

N O V E M B E R 2 0 1 8

L'Arche Perth - Update

165, Alexander Drive, Dianella



L'Arche Perth AGM

We are hoping for a large turnout at our AGM this year on SUNDAY, 25 NOVEMBER, FROM 2-4 at the Dianella house. With the blessing of L'Arche Australia, the Board has approved the change of our name from Friends of L'Arche Perth Inc to L'Arche Perth Inc and we need the endorsement of a majority of financial members to ratify it. Changes have also been made to our Constitution to bring it into line with current changes to state government legislation. The proposed new Constitution will also need to be approved by the membership.

Please bring a plate and drinks to share for afternoon tea.

September Gathering

At our September Gathering we were delighted to welcome Maria Tapales, a live in assistant from the L'Arche community in Stratford Ontario. She was in Perth visiting our new coordinator, Samantha and spent a few days visiting the sites of Perth. Maria is from the Phillipines and would love to work in a L'Arche community in Australia so she can be closer to her family. At our Gathering she shared with us her journey in L'Arche in Canada and showed us photos of the core members going about their daily life. It was Maria who encouraged Samantha to apply for the coordinator position in Perth and they often skype during Stratford Community events so Sam can learn more about the lived experience of L'Arche.

Maria's thank you letter is on page 2

Maria's Letter

My Australia visit was postponed twice, first in June due to a visa requirement and then in August due to support needs in my Agape house. I finally booked my flight in September, I had my visa ready and my leadership team had approved my vacation request.

I took the earliest dates in September not even aware or conscious of when FOLP's monthly gathering will be. When I told Samantha my final dates of visiting her, she said there will be a gathering of FOLP that weekend of my arrival, I was thrilled. When I learned further that they wanted me to share I was a bit anxious but very excited.

It was only then I understood why my trip was postponed. God has better plans for me, as is always the case. I was reminded of Ecclesiastes 3:1 "There is an appointed time for everything and a time for every affair under the heaven."

To join the gathering with those lovely people which I felt like home and to be able to share my experience as live in assistant in L'Arche, Stratford, particularly how and what a week in a glance looks like in Agape, my very own community, my family, my home, was one of the highlights of my visit in Perth.

Thanks to the generosity of the Board and the hearty welcome of the community especially for the privilege of using Dianella as my home for 5 days. I felt so blessed and will be forever grateful.

Looking forward to visiting you again, hopeful that by then I will be greeted with core members as a live in assistant in your Dianella house.

Praying for the success of all your undertakings.

Godspeed!

Maria Tapales, Live in Assistant, L'Arche, Stratford.

October Gathering

As we come to the end of the year the Spiritual Life Group and Board need to make plans for next year's Gatherings. Feedback from the community about this year's was the first step so Anabelle and Paula led us in an exercise to recall our favourite moments and tease out the elements that make Gatherings memorable. We then were asked to envisage what Gatherings would look like when the Dianella house is occupied. Core members were enthusiastic as they produced pictures of their favourite moments and were very specific about how they see themselves welcoming the community into their house in the future. Paula, Derek and their two boys also brought along a cake to celebrate Tommy's birthday.



Dinner-Dance Cancellation

We were sorry to have to cancel the Dinner Dance fundraiser on 6 October but plan to reinstate something similar next year. Our timing was off for this event with the school holidays and many people out of town at that time. In future we hope to partner with the Malaysian Singapore Catholic Association, a very active fundraising group who have offered to assist us with our fundraising efforts. If anyone would like to join a fundraising committee please contact Anabelle May; we would welcome your ideas and energy.

News from the Board

We are sad to lose Vera Waldby as our Chair: she has been a calm and steadying influence on our Board for the last four years and we were lucky to have had so much of her time until she gained a full time position with the City of Swan late last year. Unfortunately the pressures of a demanding job together with her belief that good governance requires the fresh perspective of a new leader to keep an organisation growing have led to this decision.



Vera's background and qualifications in Corporate Governance have been great assets as we move into the NDIS space and she can be proud of her achievements: steering us through the negotiations for the lease of the Dianella house and its modifications; negotiating our loan arrangements with L'Arche Australia; raising our profile with L'Arche Australia and working with David Treanor to bring to fruition the appointment of a Community Life Coordinator. She and her husband Andrew have been enthusiastic participants in our fundraising and grant seeking activities and she initiated WalkAbility as our major fundraising event of the year. Most recently she has taken responsibility for dotting the 'i's and crossing the 't's on our new Constitution – a time consuming task for which the rest of the board has been truly grateful. Fortunately Vera intends to nominate to stay on the board as a non-executive member.

We are also sorry to lose the contribution of Melinda Nota who took over the Treasurer role last year. She too has found herself over committed at VisAbility where she has taken on a demanding new role. In her short time with us though, Melinda has streamlined our financial processes; shared her knowledge of the NDIS and has always been quick to offer financial advice and support. She will continue in the role until we manage to replace her.

Community Life Leader

For many months David Treanor has been in negotiations with a potential Community Life Leader, currently living in London. It is hoped that she will join us in February, all going well with her Visa application which L'Arche Australia is handling. Vera hopes to meet with her in London in December. We thank David and Vera for their efforts in bringing this complex negotiation to fruition.

Christmas is Coming ...

Our Christmas party will be held at the Dianella house on Sunday 9 December from 6pm. We hope you can come to share a special meal and sing along with members of Catch Music.

Keep in your prayers:



The Nossiter family as they come to terms with the death of Cheryl from early onset dementia. Ron, Cheryl and Christian were regulars at our early gatherings at Elena House in Greenwood and Cheryl attended our first Retreat in 2007. She was a gentle soul, always smiling and cheerful no matter what life threw at her.



Meryon Goode as she battles mesothelioma and undergoes chemotherapy. She is also dealing with the frustration of not feeling well enough to resume her busy life and spend time with Sharyn. She would like Sharyn to get to L'Arche and Crosslinks Gatherings so if anyone can help she would be grateful.

David Treanor in his role as mentor for L'Arche Perth, and our Community as we discern a new Chair for the Board.

Trosly Retreat 2019

CHOOSING COMMUNITY IN AN ERA OF INDIVIDUALISM
RETREAT FOR L'ARCHE
30 MARCH - 5 APRIL 2019
B. P 21-23 RUE D'ORLEANS
60350 TROSLY-BREUIL, FRANCE

Following on from the success of the 2017 Retreat in Trosly, France that L'Arche Australia coordinated for members in Australia and New Zealand, we are delighted to host another retreat in Trosly. Trosly is where l'Arche was founded and it has an unique place in our story.

The theme of this retreat is '*Choosing community in an era of individualism*' and will focus on how you and we build, choose and develop community in Australia today. Ms. Eileen Glass has kindly agreed to lead the retreat. Our society is increasingly fractured and divided, with many groups closing in on themselves; when many community members in L'Arche Australia are ageing, how can we go forward as and when our needs change? New founders in communities or people joining communities today have a different range of expectations than 30-40 years ago. The retreat will be an opportunity to reflect on these issues and find new ways to go into the future.

We have a limit on the number of people who can attend and hope the retreat will also be a creative experience for everyone. There is an application form available on our website, under the "News" section or from region@larche.org.au. Alternatively, please phone David on (03) 6238 4341.



L'Arche Perth Calendar

January	February	March
		6 th Board Meeting
	11 th Gathering LUNCH, Visioning day	18 th Agape Meal, St Nicholas Church Hall, 5-7 pm
30 th Board Meeting		
31 st Reflection Group	30 th Reflection Group	28 th Reflection Group
April	May	June
3 rd Board Meeting	2 nd Wednesday Board Meeting	5 th Board Meeting
8 th WALKABILITY, Burswood Park, 9am	13 th Gathering	16 th Gathering LUNCH
25 th Reflection Group	30 th Reflection Group	27 th Reflection Group
July	August	September
3 rd Board Meeting	5 th EVENSONG, St George's Cathedral, 5pm	4 th Board Meeting
8 th Gathering	7 th Board Meeting	9 th Gathering 2-4
	12 th Gathering, 2-4pm	
25 th Reflection Group	29 th Reflection Group	26 th Reflection Group
October	November	December
2 nd Board Meeting	6 th Board Meeting	4 th Board Meeting
6 th , DINNER DANCE , Our Lady's Assumption School, Dianella		9 th Christmas party
28 th Gathering – co-designing our Gatherings for 2019 LUNCH	17 th Core Members Retreat	
31 st Reflection Group	21 st Reflection Group	
	25 th AGM , Gathering, 2-4pm	

