

Welcome –there are exciting things in store for Sydney Emmaus in 2008:

- new Board for 2008 – full listing and contact details on page 8
- two Sydney Walks to be held in Fiji – see page 5
- new laptops and data projectors for training and Walks – see page 2

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❖ Upcoming Events

February 9	Gathering at Turrumurra Uniting Church 6:15pm <i>Tea</i> (please bring a plate to share) 7:00pm <i>Worship Service</i>
March 8	Gathering at Turrumurra Uniting Church – Commissioning of Teams for Walks #111 & #112 6:15pm <i>Tea</i> (please bring a plate to share) 7:00pm <i>Worship Service</i>
March 27 – 30	Men's Walk #111 at Elanora Conference Centre Candlelighting: March 29 8:00pm at Pittwater Uniting Church Closing Service: March 30 3:45pm at Elanora Conference Centre
April 10 – 13	Women's Walk #112 at Elanora Conference Centre Candlelighting: April 12 8:00pm at Pittwater Uniting Church Closing Service: April 13 3:45pm at Elanora Conference Centre
May 10	Gathering at Turrumurra Uniting Church 5:45pm <i>Pre-Gathering</i> for pilgrims from Walks #111 and #112 6:15pm <i>Tea</i> (please bring a plate to share) 7:00pm <i>Worship Service</i>
June 14	Gathering at Turrumurra Uniting Church 6:15pm <i>Tea</i> (please bring a plate to share) 7:00pm <i>Worship Service</i>

(At time of printing these dates and times are correct)

❖ From the Community Lay Director

The words of the old Hymn come to my mind at this time of year:

'This, this is the God we adore; We'll praise Him for all that is past, and we'll trust Him for all that's to come'

Oh, how much we have to thank and praise God for this past year – for lives that were changed and hearts renewed, for the Teams and the Pilgrims on Walks #109 and #110, for the innovative and new things that were tried and well received at Gatherings, the Board members' faithfulness, the Community's support, the forming of Teams #111 and #112 and most importantly for each and every precious member of the Sydney Emmaus Community.

I do take this opportunity to thank all of the 2007 Board members for their commitment, enthusiasm and persistence in their roles this year and a special thank you to Kim McCarthy and Graeme Dodds, who have both retired after serving two terms on the Board in amazing ways in various roles and so often went well beyond all that was asked of them. They have also been part of many innovative ideas in the Community and will be sadly missed at our meetings. A special thank you to Alistair Christie, for stepping in as Board Chairman this year – his support of Emmaus and our Community is such an encouragement to us all. We do thank Susan Campbell for standing for re-election to the Board and welcome her along with Kay Dannenberg, Sue Jago, Narelle Murray, and Bob Smith to the 2008 Board.

You will all be pleased to know that Sydney Emmaus has at last become the proud purchasers of laptops and data projectors and along with that we have created a new position on the Board, that of IT Liaison, to which we welcome Andrew Alder. This equipment was used at the recent Training and all went smoothly! It also means the creation of another position on Walk Teams with the title IT Director. We pray that PowerPoint will help us stay up to date with society and enable us to continue to present everything in a professional manner. We give God thanks for the hours that were put in by a few in purchasing this equipment and setting it up in a very short time, and for the provision of the money. We know that this will all help to enhance our Walks and our Community.

Our other exciting news is that Sydney Community has been given permission to run two Walks in Fiji next year – you can read all about that under that heading.

I do ask you to be prayerful for Walks #111 and #112, for LDs Ray Ricketts and Jeni Tresize, for the Teams and their preparation and for the Pilgrims and for all that 2008 will bring.

During Advent may we focus on the real reason for the season and give God thanks for His awesome gift to us and as the Wise Men did, fall on our knees in worship.

De Colores **Bev Monk** – Community Lay Director

❖ *From the Community Spiritual Director*

A willingness to be renewed ...

At the heart of the purpose of Emmaus is the ongoing renewal of the church.

The purpose of Emmaus is to renew the church as the body of the risen Christ in the world through the renewal of Christians as faithful and committed disciples of Jesus Christ. So says the Emmaus Handbook.

As I watch initiatives to bring reform within my own denomination, and as I encourage strategies to bring renewed vigour within my own church, a good deal of healthy energy comes into play. Yet I notice a preference to reform the structure, the externals, rather than the heart, the internal.

Within the Emmaus framework, much is pre-determined to keep faith with the ethos of Emmaus, yet there is still room for creative and thoughtful consideration of the external variables. But it is the heart where renewal is sought; hearts of pilgrims, hearts of team members. Our desire before God is for his Spirit to breathe new life into his people.

Indeed, one of the reasons that so much of the Emmaus format *is* pre-determined is to avoid the distraction of our re-engineering the externals. We can focus on the ongoing renewal of the heart.

So, two questions:

- Where is the Lord asking you to bring reform into stalled or unhealthy systems?
- Where is the Lord renewing your heart in these days?

De Colores *Peter Thomas* – Community Spiritual Director

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 would like to, 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 711 027

e-mail: newsletter@sydneyemmaus.org.au

❖ *Report – Women's Walk #110*

Women's Walk #110 last July was blessed from beginning to end.

We were privileged to have had Team and Pilgrims from Fiji to be with us on the Walk. The Walk ran smoothly with great hilarity, buckets of tears, mountains of food, and then as each hour ticked by on the weekend, hearts opening up to God's Grace and what the Lord has planned for them on their 4th day. Candlelighting was a memorable vision that said with smiling faces, it is I, Jesus, here to welcome you – it was the huge number of faces and candles that truly expressed this vision.

Closing was very moving with every Pilgrim witnessing to the love they had received by everyone on the weekend, and the love from the Community, and to their future commitment to the Lord in their lives.

It is thanks to the many hands working together in God's love that makes the Emmaus Walk, as always, "Amazing".

Kay Dannenberg – Lay Director Walk #110

❖ *Too Busy to Pray?*

This year has really flown and again it's almost Christmas. For some it may be called the "silly season", social calendar very full, racing from one party to the next, shopping to be done, busy busy busy ... ***too busy to pray?*** ... to pray for the next door neighbour who has the noisy children, or has a late night party when you want to sleep. Or maybe it's a neighbour, friend or work colleague who's had a really tough year, may have lost a loved one or been through divorce or even lost their job. Or a family member who does not yet know Our Lord and Saviour.

Now is also the time to start praying about whom to invite to the next Emmaus Walk – click onto our web site www.sydneyemmaus.org.au and download a registration form. Maybe God is prompting you to pray about being involved with the Sydney Walks that are going to be held in Fiji next year.

Too busy to pray? ... you can pray in the shower, in the car, on public transport on the way to work – in fact you can pray anywhere!

Thank you to everyone who has participated this year in the prayer vigils. Your prayers were a blessing to all of the guests on the Walks.

May you all have a Merry Christmas – and know the true meaning of Christmas. May 2008 be everything that God has in store for you. I know I am looking forward to 2008 with anticipation (yes I know – don't anticipate) of God doing great and wonderful things. Take time to pray during this festive season!

De Colores *Cindy Kingdom* – Prayer Director

❖ *Emmaus Across the Seas*

Overseas and letter Agape is a wonderful way of remembering other **Emmaus Communities across the seas and around Australia**. Since I have held this position, many times I have looked up the World Atlas to see where a particular place is. Sometimes the greeting comes with a personalised message and sometimes the same personalised message is sent to a number of Communities.

Recently, I received a phone call and e-mail message from a couple in a South Africa Emmaus Community telling me that their daughter (I'll call her B and her husband BB) who lives in Sydney had been involved in an accident and as a result suffered a stroke. Through Emmaus the parents asked if I could locate a person who lived near Westmead Hospital to visit her. Well, I can see Westmead Hospital from where I live! So off I went, not knowing what her condition would be or how I would be accepted. That was the beginning of several lovely visits and talking to and emailing the very anxious parents. The Sydney Board and other Emmaus friends prayed for B and her anxious husband BB and the anxious parents and me as their ambassador. I am happy to report that B is doing well.

God can use the Emmaus connection across the seas to bring comfort and help in times of need, as well as the amazing experience of being on a Walk and seeing the posters from Communities across the seas who are remembering us.

Elva Harris – Overseas Agape

❖ *Sydney Emmaus Walks in Fiji*

The International Emmaus Spiritual Director, Rev Victor Perez, has given permission for Sydney Community to conduct a set of Emmaus Walks in Fiji as Sydney Walks. The Australian Emmaus Community National Secretariat has approved this, as has the Sydney Board and Fiji community.

The proposed dates of the Walks will be in late July, early August 2008 in Nadi, Fiji, subject to further confirmation.

In order to conduct these Walks it will be necessary to select a team for both the Men's and Women's Walk. It may also be necessary to have helpers on site who can assist with errands, kitchen, cooking and Candlelighting etc. The team will not only come from Sydney Community but from other communities in Australia and pilgrims from Fiji.

If you are interested in expressing interest in being on these teams please complete the Expression of Interest form and return to me by 31 January, 2008. (www.sydneyemmaus.org.au/forms/FijiEoIform2008.pdf)

Brian Jago – Fiji Liaison

❖ *Upcoming Walks*

MEN'S WALK #111 **March 27–30, 2008**

Candlelighting: 8:00pm Saturday March 29 at Pittwater Uniting Church
Closing Service: 3:45pm Sunday March 30 at Elanora Conference Centre
Lay Director: Ray Ricketts

WOMEN'S WALK #112 **April 10–13, 2008**

Candlelighting: 8:00pm Saturday April 12 at Pittwater Uniting Church
Closing Service: 3:45pm Sunday April 13 at Elanora Conference Centre
Lay Director: Jeni Tresize

MEN'S WALK #113 **July 24–27, 2008**

to be held in Nadi, **Fiji** – other details to be advised

WOMEN'S WALK #114 **July 31 – August 3, 2008**

to be held in Nadi, **Fiji** – other details to be advised

STOP PRESS: The Board has decided that since Sydney Walks #113 and #114 will be held in Fiji in July, the previously advertised October Walks will not be held. There will only be one set of Walks this year at Elanora so, if you have been thinking of sponsoring, DO IT NOW!

Before we know it Christmas will be over, January and the holiday time will be past and we will be well into 2008. **NOW** is the time to start praying for guidance as to who you know that would benefit from attending a **Walk to Emmaus Weekend**. Then start talking to the people and if then appropriate print off an Application Form (www.sydneyemmaus.org.au/forms/AppForm2008.pdf) and have them complete it and send to me.

It would be so good to start to receive Application Forms **NOW**. When you ask a person to attend you become their Sponsor – meaning a support to them. Some sponsors who are able want to help with the fees or part thereof for the weekend, but that isn't a requirement. For many of us it's just not an option.

Details for the **Walks in Fiji** are being finalised. Pray about and consider friends and family in Fiji whom you could invite to attend the Walks in Fiji. Contact me for an Application Form and I will send to you as soon as available in early 2008.

For more information about **SPONSORING** you can go to that page on our website or ring or email me for information. I can also send **Application Forms** and **Walk to Emmaus Information** brochure. Or if you have any other question please ring or email me at registrar@sydneyemmaus.org.au.

Elva Harris - Registrar (02) 9636 1381 mobile: 0407 197 990

❖ How you can help

☞ Agape

As we have four Walks next year, including two in Fiji, it's now time to plan your Reunion Group's Agape. Just think of all those hours of summer holiday time that can be spent preparing your gifts of love for the Pilgrims in 2008. Of course we don't know yet how many pilgrims there will be, but any amount of Agape will be welcome. As your new Agape person on the Board, I am happy to try and answer any questions you may have. All contributions are welcome! Agape can be delivered to me before the Walk or no later than Thursday night of the Walk in the Prayer Chapel at the Conference Centre.



Narelle Murray (02) 9651 7437 mobile: 0412 423 926
e-mail: agape@sydneyemmaus.org.au

☞ Kitchen

We will need lots of helpers in the kitchen for the forthcoming Walks #111 and #112. Come and show your support for the team and pilgrims as you serve them in this way. Put your name on the roster!



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

☞ Music / Technical

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:



Music **Jon Hale** (02) 9876 3984 music@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Gatherings **Robyn Harvey** (02) 9817 5755 gatherings@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Training **Bob Smith** (02) 9456 6065 training@sydneyemmaus.org.au
IT Liaison **Andrew Alder** (02) 9440 4553 andrewa@alder.ws

☞ Prayer Vigil

If you would like to be part of the 72-hour Prayer Vigil for any of the Walks, please contact **Cindy Kingdom**, Community Prayer Director on 0419 473 132 or e-mail prayer@sydneyemmaus.org.au



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

❖ 2008 Sydney Community Board Contacts

Lay Director	Bev Monk	02 9713 4597	laydirector@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Spiritual Director	Peter Thomas	02 9713 9467	spiritualdirector@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Registrar	Elva Harris	02 9636 1381	registrar@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Secretary	Susan Campbell	02 9411 5404	secretary@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Treasurer	Ross Swadling	02 9452 3793	treasurer@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Prayer	Cindy Kingdom	0419 473 132	prayer@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Agape	Narelle Murray	02 9651 7437	agape@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Reunion Groups	Ken Deck	02 9489 2545	journey@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Fiji Liaison	Brian Jago	02 9713 4597	eagl4031@bigpond.net.au
Marketing	Ken Deck	02 9489 2545	marketing@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Kitchen	Tova Swadling	02 9452 3793	kitchen@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Training	Bob Smith	02 9456 6065	training@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Bookstall & Entertainment	Sue Jago	02 9713 4597	bookstall@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Supplies	Kay Dannenberg	02 9981 3850	supplies@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Equipment	Tony Dowse	02 9451 5538	raine_tonydowse@yahoo.com.au
IT Liaison	Andrew Alder	02 9440 4553	andrewa@alder.ws
Overseas Agape	Elva Harris	02 9636 1381	overseasagape@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Music	Jon Hale	02 9876 3984	music@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Gatherings	Robyn Harvey	02 9817 5755	gatherings@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Facilities / Bus Hire	Ray Ricketts	02 9484 4281	facilities@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Newsletter	Belinda Cant	0414 711 027	newsletter@sydneyemmaus.org.au
Webmaster	Phillip Cant	02 9683 4784	webmaster@sydneyemmaus.org.au

❖ Re-Union Groups – for more information, contact Re-Union Groups

Co-ordinator Ken Deck (02) 9489 2545 e-mail: journey@sydneyemmaus.org.au

D Y Doves	Cromer	1st Wed	Muriel Jones	02 9982 7508
EppinggoWest B42	Northmead /Epping	4th Sun	Elva Harris	02 9636 1381
Hills Sunbeams	Castle Hill	3rd Fri	Laurel Brammer	02 9639 9936
Inner West Warriors	Russell Lea	monthly	Brian Jago	02 9713 9467
Lane Cove Lanterns	Hunters Hill	4th Fri	Robyn Harvey	02 9817 5755
Living Waters	Thornleigh	2nd Tue	Dennis Lyons	02 9481 8519
Pennant Pilgrims	Castle Hill /Glenhaven	1st/3rd Fri	Kim McCarthy	02 9899 7383
Rainbow Ryders	Chiswick /Ryde /Westleigh	1st Fri	Ian Monk	02 9713 4597
Wahroonga Weavers	Turrumurra /Wahroonga	3rd Thu	Rob Williams	02 9487 2726
Warriewood Wonders	Warriewood	2nd Tue	Betty Snelling	02 9997 2976