations should be sent to the Secretary, Phil Jennings, at secretary@emmaus.org.au or post to 29 Ruthven Avenue Glandore SA 5037.

Job Description: National Lay Director

Short Description: The National Lay Director (NLD) is the leader and chairperson of Emmaus Ministries Australia, the Secretariat and the National Board.

Type: Secretariat Executive position

Reports to: Emmaus Ministries Australia Secretariat

Qualifications:

1. A committed lay person with a passion for the ministry of Emmaus Ministries at a national level.
2. Must have extensive experience as a Conference Room team member up to and including Walk/Flight/Encounter Lay Director; must have served several years as a member of an Emmaus Community Board.
3. Experience in management, leadership and group dynamics and team activities outside Emmaus is most desirable.
4. Must be an active member of his or her local church and of his or her local Emmaus Community, but should not be a concurrent CLD so as to minimise conflicts of interest and workload.
5. Must have ready access to the internet and be competent in the use of Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and email.

Term of office: Three years; no more than two three-year terms may be served consecutively.

Duties:

1. Provide guidance to Community Lay Directors and Boards.
2. Encourage growth, development and sustainment of Emmaus Ministries in Australia and the surrounding region.
3. Facilitate annual Emmaus Ministries Australia Secretariat and regular Emmaus Australia National Board meetings.

Job Description: Treasurer

Short Description: This person maintains the financial records of the Secretariat and the Emmaus Australia National Board (hereinafter EANB), and keeps the EANB informed of the financial position.

Type: Secretariat Executive position.

Reports to: National Lay Director.

Qualifications:

1. Must have served as an Emmaus/ Chrysalis/ Face to Face Conference Room team member and as a member of a Community Board.
2. Must be an active member of his or her local church and of his or her local Emmaus Community.
3. Must have ready access to the internet and be competent in the use of Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and email.
4. Should have some training or experience in accounting or bookkeeping.

Term of office:

Three years; no more than two three year terms may be served consecutively.

Duties:

1. Maintain accurate financial records for the Secretariat and the EANB in accordance with normal accounting procedures.
2. Report to each meeting of the EANB and the Secretariat the current bank balance and the receipts and payments since the last corresponding meeting.
3. Arrange to have the records examined at the end of each financial year and a report submitted to the EANB, and to the annual Secretariat.
4. Receive and record any offerings at Secretariat meetings and Conferences.
5. Receive record and bank all incoming funds; submit payments to the EANB for endorsement.
6. Receive and reconcile statements of any bank accounts, term deposits and the like held in the name of the Secretariat.
7. Communicate with Communities to remind them of their financial obligations with respect to the Secretariat.
8. Supervise the work of the Insurance Officer and act as the liaison person between that officer and the EANB.

Job Description: National Spiritual Director

Short Description: The National Spiritual Director (NSD) is the facilitating Clergy of Emmaus Australia, the Secretariat and the National Board.

Type: Secretariat Executive position **Reports to:** Emmaus Australia Secretariat & National Board

Qualifications:

1. A committed Clergy person with a passion for the ministry of Emmaus at a national level.
2. Must have extensive experience as a Conference Room team member up to and including Walk Spiritual Director, must have served several years as a member of an Emmaus Community Board preferably as Community Spiritual Director.
3. Experience in Pastoral Care & Spiritual Direction, a good grounding in Theology and in particular upholds the theology, ethos and direction of Emmaus.
4. Must be a recognised clergy in his/her own denomination and in her/his local Emmaus Community, but should not be a current CSD so as to minimise conflicts of interest and workload. She/he may be either a current serving minister in a recognised ministry or an endorsed retired minister.
5. Must have ready access to the internet and be competent in the use of Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and email.

Term of office: Three years; no more than two three-year terms may be served consecutively.

Duties:

1. Provide guidance & support to Community Spiritual Directors and community Boards assisting them to negotiate the Upper Room Manual and to meet the requirements of the covenant made with Emmaus Australia.
2. Encourage growth, development and sustainment of Emmaus in Australia and the surrounding region.
3. Provide devotional and spiritual guidance to annual Emmaus Australia Secretariat and regular Emmaus Australia National Board meetings.
4. Facilitate training of Spiritual Directors at all levels of Emmaus Australia.
5. Provide standards for and answer queries relating to the selection of Spiritual Directors for positions within Emmaus Australia.
6. Foster relationships with various denominational leaders and develop and maintain a Memorandum of Understanding with appropriate Federal and state bodies of participating denomination.

Job Description – National Secretary

Short Description: This person acts as the secretary for meetings of the Secretariat and the Emmaus Australia National Board (hereinafter EANB) and is the normal first point of contact for information about Emmaus Australia.

Type: Secretariat Executive position.

Reports to: National Lay Director.

Qualifications:

1. Must have served as an Emmaus Conference Room team member and as a member of a Community Board.
2. Must be an active member of his or her local church and of his or her local Emmaus Community.
3. Must have ready access to the internet and be competent in the use of Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and email.
4. Should desirably have at least five years experience as a member of an Emmaus or Chrysalis Community.

Term of office: Three years; no more than two three year terms may be served consecutively.

Duties:

- Develop a proposed agenda for each Secretariat and EANB meeting and distribute it for comment in advance of the meeting.
- Record the minutes of such meetings and circulate them to members as soon as possible thereafter.

- Maintain lists of the names and contact details of the EANB members and of the Community Lay and Spiritual Directors of member and associated Communities.
- Liaise with the Webmaster to ensure minutes, contact lists and other material is available through the Emmaus website.
- Communicate with Community Boards as required to advise them of relevant decisions and requests by the EANB and the International Emmaus Ministries Office.
- Serve as a member of the Executive of the Emmaus Australia Secretariat, and as such in conjunction with other EANB members participate in decision making and the giving of guidance and advice to Community Boards.
- Prepare and disseminate to Communities the Australian version of the annual Covenant, receive and record the signed copies, and when all have been received have the Covenant signed by the EANB members and sent to the International Emmaus Ministries Office at The Upper Room.