



What's News — March 2021

L'Arche Hobart Beni-Abbes Community

My first message as Acting Leader is one of gratitude. As a community we have come so far in the last few months as we emerge from a 'winter season'. This regrowth is thanks to each of you living the Mission and Identity in so many ways. I would like to pay a special thanks to a few individuals who have played a significant role in supporting the Ark.

Leigh Delaney was a cornerstone in his role of Community Coordinator and we celebrated his contribution at Coffee Night. Many people have shared their affirmation of Leigh and our gratitude

that he remains in community.

Paula Sullivan and Maria Flynn continue in their acting roles and I thank them for their ongoing 'yes'!

Our office team and assistants continue to go above and beyond in their support of the mission.

The Board of Directors and Community Council continue to put hours of thinking into the strong future of our Community. These people are the humble volunteers in the background who continue to support our important

role in the Hobart community and beyond. In two words I can sum up my first month in the role: 'thank you'.

You can be so proud of Ben-Abbes' past 35 years and we look forward to marking this milestone with a celebratory dinner. Please feel free to contact me via hobart.leader@larche.org.au with suggestions of how we can make this dinner a huge celebration of all that has been achieved.

All the best,
Stewart Betts
Acting Community Leader

Events!

All welcome

Tuesday 2 March – **Solidarity Night**, 6-8 pm, 40 Pirie Street

Wednesday 17 March – **Cafe L'Arche**, 7-8.30 pm, St Therese's School Hall, Hopkins St, Moonah

Saturday 27 March – **Community Gathering**, 5-8 pm, barbecue and formal welcome for Stewart Betts, new Acting Community Leader, 40 Pirie St

Wednesday 31 March – **Foot washing ceremony**, 6 pm, 40 Pirie St

Tuesday 6 April – **Solidarity Night**, 6-8 pm, 40 Pirie St

Wednesday 21 April – **Coffee Night**, 7-8.30 pm, 40 Pirie St

Hello from the L'Arche Hobart Board of Management.

Our Community continues to successfully plough through a rugged terrain.

While we have lost a few much loved Core Members over recent months we have maintained our spirit.

Importantly, we are on the rebound and are rebuilding our organisation. Financially we are sound and meeting all of our corporate responsibilities.

Stewart is into his fourth week with us as Community Leader and is doing a wonderful job. He brings life, passion and several years of L'Arche experience in his leadership.

There are some exciting events on the radar over the next few months and we invite new and old friends and volunteers to connect with us in the new chapter of our Community.

Brendan Sullivan

Chairperson
L'Arche Hobart, Beni-Abbes Community Inc

What's this?



It's a "tart van de hoop" or "cake of hope". Story on page 7.

Bits and pieces

Index

- 1. Stewart and Brendan's messages, events
- 2-3. Prayer Points, editor's ramblings, odds and ends
- 4. February Solidarity
- 5. February Coffee Night
- 6. A gift from France, Jon Parkes
- 7. A story from Belgium
- 8. Members out and about
- 9-10. Calendar, events, birthdays, contact details etc.

L'Arche Hobart (Beni-Abbes)

Mission Statement

(in conjunction with the International Identity and Mission Statement)

At Beni-Abbes we are people with and without disability who create homes and community.

We share our lives in real friendships, as we cook, share meals, pray together, talk, listen, help each other, through the good and the hard times in the spirit of love, as a sign of hope to others.

God is revealed to us when we celebrate and gather to pray and through relationships that are built on faithful, open and welcoming hearts.

Dear L'Arche friends,

I've been looking at the March edition from last year. We'd just conducted a sausage sizzle at Bunnings, done some work on the International Charter process, and then WHAM, our activities were brought to a screeching halt by Covid-19. And what an extraordinary year we've had!

27 March will mark the first anniversary of the death of our beautiful Tim Warwarek, and then on 1 April he was followed by our founding community leader Peter Ryan.

Peter sent me an Ash Wednesday poem last year, and I'm using it again.

Because of Covid safe-guards, the traditional "smudge" of ashes on the forehead was this year replaced by sprinkling of ashes on the head.

Last year we had to cancel the traditional Passover Meal and Foot-washing ceremony which is celebrated by all L'Arche communities during Holy Week, the week between Palm Sunday and Easter. We are planning to have a ceremony this year, although the format will have to be adapted somewhat. It is always a life-giving occasion and we hope to be able to capture that.

Lots of fun stuff happening this month – it would be great if you can join us for any or all of the events.

Cheers!

Claire Manthorpe
Editor



Prayer Points ...

This month we especially pray for:

- * Stewart Betts as he settles in to the role of Acting Community Leader.
- * L'Arche Kapiti NZ as they grieve the death of Kim Turner, a much loved founding core member.
- * Lara Damiani as she takes on the role of Community Development Coordinator for L'Arche Australia.
- * Countries which are still experiencing high levels of Covid-19 infections.
- * All members of our community: core members, assistants, staff, board members, community council, volunteers, families and friends.
- * Our International Leaders, Stephan and Stacey and all they carry in their roles.
- * Stage Two of the International Charter Process that is being rolled out across the Federation.



Blessing the Dust For Ash Wednesday

All those days you felt like dust, like dirt, as if all you had to do was turn your face toward the wind and be scattered to the four corners or swept away by the smallest breath as insubstantial— did you not know what the Holy One can do with dust?

This is the day we freely say we are scorched.

This is the hour we are marked by what has made it through the burning.

This is the moment we ask for the blessing that lives within the ancient ashes, that makes its home inside the soil of this sacred earth.

So let us be marked not for sorrow. And let us be marked not for shame. Let us be marked not for false humility or for thinking we are less than we are

but for claiming what God can do within the dust, within the dirt, within the stuff of which the world is made and the stars that blaze in our bones and the galaxies that spiral inside the smudge we bear.

—Jan Richardson

L'Arche Identity

We are people with and without intellectual disabilities, sharing life in Communities belonging to an International Federation.

Mutual relationships and trust in God are at the heart of our journey together.

We celebrate the unique value of every person and recognise our need of one another.

Mission

To make known the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities revealed through mutually transforming relationships.

To foster an environment in Community that responds to the changing needs of our members, whilst being faithful to the core values of our founding story.

To engage in our diverse cultures, working together toward a more human society.



- ◆ Beni-Abbes will celebrate its 35th anniversary this year. We're looking for volunteers to join a group to support organisation of a **celebratory dinner**. Please email Stewart if you would like to be involved: hobart.leader@larche.org.au
- ◆ **Lawn mowing** at 40 is a fairly big job but if we could spread the load it would be a lot easier. Even if you could help out occasionally it would be much appreciated. How about it? Contact the office if you're interested.
- ◆ Remember to vote for L'Arche Australia each week on **#MyGivingCircle** and ask your friends to vote too. It can be done via Facebook or the MyGivingCircle website. Add a donation if you can, maybe the donations you would normally put in the One L'Arche Solidarity collection each month. Each donation earns an equivalent number of votes. In the last round we raised \$2027 for L'Arche Zimbabwe and we will continue to support them in this round which runs until the end of March.
- ◆ Think about hosting a **Share a Meal** event – a way to be in solidarity with the community of L'Arche Zimbabwe and to spread the L'Arche story to your family, friends, neighbours, workmates etc. For more information, contact Eileen at fundraising@larche.org.au.



L'Arche Australia has a new website – check it out – www.larche.org.au

And here's a link to a short video of an initiative of L'Arche Al Fulk in Egypt. In response to a great need, they have been working with five small associations to serve children with intellectual disabilities and their families in rural communities. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALXcB8-m418&feature=youtu.be>



Debbie Finlay – 25 years – 1996

“Let us love,
since that is all
our hearts were
made for.”
~St. Therese
of Lisieux

@thedailyinspirations

February Solidarity



Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing? Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love? These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bear many fruits, here in this world and the life to come.

– Henri Nouwen

Not many Solidarity pics, sorry. We had a great night though and for many people it was their first chance to meet Stewart and welcome him to the community.

After dinner we had the chance to share stories and laughs, sing some songs and simply enjoy being together. We also made an audio birthday greeting for Stewart to take to Liz, a core member of L'Arche Canberra.

If you haven't been to Solidarity for a while, or at all, you would be very welcome. It's a time for celebrating community at a local level and sometimes even at a global level.



Coffee night



What a lovely surprise it was to see our old friend Rick! (Pictured with Leigh Delaney) Several other old friends came along too, and it was terrific to catch up with all of them. We hope to see them again soon.



More than JUST a fruit platter – mulberries straight from the resident tree! Yum! It was our first Coffee Night back at 40 since pre-Covid and felt like a home-coming.



Stewart formally thanked Leigh for stepping into the role of Community Coordinator while we were temporarily without a Community Leader. Peter presented a gift to Leigh on behalf of Beni-Abbes. Leigh was persuaded to sing Edelweiss for Peter.



A story from Belgium

In June 2017, Rosey Dean, David Treanor and I had the privilege and joy of spending three nights as guests of the L'Arche Community of Moerkerke-Brugge in northern Belgium. We stayed at their house in the beautiful village of Moerkerke where we were made extremely welcome. We still have many happy memories.

Belgium has had a tough time during the Covid pandemic*, so it was a cause for celebration when our friends recently received their vaccinations.

Claire Manthorpe

Right: 2017, Rosey with Peggy, one of the Moerkerke core members. Peggy very kindly made welcome gifts for each of us. (I still have mine, thank you Peggy!)



Right: Peggy being vaccinated.

Below: Time to break out cake and bubbles!



** Belgium has a population less than half of Australia but has had 22,052 Covid deaths, compared to 909 in Australia. Our restrictions have been minor in comparison to what they have been coping with for the last year.*

It's all about food... and sharing it with friends...



Happy Birthday!

Happy birthday Angie!




Master chef Garry cooking up a storm.





March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Solidarity 6-8 pm, 40 Pirie St Rennie Jaurigue's birthday	3	4	5	6
7	8 - Eight Hour Day 	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Cafe L'Arche 7- 8.30 pm, St Therese's Hall	18	19	20 Garry Freeman's birthday
21	22	23	24	25	26 Deadline for April <i>What's News</i>	27 Community Gathering, 5-8 pm, BBQ and welcome Stewart, 40 Pirie
28 Palm Sunday 	29	30	31 Foot Washing ceremony, 6 pm, 40 Pirie St Geoff Whittaker's birthday			

Events that look like this are open to all to attend. Bring your friends! The more the merrier!

What's Solidarity?

Once a month (usually the first Tuesday) we gather for a simple evening meal and make a small donation that goes to help support L'Arche Zimbabwe. After dinner we have an activity of some kind, sing a song or two, hear about upcoming events, and have a short period of prayer and reflection, always finishing with a song. It's always fun and links us to the world-wide L'Arche family.



What are Coffee Night and Café L'Arche?

Cafe L'Arche evolved from Coffee Night. Both are evenings of music and socialising.



Café L'Arche is held in a bigger venue and traditionally has a wider range of musicians and more of a café atmosphere. They're both joyful occasions and guaranteed to get your toes tapping. Bring your guitar, your singing voice, your friends and family and have some fun. (And refreshments.)



April 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Holy Thursday 	2 Good Friday 	3 Easter Vigil 
4 Easter Sunday  Chris Coleman's birthday. Kat Barrington's birthday.	5	6 Solidarity, 6-8 pm, 40 Pirie St Bec Harding's birthday	7	8 Eileen Glass' birthday	9	10
11	12	13 Katherine Black's birthday	14	15	16	17
18	19 Sylvia Cross' birthday. Eamonn Pollard's birthday.	20	21 Coffee Night, 7.00-8.30 pm, 40 Pirie St	22 Louise Pickering's birthday	23	24
25	26	27	28 Raphael Jaurigue's birthday	29	30 Deadline for May <i>What's News</i>	



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or Facebook Message – our Facebook page is
L'Arche Hobart - Beni-Abbes

For information, stories and films about L'Arche
Australia and L'Arche International, visit:

www.larche.org.au/

www.larche.org/en/welcome

Feedback to L'Arche Hobart: We welcome feedback from you, including complaints and compliments. If you would like to offer us feedback, you can phone us on 6228 3920, email: hobart.leader@larche.org.au, or post to: PO Box 132 Moonah 7009. We can support you in this if you need any assistance.