

Welcome to the first newsletter for the year 2006. With this issue you will find a handy insert listing the Board members for 2006, and details of how you can help your Emmaus community in various ways.

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➤ **Upcoming Events**

- February 11** Thanksgiving Worship Rally at The Tops Conference Centre
Bendena Gardens Road, Stanwell Tops
7:00pm Worship Service (*refer to page 4 for transport details*)
- March 11** Gathering and Commissioning for (Alarga) Walk #106
at Turrumurra Uniting Church, Turrumurra Ave, Turrumurra
6:00pm Tea (please bring a plate to share)
7:00pm Worship Service
- March 30 – April 2** Alarga Walk #106 at Elanora Conference Centre
19a Wesley Street, Elanora Heights
Candlelighting: 1st April 8:00pm at Elanora Conference Centre
Closing: 2nd April 3:45pm at Elanora Conference Centre
- May 13** Gathering and Pre-Gathering at Turrumurra Uniting Church
5:00pm Pre-Gathering for pilgrims of Alarga Walk #106
6:00pm Tea (please bring a plate to share)
7:00pm Worship Service
- June 10** Gathering at Turrumurra Uniting Church
6:00pm Tea (please bring a plate to share)
7:00pm Worship Service
- July 8** Gathering at Turrumurra Uniting Church
6:00pm Tea (please bring a plate to share)
7:00pm Worship Service

(dates and times are correct at time of printing)

➤ **From the Community Lay Director**

Blessings to you all and a very Happy New Year.

The new year is going so quickly, the weeks are disappearing. I would like to challenge you all into thinking: where you can be used by God, where does He want you to challenge your energy this year? Is He asking you to stretch yourself and take a path that you find very challenging? If you feel God is challenging you then the path will be easier than you think. Let go and let God.

I want to challenge you to pray for the work of Emmaus, pray for the pilgrims who will attend the Alarga Walk in March, pray for the team who have committed themselves to serve on Alarga and pray for the board members who will be sacrificing in preparation for the Alarga weekend. I also want to encourage you to start sponsoring, as the weeks will soon disappear. Is God laying someone on your heart to sponsor? Don't let them miss out on this wonderful gift.

I want to encourage you to attend the gathering in February that will be held at Stanwell Tops. Join with many others in this celebration; maybe you would like to travel on the bus to Stanwell Tops with other Sydney Emmaus people, and also to attend the March gathering. The Alarga team will be commissioned at that gathering: come and support them.

I wish all reunion groups happy sharing this year; be diligent in your attendance.

To the board members, I thank you for all the time you give to Emmaus, and a special thank you to Belinda and Phillip Cant for all the hours they put into producing the newsletter and to those servants who help them with the mail-out version.

De Colores

Betty Snelling+

POSITION VACANT

A FEMALE MEMBER OF ANY EMMAUS COMMUNITY WHO HAS EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH, OR A PASSION FOR, PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO JOIN THE ALARGA TEAM.

Their role would be to help in the caring of the female disabled pilgrims and/or team, help in any way possible whether it be showering, cutting food or helping with feeding. For more information please contact Betty Snelling (02) 9997 2976. Thank you very much for your support and interest.

➤ ***From the Spiritual Director***

As we start a new year in service, I am looking forward to another year of challenge in Christ and to see the love and grace of God expanded across our churches and community. The Emmaus Walk is but a simple part of this happening in the lives of so many of our people, as they too take on the challenge of developing as leaders to carry this message forward.

If there were one message for our country it would be: Turn to God. In the circles where I spend a fair amount of time there is an increasing amount of cynicism about anything Christian. Derision and put-down follow any attempts to convey a Christian perspective. Why is this so?

We read in Colossians 2: 6 – "therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him" (NASB). What Paul is trying to relate to us is that in Christ we have received so much understanding that changes our perspective on life and can battle the issues of human nature. Our 'walk in Him' leads to greater assurance of the mystery of God's presence in this world (v.3), which is so much misunderstood and maligned. So much so that we seem to be in a greater period of Prevenient Grace than I have ever experienced before.

Let's keep knocking at the heart of this world as we receive Christ this year in so many ways and share our faith in Him. May your growth in grace this year lead you to uncomfortable places but faith in Christ's calling.

De Colores

Rev Brian Jago

HOW TO SPONSOR

If you know of anyone who would like to experience the Emmaus Walk, you will find Application Forms enclosed for Emmaus and Alarga Walks. Please complete pilgrim and sponsor sections and send to Kim McCarthy, our Community Registrar:

Kim McCarthy
5 Darcey Road
Castle Hill NSW 2154

These Application Forms and the Alarga Information sheet can also be downloaded from the web-site.

If you have any further enquiries please contact Kim on (02) 9899 7383 or via e-mail: registrar@sydneyemmaus.org.au

➤ ***February Gathering***

The Sydney Board has agreed to support Sydney Chrysalis communities by joining with them for the **Thanksgiving Worship Rally** at Stanwell Tops as part of the Beyond 2006 National Conference.

(Please note:- There will be NO February Gathering at Turrumurra)

This is a time for all Chrysalis and Emmaus communities across Australia to join together and celebrate God's amazing Grace, Power and Love and to thank God for the wonderful gift of Chrysalis and Emmaus that we have been given.

The Rally will start at **7:00pm** on **Saturday February 11**

Why not travel as a group with other Sydney Community members to the Worship Rally?

Meet at Turrumurra Uniting Church (car-park) at 4:30pm.

Cost will be \$25 per person return.

Please contact Ray Ricketts on (02) 9484 4281

or e-mail: facilities@sydneyemmaus.org.au by February 10

For those wishing to drive themselves, the address is:

The Tops Conference, Bendena Gardens Road, Stanwell Tops
(off Stonehaven Road, which is off Lawrence Hargraves Drive)

NEWSLETTER INFO

If you know of anyone in your Reunion Group who does not have an e-mail address, and therefore does not receive the monthly newsletter or prayer requests, please print a copy for them.

Would you please advise us of *anyone* you know in the Community who does not receive either the posted newsletter or the monthly e-mailed newsletter, and we will add their contact details to our database.

To receive the Sydney Emmaus Community Newsletter by e-mail, please contact:

Belinda Cant - Newsletter Representative

mobile: 0414 711027

e-mail: newsletter@sydneyemmaus.org.au

➤ Walks

ALARGA WALK #106 30th March – 2nd April 2006

The team's first training day was on the 21st January; they will meet for a full weekend to listen to talks and to fellowship with one another. The team to date is as follows:

Team		Talk
L.D.	Betty Snelling	Perseverance in Fourth Days
S.D.	Alistair Christie	Prevenient Grace, & Means of Grace
A.L.D.	Ross Swadling Vicki Harding TBA	Priority Discipleship in Action
A.S.D.	Sue Scott Alan Russell Rosalie Rofe	Justifying Grace Obstacles to Grace Sanctifying Grace
T.L.	Rob Landman Jayne Larson Michelle Thomas Jan Purvis	
A.T.L.	David Tripet Lyle Jones Belinda Cant Judy Taylor Carol Cole	Changing Our World Priesthood in the Body of Christ Growth through Study Life in Piety
Carer	John Coster	
Nurse	Zita Compton	
Music	Gill Williams	
P.D.	Pat Coster	
Board Rep.	Bev Monk	

I would ask for your continued prayer support for the team members who are preparing talks, for the team members still to be found, for the pilgrims who will be attending Alarga, and for the community as they support the weekend behind the scenes. Thank you

Betty Snelling - Lay Director

Kitchen - Thank you all for your wonderful assistance in the kitchen during the last two walks. I have many slots to fill for the coming Alarga walk and need your help. Please ring me on (02) 9452 3793 or e-mail me at kitchen@sydneyemmaus.org.au to find a time to suit.

Tova Swadling - Kitchen Co-ordinator

MEN'S WALK #107 7th – 10th September 2006

at Elanora Conference Centre, 19a Wesley Street, Elanora Heights

Candlelighting: 8:00pm September 9 at Pittwater Uniting Church

Closing: 3:45pm September 10 at Elanora Conference Centre

WOMEN'S WALK #108 21st – 24th September 2006

at Elanora Conference Centre, 19a Wesley Street, Elanora Heights

Candlelighting: 8:00pm September 23 at Pittwater Uniting Church

Closing: 3:45pm September 24 at Elanora Conference Centre

DONATIONS

On behalf of the Board I thank those who have donated in the last year to Sydney Emmaus.

As numbers have been down a little over the last few walks, our funds have been seriously affected, as quite a lot of expenses have to be covered, no matter the number attending.

We were also blessed in helping towards our Fijian friends being able to travel to Sydney, and this money was taken from our general account, as the money raised so far towards Fiji is being kept to develop Emmaus in Fiji itself.

We are therefore thankful and blessed, but would appreciate thoughtful prayer from members of the Emmaus Community in providing any financial support they may be able to give in the coming year.

If you feel that you can help, please complete the enclosed donation form (make cheques payable to **Sydney Emmaus**), and send to:

Di Dodds
2 Frensham Place
ROUND CORNER NSW 2158

or alternatively, see me at a Gathering.

Blessings to all for 2006,

Di Dodds - Treasurer

➤ *The Permanence of Prayer*

We live in an age of change. Fashion changes with each season. Indeed, where would the economy be without continual change in consumer taste? Political correctness and pluralism are presently in vogue. I am tempted to ask "Whatever happened to truth and morality – Godly living?"

For the faithful, prayer is not fickle or dependent upon trends in society. Psalm 90, attributed to Moses, declares: "*Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.*" I pose the question, "Do you dwell in God? Or do you merely visit with Him from time to time?" To the committed, God is faithful (Heb.10.23). He spoke through the prophet Jeremiah at a time when His chosen people were somewhat wayward. His words contained an enduring quality, being just as applicable to us today:

"Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD (Jeremiah 29.12-14, my emphasis). My encouragement in prayer is this: If at first you don't succeed, keep praying!! Remember Jesus' story of the lady who persisted with her request to the unco-operative judge (Luke 18).

There is much to be prayerful about in today's living. Let us remember that God **will** listen to our requests. He will hear and He will respond, but be aware that He will respond in His will and not necessarily in ours, and certainly in His time! I suggest that prayer time is an enjoyable time. We commune, intimately, with the greatest power there is, and the deepest love we will ever know and enjoy. Pray confidently, and with strong belief for the right outcome (Matt. 21.22). Please remember Emmaus in your prayers – our communities, boards, sponsors, pilgrims, teams and helpers will be blessed by your prayer cover.

Don't forget the Prayer Vigil for the upcoming Alarga Weekend – see the Walks Page on our web site www.sydneyemmaus.org.au/walks.htm or phone me on (02) 9997 8995.

Peter Francís - Community Prayer Director

➤ *Reunion Groups*

If you require any further information regarding how you can join a reunion group in your area, don't hesitate to contact

Roger Perry, Reunion Groups Co-ordinator

on phone: (02) 9816 2746 or e-mail: journey@sydneyemmaus.org.au.



➤ *Chrysalis News*

Events for 2006

- **10th – 12th February 2006**
Beyond '06 Conference
at Stanwell Tops Conference Centre
- **21st – 23rd April 2006** **Flight 32 at Elanora Conference Centre**
Lay Director: **Jeremy Koster**
Spiritual Director: **Steve Everist**
Candlelighting: 7:45pm April 22 @ Pittwater Uniting Church
Closing Service: 3:45pm April 23 @ Elanora Conference Centre
- **7th - 9th July 2006** **Flight 33 at Grose Vale Conference Centre**
Lay Director: **Lindsay Spence**
Candlelighting: 7:45pm July 8 @ Grose Vale Conference Centre Auditorium
- **14th – 16th July 2006** **Flight 34 at Stanwell Tops Conference Centre**
Lay Director: **Matthew Deeth**
Candlelighting: 7:45pm July 15 @ Stanwell Tops Conf. Centre Auditorium



Beyond Conference 2006 (Feb 10-12)

Don't forget to book this years conference into your diary! It will be an awesome time of teaching and connecting with others. The art of clowning, Coaching-growing leaders, effective agape and The Emmaus / Chrysalis Link are just some of the courses which will be held over the weekend. The conference is open for anyone to attend and we hope you can all make it. For more information e-mail beyond@sydneychrysalis.org.au

Chrysalis Thanksgiving Worship Rally (Feb 11)

If you can't make it to the Beyond '06 conference for the whole weekend then try to get to the Saturday Thanksgiving Worship Rally. This is a time for all Chrysalis and Emmaus communities across Australia to join together and celebrate God's amazing Grace, Power and Love and to thank God for the wonderful gift of Chrysalis and Emmaus that we have been given.

The Rally will start at 7.30pm on the Saturday Night – for more information please contact beyond@sydneychrysalis.org.au.

Beyond Prayer Vigil

If you are unable to attend the weekend or would like to support the Chrysalis community conference in another way why not join the weekend prayer vigil. Simply go to the Sydney Emmaus website and click on to the link for the beyond conference prayer vigil.

For more details or to send the application form please contact Lindsay Spence on registrar@sydneychrysalis.org.au

➤ 2006 Sydney Community Board Contacts

Lay Director	Betty Snelling	9997 2976	rsn16038@bigpond.net.au
Spiritual Director	Brian Jago	9713 9467	spiritualdirector@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Registrar	Kim McCarthy	9899 7383	registrar@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Secretary	Susan Campbell	9411 5404	secretary@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Treasurer	Di Dodds	9651 4214	treasurer@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Prayer	Peter Francis	9997 8995	prayer@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Reunion Groups	Roger Perry	9816 2746	journey@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Marketing	Ken Deck	9489 2545	ken-deck@bigpond.com
Chrysalis Representative	Al Boon	9984 7381	alb@ofgs.nsw.edu.au
Kitchen	Tova Swadling	9452 3793	kitchen@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Training	Graeme Dodds	9651 4214	training@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Bookstall & Entertainment	Margaret Duckworth	9634 3290	
Supplies	Bev Monk	9713 4597	supplies@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Equipment	Tony Dowse	9451 5538	
Agape	Vicki Harding	9874 7356	agape@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Overseas Agape	Elva Harris	9636 1381	overseasagape@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Music	Jon Hale	9876 3984	music@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Gatherings	Ross Swadling	9452 3793	gatherings@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Facilities / Bus Hire	Ray Ricketts	9484 4281	facilities@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Newsletter	Belinda Cant	0414 711027	newsletter@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Webmaster	Phillip Cant	9683 4784	webmaster@sydneyemmaus.org.au

➤ How you can help

❖ Agape

The next set of walks are drawing near, so please get together with your Reunion Group and start making your agape.

Please remember to name your reunion group on the back of the agape or put your own name and walk number. We have had a little mix-up with agape getting to the centre; so if you cannot have it at Elanora by **7:45pm** on the Thursday night of the walk, please contact me before Wednesday to arrange delivery/pick-up time.

I require a description of the agape you are making, what it is (including verse), one week prior to a walk for easy distribution over the weekend. Please remember, 60 pieces per agape for each walk. If you need ideas, I have plenty!

Vicki Harding (02) 9874 7356 e-mail: agape@sydneyemmaus.org.au



❖ Kitchen

If you would like to be part of the kitchen team on a Walk, please contact our Kitchen Board Representative to put your name down for this rewarding ministry.

Tova Swadling (02) 9452 3793 e-mail: kitchen@sydneyemmaus.org.au



❖ Music

If you are a musician or have computer/technical skills, the Emmaus Board would love to hear from you.

We need musicians/worship leaders for every Gathering (approx. 10 per year) as well as the walks themselves.

And to make the musos heard and the words seen, we need computer/projector operators and audio operators. Training is available, so increase your skills and help the Emmaus community at the same time.

You can contact one of the following:

Jon Hale (Music) music@sydneyemmaus.org.au

Ross Swadling (Gatherings) gatherings@sydneyemmaus.org.au

Graeme Dodds (Training) training@sydneyemmaus.org.au



❖ Prayer Vigil

If you would like to be part of the 72-hour Prayer Vigil for any of the walks, please contact *Peter Francis*, Community Prayer Director on (02) 9997 8995 or e-mail prayer@sydneyemmaus.org.au.



For any further information you can go to our web site www.sydneyemmaus.org.au