

The Walk to



DECEMBER 2021

#93 Newsletter of the

Great Southern (WA) Emmaus Community



All Members of the Great Southern and Perth Emmaus Communities:

*--You are invited to --
Walk. Stroll. Stride.*

What?
A full day Emmaus Gathering

When?
Saturday, 19 February 2022

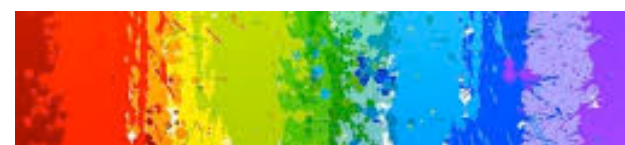
Where?
Eric Farrow Pavilion,
Showgrounds, Ballagin Street, Wagin

Time?
8.30am to 7.00pm

Format?
Full day of Praise, 5 Talks, Table groups ++

What shall I bring?
Pilgrim's Guide, Scarf, Cross, Your story
Contribution to the tea breaks/supper

Contact?
Wendy Pederick - 0429 171 676



COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR –

Greetings in the name of Jesus – the One whose love is as infinite as it is omniscient – and whose love has touched us.

You would be aware that the Great Southern Emmaus Community did not hold Walks in either 2020 or 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions. With that we lost some momentum, and the vibrancy of the Community took, understandably, a blow. As a Board we now ask ourselves, knowing that the God we serve is still relevant, whether Emmaus is still pertinent within the Christian churches of our area. The question has arisen because of reduced numbers at the few Gatherings that have been held and the difficulty in recent years to form teams and deliver effective ministry to God's amazing grace.

Has Emmaus in the Great Southern run its course? Have the key contributors got tired? Are their energies being given to other worthy Christian ministries? Or do we need the flame for Emmaus rekindled by reminding ourselves of how God's grace warmed our hearts as we have lived out our Fourth Days?

To test the waters, or to throw down the fleece (to use an example from Daniel), The Board has felt God's lead to hold an all-day Gathering early in 2022 in which we could determine the choice of the Community for 2022 and beyond.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The planning is underway, and I warmly invite you to an Emmaus Gathering like no other. Called "Walk. Stroll. Stride", you will be treated to five Talks in one day (sound familiar?) at the end of which we will seek God's will for the GSEC. This newsletter contains all the information and a registration form. I commend it to you.

**De colores and Happy Christmas,
Arthur Pederick, M: 0427 350 351**

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS -

"Strollers" have several accommodation options if electing to stay longer than just for the Saturday Program of the Gathering in Wagin on 19 Feb 2022. Wagin is located 196Km SE of Armadale (2h15m) and, with the program timed to start with registration at 8.30am, participants may elect to travel to Wagin on the Friday to be fresh for the day. Some people, with caravans or similar, have already indicated that they would consider staying Saturday night as well. The plus of staying at the Showgrounds is that our fellowship can spill over beyond the program.

"Strollers" are requested to make their own private accommodation arrangements. There is room on the Registration form to advise the organisers where you are staying. Please fill this in.

The options are

- 1 Sites at the Wagin Showgrounds Ph: 9861 1177
 - Vans (with self-contained toilet and shower) \$15/night
 - Vans (not self-contained) \$15/night
 - Camping \$15/nightI have negotiated showers and toilets on site to be opened for those with vans but not self-contained. All will have access to power and water.
- 2 Wagin Caravan Park Ph: 9871 1177
The price for van sites is \$15/night/van.
- 3 Wagin Motel Ph: 9861 1888
16 units, price QB \$130/night, SB \$110/night, Twin Share \$130/night)
- 4 Home hosting
This is limited so get in early!
- 5 Hotels and motels in Narrogin and Katanning
Both these towns are 50Km (30 mins) from Wagin.

BUSY LIVES -

Whenever a date is chosen for an event it will inevitably not suit some people who would like to attend. If that is you and you have comments to make about the future of GSEC please contact the Secretary Wendy Pederick by mail or email. A fuller range of responses will help the Board evaluate. Thank you in advance.

"Two Wheels to Wagin" is an annual charity motorcycle event raising funds for suicide prevention. The bikes will roll in to Wagin at about 5pm on Saturday 19 Feb - just as we are finishing our Gathering. The reason I mention this is that the fraternity will also camp at the Wagin showgrounds on the Saturday night. The entertainment they have arranged for Saturday evening is a live band playing from 9pm to midnight, in a tribute to ACDC, and a bar. This has the potential of replacing the ambience of the showground setting to something of a different volume for three hours (after our program finishes).

Wagin shire will allow Emmaus campers at the showgrounds on Friday night to shift to the Shire's caravan park for Saturday night. They have booked out the caravan park for us if we need it. That's why we're asking in the Registration Form if Strollers are staying Saturday night to let us know. Depending on the numbers who say in town overnight on Saturday, we could shift the Emmaus party to our place (14 Arnott Street). We'll make that decision when Registrations close and we get a clearer indication of numbers attending.

I'm telling you this to put you in the full picture as I feel it would be remiss of me not to mention it.

De colores

- Wendy Pederick, M: 0429 171 676

GSEC and PEC -

GSEC is an off shoot of PEC 20 years ago. One option for the future is that the two communities combine resources to continue the good work of Emmaus in the state. For that reason and to tap into more wisdom, Perth Emmaus Community members are invited to the February 2022 Gathering in Wagin.

EMMAUS ON THE WEB -

Our parent organisation has a website: www.emmaus.org.au
To obtain information about dates for Walks anywhere in Australia, and to commit to pray for these Walks, go to <https://vigil.emmaus.org.au>
Emmaus International is <http://emmaus.upperroom.org/>
The Great Southern Community has a Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/greatsouthernemmaus>

COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR -

Hi Everyone,

Gosh it's December again and you are probably saying as I am, 'where on earth has the year gone.' Wherever you are and whatever you are doing I hope and pray that you are enjoying good health because December is usually a very busy time of the year. Harvest time, Christmas and family get togethers, school holidays and hopefully plans for at least a short break before another New Year and work activities descend upon us once more, retired people included. They get recycled.

One thing you can always be assured of in experiencing life is that of continuing change and the Emmaus experience is no exception. Despite all our efforts to expand its influence into our major cities, Esperance and Busselton have been our only successes. With numbers dwindling in the wheatbelt areas together with an aging population we find Great Southern Emmaus Community at the crossroads. The vagaries of Covid 19 have perhaps hastened this crisis situation we now find ourselves in. This downward trend has and is being experienced by every other Emmaus Community in Australia whether they operate amidst our scattered inland areas or our largest most populous cities. Our present Community Board has not got the numbers to function properly, indeed our Perth Emmaus Community has not been able to attract enough people to fill all their Board roles either.

What is the future for Great Southern Emmaus Community?

Firstly, it is not a decision the Board can or should make on its own. We urgently need a response from you wherever you are as a member of our Community, as a person who has experienced the blessing of God through our Walks, and just as importantly to see others come into the same personal knowledge of our Saviour Jesus Christ into the future.

Hence the reason behind our Board holding the "Walk, Stroll, Stride" event at Wagin from 18th – 20th February 2022. I look forward to joining together with you there and –

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." (Colossians 3:23-24)

Meanwhile, I wish you all a Christ blessed Christmas and a very happy New Year.

De colores,

John Butler, T: 9851 4539

WALK. STROLL. STRIDE.

-- The Philosophy --

Walk

We have all done an Emmaus Walk and been enormously blessed by it. Which is a big part of the reason for people 'giving back' to Emmaus by participating in a conference room team, support teams, giving financially and in prayer, attending Gatherings, or serving in our local faith communities with more passion and grace. This Gathering event will give opportunity for people to share their stories of blessing through Emmaus, stimulated by the first Talk, "Listen. Listen to my story."

Stroll

The program for the Gathering is given on Page 5. Essentially, via Talks 2, 3 and 4, we will stroll with God through the themes of lament, hope and ministry for God. Around tables and with questions to stimulate discussion and reflection, "strollers" will be invited to express corporate and personal sadness as a prelude to regaining clarity and perspective that our hope is dependent not on us but on God himself. By reviewing Biblical examples, we'll position ourselves to listen to God with our obedience and attitude in the Talk "Listen. Listen to my God".

Stride

God has a history of faithfully leading his people. We can expect him to make his will known to us. Talk #5, a 'What now?' talk, "Listen. Listen with your heart", given in a service of Holy Communion, will acknowledge God's constant presence with us in whatever capacity we service. A choice will be made as to how we stride into the future.

Packing it all in

It wouldn't be an Emmaus event without singing praises, exercise books, food, fellowship, laughter, prayer, holy communion, and sharing. All those elements will be in this Gathering. To ease the burden, a caterer has been sourced for the day. To ensure we're fresh for the discussions, the option is there to come on Friday and leave after church on Sunday. This option comes with a sing-along and fun activities. In it all, we will witness to the reality of Jesus as a living presence.

REGISTRATION FORMS -

- ✓ A Registration Form for the Gathering is included with this newsletter.
- ✓ For **catering** purposes, it would be a courtesy for you to fill in the form and get it to the Registrar as soon as possible. There is space to enter any **dietary limitations** you have.
- ✓ The **closing date** for registering is 10 February.
- ✓ Two people can register on the one form.
- ✓ **Fees** are set as cost-recovery only.
- ✓ A **questionnaire** on page 2 will help the GSEC Board understand your heart for Emmaus. You are asked to answer the questions. Thank you.
- ✓ We give the **option** to "strollers" to arrive when they can and stay for Saturday evening's meal and/or Sunday church service and lunch.
- ✓ This Gathering, as with any Emmaus Gathering, is not restricted to only those who have done a Walk. In fact, this is an open event for you and your family and friends.
- ✓ The event is a fixture. It is not conditional on any registration numbers.

THE GATHERING TEAM -

As with all Emmaus events, the body of Christ works together, each contributing their skills and experiences to witness to the grace of God. That is the same for this extended Gathering. The five speakers have already been asked to prepare. Other team members are to be approached – hopefully before Christmas. Needed are 4 Table leaders and assistants, music directors (2-4), and prayer directors (2). The team is to consist of men and women. Please give some thought to what your response might be if you are asked to be on the Team.

There will be a **team meeting on Saturday 22 January** in Wesley Hall, **Wagin** UCA, Ranford Street. As with a Walk, the team meeting will be for team bonding and to critique the Talks.

NO SUPPORT TEAM -

To optimize the participation in the Talks and discussions, no one will be allocated to the Support team. However, there are some jobs that always must be done – setting tables, washing dishes, cleaning up after meals, preparations for the tea breaks, cook the barbecue, venue set up, venue clean up at the end (packing away, vacuuming, washing floors, etc.). None of this is onerous if everyone chips in and does a bit.

A local caterer has been engaged to oversee the meal prep. God bless Alex!

SUPPLIES -

For those wondering about the logistics, we'll bring together the equipment and supplies needed from several sources.

- From Gt Sthn Emmaus – data projector, screen, laptop computer, Gathering boxes 1 and 2 (with tea, coffee, sugar) and the conference room supplies box.
- From the GSEC Supplies Trailer – exercise books, pens, table names, tissues, etc.
- At the venue – tables and chairs, cutlery and crockery, coolroom, barbecues, cleaning supplies, data screen, etc.



WALK. STROLL. STRIDE.**-- PROGRAM --****Friday – 18 Feb 2022**

Arrive at whatever time suits

6.00 pm Dinner (DIY)
 7.00 pm Informal fellowship and sing-along
 8.30 pm Supper

Saturday – 19 Feb 2022

8.30 am	Registration / Cuppa		
9.00 am	Gathering – Welcome by CLD Arthur, Opening prayer SD John B		5 mins
	Introductory Talk ‘Walk. Stroll. Stride.’	CLD (Arthur)	10 mins
	Allocate Table Groups	Wendy P	15 mins
9.30 am	Worship 2-4 songs and Speaker’s Song		10 mins
	Talk #1 ‘Listen. Listen to my story.’		20 mins
	Meditation, table discussion and summary		40 mins
11.00 am	Morning Tea break		20 mins
11.20 am	Worship 2 songs and Speaker’s Song		10 mins
	Talk #2 ‘Listen. Listen to my lament’		20 mins
	Meditation, table discussion and summary		40 mins
12.30 pm	Lunch (Catered for)		40 mins
	Clean up and prep for afternoon tea		
1.10 pm	2 songs and Speaker’s Song		10 mins
	Talk #3 ‘Listen. Listen to my hope’		20 mins
	Meditation, table discussion and summary		40 mins
2.20 pm	Very brief break		15 mins
2.35 pm	2 songs and Speaker’s Song		10 mins
	Talk #4 ‘Listen. Listen to my God’		20 mins
	Meditation, table discussion and summary		40 mins
3.45 pm	Tea break		15 mins
4.00 pm	Sharing of Table summaries		35 mins
4.40 pm	Worship 2 songs and Speaker’s Song		10 mins
	Talk #5 ‘Listen. Listen to your heart’	SD (John B)	20 mins
	Meditation		15 mins
	Holy Communion		15 mins
	Gt Sthn Emmaus Meeting	CLD (Arthur)	30 mins
	Weave		
6.10 pm	Dinner (Catered for)		60 mins
	Clean up		20 mins
7.30 pm	People who need to can return home		
	Fun activity for those who stay		60 mins
8.30 pm	Supper		
	Pack up and clean		

Sunday – 20 Feb 2022

10.15 am Worship at Wagin UCA (Ranford St) John Butler
 11.15 am Morning Tea after church
 12 noon Lunch (Catered for – quiches, salad platter, slices)



Believe!

IN THIS NEWSLETTER -

One Subject:

EMMAUS GATHERING

In Wagin
On 19 February 2022

HOPE TO
see you
THERE

Newsletter of
Great Southern (WA) Emmaus Community
W Pederick
14 Arnott St
Wagin WA 6315

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

Walk to Emmaus



GREAT SOUTHERN (WA) EMMAUS COMMUNITY

Registration to attend "WALK. STROLL. STRIDE." at Wagin

Option: Arrive Fri 18 Feb; **Event:** Sat 19th Feb 2022; **Stay longer:** Sun 20th
Venue: Wagin Showgrounds Campground and Eric Farrow Pavilion

Registrations close: Thursday 10 February

This is an overnight event. GSEC missed holding Walks in 2020 and 2021. This initiative by the Board is to enable re-connection of the Gt Sthn Emmaus Community and Perth Emmaus Community. Held over a full day, it will be a time of celebration, listening, reflection, gratitude, and seeking God's direction for 2022 and beyond. At least 50 committed people are required to keep the GSEC functioning healthily, and it is intended to gauge interest on the evening of "Walk. Stroll. Stride."

Wagin was chosen as it is quite central within the Great Southern, yet close enough for Perth people to travel to. The Showgrounds accommodate self-contained vans and the Eric Farrow Pavilion (on site) is highly suited for a Conference Room. The program for the day (9am to 7.30pm) is available in the December newsletter, on facebook or from the Registrar.

PART 1 (Please PRINT clearly to ensure correct spelling on your name tag etc.)

APPLICANT 1

NAME _____ [M] or [F] AGE _____
 ADDRESS _____ PHONE _(08) _____
 ADDRESS _____ POST CODE: _____ MOB _____
 NAME DESIRED ON NAME TAG: _____ WALK # and WHERE _____
 E-Mail: (Please print as clearly as possible) _____
 Your emergency contact details (a name and phone number) : _____

This section MUST be COMPLETED

Are you on **any medication or special diet or diet restrictions**, or do you have any situation that should be known by the caterer and leaders, or anything which would prevent you partaking in any part of the program? [YES] [NO]
 If yes, please give full details: _____

APPLICANT 2

NAME _____ [M] or [F] AGE _____
 ADDRESS _____ PHONE _(08) _____
 ADDRESS _____ POST CODE: _____ MOB _____
 NAME DESIRED ON NAME TAG: _____ WALK # and WHERE _____
 E-Mail: (Please print as clearly as possible) _____
 Your emergency contact details (a name and phone number) : _____

This section MUST be COMPLETED

Are you on **any medication or special diet or diet restrictions**, or do you have any situation that should be known by the caterer and leaders, or anything which would prevent you partaking in any part of the program? [YES] [NO]
 If yes, please give full details: _____

Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" – Luke 24:31,32

