



What's News – June 2021

L'Arche Hobart Beni-Abbes Community

Dear friends,

On Saturday 29 May we celebrated 35 years of the Beni-Abbes Community. It was a joyful day and we were so grateful to have so many friends celebrate what has been lived these past 35 years. We heard from a range of speakers who reminded us of both the achievements and hardships experienced over the life of our community to the present day. Each of us have played our role in the life of the community and for that we say a sincere 'thank you'. The life of the community has depended on every individual and individuals have also depended on the life of the community.

In my role of Acting Leader I would like to say a special thanks to some individuals

behind the successful celebration noting many others also contributed: Lesley Lewis, Leigh Delaney, Felicity Rose, Brendan Sullivan and Maria Flynn were instrumental in setting up the hall for the big day. Paula Sullivan and Kylie Sullivan worked so hard to provide us with delicious food. John Coleman, Garry Freeman, Al, Cindy Treanor and Rosie provided us with the uplifting music. Angie Clarke and Mel Reyes organised an incredible video tribute from assistants and we hope to share a copy soon. As Eileen Glass reminded us in her speeches, the city of Hobart is all the better for the presence of L'Arche Hobart!

Stewart Betts
Acting Community Leader



Happy 35th
anniversary
Beni-Abbes!

Events!

Tuesday 1 June – **Solidarity** – 6 to 8 pm, St Therese's Chapel, Hopkins St, Moonah

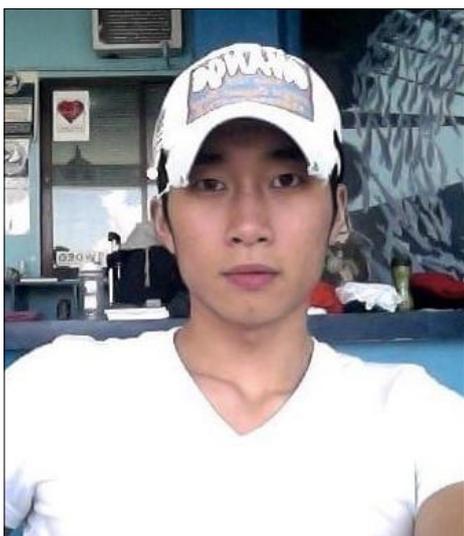
Wednesday 16 June – **Coffee night** 7 to 8.30 pm, 40 Pirie St

Tuesday 6 July – **Solidarity**, 6 to 8 pm, 40 Pirie Street – we will be celebrating Fr Terry's 55th anniversary of ordination as a priest and the gift that he is to our community

Wednesday 21 July – **Café L'Arche**, 7 to 8.30 pm, St Therese's Hall, Hopkins St, Moonah

All welcome

Greetings from Jun!



Happy 35th anniversary. I lived with Sean, Tim, Rosey and Katherine. I really miss you all. I had the most wonderful experience of my life at Beni-Abbes.

I got a tattoo as well. There is a boat with three people, the L'Arche mark, and a big wave and the sun. The big wave means difficult times and the sun is a bright future. We are all in a difficult situation with the pandemic but there is hope for a bright future and we will overcome this together.

Whenever I have time I will visit you guys and again happy happy anniversary anniversary anniversary! I hope you guys have a wonderful time.

Angie Clarke tracked down some of our former live-in assistants from far-flung corners of the world and asked them to send a video message. She and Mel Reyes then compiled a 17 minute video which was shown at our 35th anniversary lunch. It was a wonderful surprise to see and hear all those old friends again! See pages 8 to 10 for extracts from their greetings and photos, also found by Angie.

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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,

Have we had a picture of a tattoo on the front page of the newsletter before? Probably not. But why not? Thanks Jun!

Our 35th anniversary luncheon was an unqualified success if the level of chatter is any gauge. The food was varied and plentiful and the organisers deserve a Big Pat on the Back.

We are blessed to have so much musical talent in our community, and the music was, as always, perfect.

A highlight (and surprise to most) was a video that Angie Clarke and Mel Reyes had compiled. Angie tracked down some of the former live-in assistants and asked them to record a short message. Common threads were "I have so many great memories of my time at Beni-Abbes", "I learnt so much", "I miss you", "I hope to visit again one day". (And we miss them too.) You will find extracts from their messages on pages 8-10.

We've had a number of other interesting things happening in the community recently but I'm going to hold them over to next month and devote this edition to our 35th anniversary. In fact, the anniversary is going to spill over into the next edition too.

Claire Manthorpe

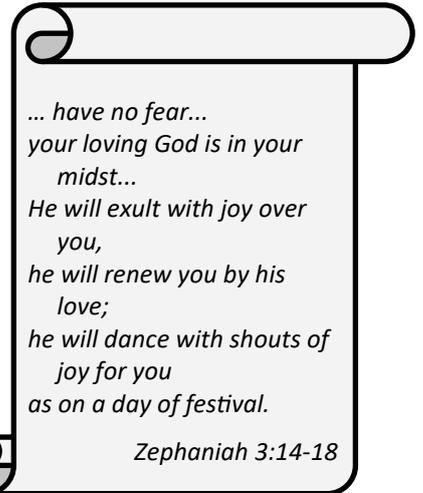
Editor

Prayer Points ...



This month we especially pray for:

- * the Coleman family, as they mourn the loss of Jenny's father, Chester
- * L'Arche Canberra, mourning the loss of their long-time and much loved member, Liz Archer
- * all members of our community: core members, assistants, staff, board members, community council, volunteers, families and friends
- * Eileen Glass as she steps down from the role of Director of Fundraising and Development and for Greg Smith who has taken on that role
- * leaders and boards of L'Arche world-wide as they lead in difficult times
- * the discernment process for a new Community Leader/CEO for L'Arche Melbourne
- * for our international leaders Stephan and Stacey and all they carry in their roles.



The above reading is taken from the church's readings of 31 May each year, commemorating the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth. These words were used in an invitation to friends to come to afternoon tea on 31 May 1986 to celebrate the beginning of L'Arche Beni-Abbes. They still ring true.



Day One.

APOLOGY

In the last edition of *What's News* I submitted an early photograph of Greg Burles which accompanied an article regarding his farewell gathering in May. The photograph was taken in 1991 at the baptism of our daughter Sarah. Greg is her Godfather and the relationship has remained constant and strong. I apologise to Greg's family for this inclusion for they had clearly indicated to L'Arche Hobart that we no longer have their permission to display his photograph in our newsletters.

John Coleman

Some history from Fr Terry



At our 35th anniversary celebration, Fr Terry told us some of the history of L'Arche Beni-Abbes. He sees it as being "God's initiative" and a gift manifested through the Spirit working through so many people.

The period of initial formation began in June 1982 when the (then) New Town Parish was bequeathed the house at 40 Pirie Street. The four year period of preparation came to fruition on 31 May 1986 when the first core members were welcomed and created home.

Fr Terry spoke about three women who, amongst others, played key roles in getting Beni-Abbes under way.

Firstly, **Marion Beatrice "Trixie" Allen** who left her house to the parish for charitable purposes. As parish priest, it fell to Fr Terry to decide its future. He was keen that parishioners be involved and many of them did so. Apparently



Fr Terry and Ann Huxley, some years ago.

there were a number of other groups and agencies circling, keen to take over the house, but Fr Terry held out, even though he initially had no idea how the house should be used.

The second significant woman in the story was **Sr Julianne Dunne MSS** who suggested "Why not make it a L'Arche house?". At that time very few people had heard of L'Arche, but they set to work investigating that and made contact with the L'Arche communities in Canberra and Sydney, Faith and Light groups in Tasmania, and notably with Philip Vincent. A committee was established, funding secured and the house was ready to accept residents except for one thing – to be a L'Arche home it needed to be led by someone with lived L'Arche experience. This was something of a brick wall.

In January 1986, 20 members of the mainland L'Arche communities came to Hobart for a holiday, staying at 40 Pirie Street. **Emmanuelle Wacranier** was the national leader of L'Arche and was one of the visitors. Terry explained the dilemma to her which prompted her to invite down a man named Peter Ryan who had just returned from two years at L'Arche Bangalore, India, before which he had helped establish L'Arche Sydney and had lived at L'Arche Canberra before that.



The holidaymakers returned to the mainland, leaving Peter to work with the committee. Peter moved into the house and by 31 May 1986 he and Katrina Dick were ready to welcome Ann Huxley and Greg Burles. And the rest, as they say, is history!

Fr Terry concluded: "The community has enriched the lives of many people, locally, nationally and internationally. Naturally there have been many challenges but God has been faithful and we face the future with confidence and pray that Beni-Abbes will thrive and prosper."



Penny Edman and Fr Denis Allen at the celebration. Fr Denis is the nephew of Mrs Allen who bequeathed the house.

35th anniversary!



A couple of pics from 1986

Left: Claire Lawler, Nora Cochran (nee Norris) and Ann Huxley.



Right: Claire unpacking after arriving from L'Arche Burwood.

Early memories from Claire Lawler

In January 1986 communities of Sydney and Canberra came to Hobart to stay at 40 Pirie Street for a week's holiday. We shared rooms and even had a caravan in the backyard to accommodate some of the community members. Peter Ryan also joined us for the holiday and he was asked to stay and explore the possibility of L'Arche in Hobart.

I spent the first three months at the beginning of the community living with Greg, Ann, Nora and Peter. As a live in assistant I had a day away each week. On one occasion I packed my overnight bag and went downstairs to get something but when I returned to grab my bag, Ann had unpacked my bag and said I was not going anywhere!!!!!!

As many of you know, Greg loves to play 8 ball and took every opportunity to invite people to play with him. We had the 8 ball table in the old garage and at a particular angle we had to open the garage window to take a shot. I enjoyed the many games I played with Greg, and of course Greg was the winner every time.



Right above: Claire sharing some stories with the crowd.

Right: Claire, Samundra Rimal (L'Arche Australia Admin & Finance), Eileen Glass and Karina from the Canberra community.





Garry read the Welcome to Country and a prayer of thanksgiving before we ate.



Kylie Sullivan and Leslie, two of the people responsible for the great spread of food. Thank you! We had a generous variety of "finger food" which enabled us to mingle as we ate.



Leanne Cowen on door duty with Leigh Delaney.



Grace and Marg Marshall, Penny Edman and Susi Ezzy.



Vicki Briers, Allan Wood, Carolyn Webster and Sandra Webster.



Dave Clarke and Bruce Kirke catching up.

Felicity Rose was one of the team who organised and ran our celebration luncheon. She has been involved with Beni-Abbes since its early days and kindly penned a few words about our anniversary.

It was a wonderful "welcome back" to Hobart to take part in the 35th Anniversary Celebration. As we planned the event well ahead of the 29th May, we brought forward many ideas to make it a meaningful, inclusive and happy time for all. These ideas were gradually knocked into shape and a program and list of who was to do what emerged. The next step was the set up after school on the Friday. As we quietly moved chairs and tables around, hung up banners, brought in big pots of leaves and

flowers and set up the kitchen, nobody needed to take charge or tell anyone what to do, it just fell into place creating a remarkable sense of community.

This continued the next day as eighty guests streamed in and felt welcomed and at home. The program recaptured the love and enthusiasm of the early years, the faithfulness and growth that continued, and the trust and hope through times of challenge. The feeling that we are indeed community; the Spirit is with us and blessing us as we seek out those "narrow tracks of invitation" which will lead us forward. There was a great sense of gratitude for what has been and what is to come.

Felicity Rose



Above: Ann and Felicity and a horse – way back!



Left: The Jaurigue family: Rennie, Arbie, Arren and Rafael.

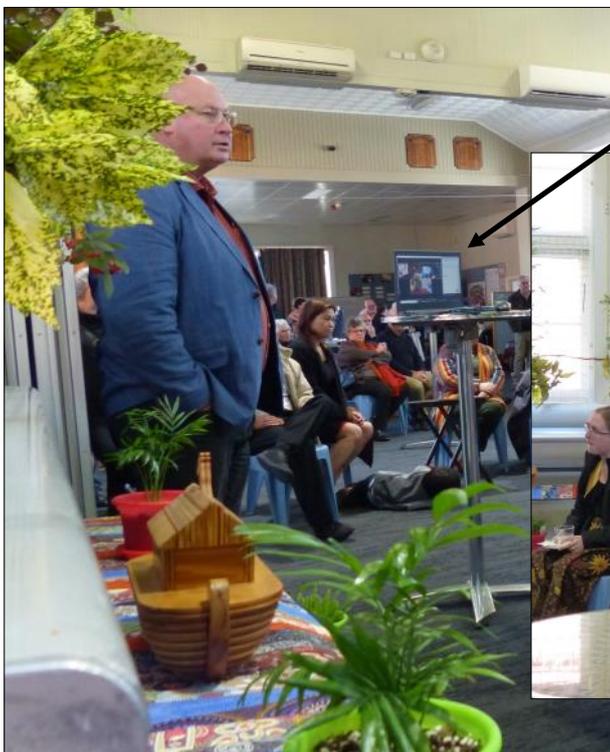


Right: Acting Community Leader Stewart Betts, and long time community member Vicki Briers.



Above: Fr Terry Yard, one of our “founding fathers”, and David Treanor, Leader of L’Arche Australia.

Below: Pastor Bill from St James, New Town, Ed van Galen from Launceston, and Fr Terry.



Listening to the talks. The man standing (in the blue jacket) is Greg Smith, Community Leader of L’Arche Perth. It’s a bit hard to see, but some of the members of L’Arche Perth joined us by Zoom. How clever is that? We all gave them a big wave!



Al, John, Garry, Cindy, Angie (obscured), Dave and Rosey led us in a rousing rendition of “On You Go” to wind up the event.

Greetings from former live-in assistants



Abbey – Happy anniversary to Beni-Abbes! I am so happy and grateful that I was once a part of this community. I am now back in the Philippines working as a nurse and am one of the health care providers that is fighting against Covid 19. I am wishing everyone good health and I hope to see you again soon after the pandemic. Happy 35th anniversary!



Anna – Happy 35th birthday Beni-Abbes and greetings from Bavaria Germany. Now I'm a social worker working with people with a mental disability but at the moment I'm not working because I will have a baby in August, so exciting and fun times. I hope you guys enjoy a big birthday party. I wish you all the best, stay safe in these times of pandemic, I hope to see you soon.



Chris Peros – To my first L'Arche community, happy 35th anniversary. I have a lot of fun memories of time with my housemates and the community – going for trips, holidays, watching cricket, coffee night especially. Currently I'm in Winnipeg Canada still connected with a L'Arche community but in a different role. I'm enjoying my time here with my wife. Hopefully in the future we will visit beautiful Hobart. I miss you guys. Blessings to all the community!



Myrianna "Mymy" – I'm sending you this tiny video just to say happy birthday everyone. I hope you're having a wonderful time. I had the most wonderful time there. I hope everyone is doing okay in Tasmania. I am doing alright, studying psychology in France. I miss you very much and hope I'll be able to see you again. I'm sending you so much love. Bye!



Hilary – Some of my favourite memories were lunches at Kingston beach, and celebrating Louise's 30th birthday was a really special time. I live in Stratford Ontario now and am getting married in October. I am happy that you are celebrating and that you are together. Thinking about you all and the journey you've been on. I'm so thankful that the people who continue to persevere do. Love you guys a lot.



Joanne – For the many lessons you taught me, for all the beautiful memories, I say thank you. You will always occupy a special place in my heart. I wish you all the best and as you celebrate your 35th anniversary I wish that you will continue to be the gift that keeps giving and a river of joy and peace that never runs dry. Happy anniversary my dearest Beni-Abbes! I miss you all.



Klara – I feel blessed and enormously grateful for the opportunity to become part of the amazing Beni-Abbes community. I really learned a lot. Hopefully I've grown as a human being. I realise what it means to fully respect each other, to look at others with your heart. It was kind of a magical experience and I'm really very grateful. Thank you very much for everything. I wish you all the best, and may the community always be filled with compassion, love, joy, fun, wisdom and laughter – I miss and love you very much.



Emily Verhoeve – My time in Hobart was a time of deep growth for me and I remember a lot of the small moments together, sharing time as a house and having community time at events like coffee night and solidarity night. I'm now married and we have a two year old daughter and live in Ontario, Canada. I've worked for L'Arche Stratford for the last five years, currently as the activities coordinator which supports our day program. I hope you have a great time celebrating your 35th.



Dave Clarke – Happy birthday to all at Beni-Abbes, all the beautiful people who've come together under a spirit of love and have formed this community. I was a live-in assistant from 2011 at 40. I have many amazing memories but my best memory was meeting my amazing Angie and the wedding that we had. The whole community pulled together and made it into the most special day we've ever had. We're just so grateful to Beni-Abbes. Keep going strong. God bless you.



Christy Ann – I am blessed and grateful to be part of this beautiful, wonderful community and have lots of precious memories. You are the reason I am continuing my L'Arche journey. I'm in Canada and have been connected to L'Arche Saskatoon for five years, and I'm always proud that I'm a product of Beni-Abbes. I wish and pray for all the best for the community and my thoughts and prayers are with you as you celebrate this beautiful milestone. Sending all my love, happy anniversary!



Robin – Happy happy birthday from Germany. I'm at my parents' place at the moment in Western Germany. I wish you all the best for the next 35 years in L'Arche Beni-Abbes in Hobart. I've just finished university and am teaching disadvantaged kids and am enjoying that. I really learnt in L'Arche to be patient, to enjoy life and see the small kinds of happiness and fun and am trying to keep that on. All the best – I hope to see you soon, I will come to Australia when the whole virus thing is over.



Raquel – I wish my former community a happy happy happy birthday. Currently I am living in Canada as a live-out assistant at L'Arche London. I have so many beautiful memories of Beni-Abbes – the Christmas BBQ, community outings, fun-runs with Hannah and many more memories. Thank you for the opportunity to be a live-in assistant. I wish you all the best and hope you stay safe in this time of covid and have a great birthday celebration. Happy happy birthday and many blessings and many more birthdays to come!



Fernacris – Happy happy 35th birthday L’Arche Beni-Abbes. I’m now at Calgary, Alberta, Canada. My time in the community was indeed life giving. I just wish that you will continue to inspire assistants like me in creating a place of true friendship and belonging. I’m very grateful to be part of the community and again happy happy birthday!



Minskik – I am from Korea. In 2015 I stayed with Hannah, Greg and Heather for six months. I had a beautiful time and miss you all. I heard you are celebrating your 35th anniversary – congratulations! I hope you are all well and I hope to see you again.



Janine – Happy anniversary L’Arche Beni-Abbes. I am so excited for this milestone for you. I am hoping and praying for a peaceful year ahead and hopefully will see you guys again soon. Happy anniversary!



Helyn Young – I started working for L’Arche Beni-Abbes in 2011. I have many fond memories including working on Saturday mornings and doing chores with core members, sitting at table, lighting the candle, sharing parts of our day. I have a very fond memory of making porridge in the mornings at 34. I was taught that it was really important to make it on the stove top not in the microwave and to take time to make it with love, still something I do today. Congratulations on reaching this milestone! I wish you the best and hope you have a wonderful time of celebration.



Sydney Carrick – Happy birthday L’Arche Beni-Abbes! After Tasmania I went to L’Arche Brisbane then L’Arche Edinburgh and in a few weeks I’m moving to L’Arche Spokane US to be community coordinator there so am very excited. I wish you all a very happy birthday and remember fondly the times with Craig, Louise, Sylvia and Kathy at 40 – all the fun times around the dinner table, joking, watching cooking shows on tv, going to the museum, going to Rektango with Louise, attempting to make a community garden, picking mulberries and walnuts in the backyard ... I hope you’re having a great time and a wonderful celebration. All the best!



June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Kate Leitch's birthday	5 Hannah Shackcloth's birthday
6	7	8 Solidarity 6-8 pm, office / parish centre Hopkins St, Moonah	9	10 Gaylene Webb's birthday	11	12 Maria Flynn's birthday
13	14	15	16 Coffee Night, 7 to 8.30 pm, 40 Pirie St	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Leanne Cowen's birthday	24 Board meeting 5 pm office	25 Deadline for July <i>What's News</i>	26
27	28 Fr Terry's 55th anniversary of ordination	29	30			



L'Arche Beni-Abbes Community
Office: 24 Hopkins St, Moonah
Phone (03) 6228 3920

Acting Community Leader, Stewart Betts
hobart.leaer@larche.org.au

Business Manager, Kat Barrington
hobart.office@larche.org.au

Houses Coordinator, Maria Flynn
hobart.34sa@larche.org.au

Services Manager, Paula Sullivan
hobart.services@larche.org.au

Quality Coordinator, Ash Kaur
hobart.qualityco-ord@larche.org.au

Finance Officer / Payroll, Bec Harding
hobart.accounts@larche.org.au

Board Chair, Brendan Sullivan
brendan@sullivanmail.com.au

What's News Editor, Claire Manthorpe
manthorpecf@gmail.com

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY!**

Nigel Rogers – 32 years – 1989

Garry Freeman – 3 years – 2018



July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Solidarity, 6 to 8 pm, 40 Pirie St *	7	8	9 Sarah Coleman's birthday	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Arbie Jaurigue	17
18	19	20	21 Café L'Arche 7 to 8.30 pm, St Therese's Hall	22	23 Adrian Dean's birthday	24
25	26	27	28	29 Board meeting 5.30 pm	30 Deadline for August <i>What's News</i>	31

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

* Solidarity this month will be a special time of celebration of Fr Terry's 55th anniversary of ordination.

If you want any information, please contact us ...



by phone 6228 3920



or email hobart.office@larche.org.au



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.