

L'ARCHE ADELAIDE NEWSLETTER



Amidst the activity there's a still, small voice



This has been a pivotal time in the life of L'Arche Adelaide:

- We received the keys to our soon-to-be-open community house in Dinwoodie Ave; thanks to St Francis of Assisi Anglican Church for their support with leasing the rectory
- Tracy Tohl started her important role as our Community Leader on 1 December
- We're planning a commissioning for Tracy at our Community Weekend in January
- We've started the search for suitable house Assistants
- We've started furnishing our house and working towards welcoming our first residents.

And next year there'll be much attention devoted to establishing the Dinwoodie house as a place of mutual friendship amongst those who live and work there. - Busy, busy, busy.

And, yes, there will be much to do, after all, a community house of welcome and hospitality has been our vision for several years, and now we can see that vision assume real bricks and mortar, and, more importantly, real people living life together as God's children.

However, amidst all the activity may we not neglect the God who is present in our midst quietly prompting our hearts and guiding our journeying footsteps. As we read in the Psalms, **"Be still and know that I am God (Ps.46:10)."**

So amidst all our community planning, meetings, deadlines to meet, problems to overcome, and daily tasks to fulfill, may we be characterised at our foundation by a desire to pause, share, celebrate, laugh, cry ... and listen to that small voice that nourishes our hearts with peace and love - **Peace to you this Christmas.**

Rev. Dr. Trevor Whitney, Chair, L'Arche Adelaide Board

This newsletter is for the members & supporters of L'Arche Adelaide

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Contributions to the newsletter are welcome



Christmas Blessing

The light of the Christmas star to you,
 The warmth of home & hearth to you,
 The cheer and good will of friends to you,
 The hope of a childlike heart to you,
 The joy of a thousand angels to you,
 The love of the Son, and God's peace to you.



Happy Birthday!

Dec	Jan	Feb
4 Margie	1 Anne	14 Di
6 Jane	12 Mary	21 Laura
	19 Adelaide's 9th birthday!	22 Trevor
	22 Rochelle	24 James
	30 Tracy	



Let us know if you want to be added to our birthday list.

Join the campaign!

On 3 December we celebrated International day for persons with disabilities. Over the next year, L'Arche will support the UN initiative and highlight people with intellectual disabilities and their contribution to society.

How can we do this?

We can start by posting a picture or video with the hashtag **#LarcheAsIAm** on your favourite social media and together we will create a "virtual" space where everyone is visible and celebrated!

FB www.facebook.com/hashtag/larcheasiam
 IG www.instagram.com/explore/tags/larcheasiam/



Raffle

Tickets: \$2.00 ea.
 Drawn: 17 April 22
[Click here to buy tickets](#) or Contact
 Lyn Whitney

The one and only prize is a Queen Size Handmade Quilt (RRP: \$2,000) made by a member of L'Arche Brisbane. All raffle proceeds go to supporting L'Arche Zimbabwe, as part of 'One L'Arche Solidarity'. This L'Arche International program supports communities in countries without strong social services.

Prayer Points

- We pray for our Interim National Leader, Claire Lawler, the L'Arche Board, and all those working at the National level. We thank you for your support of L'Arche Adelaide.
- We thank you Lord, for the appointment of Tracy Tohl as our new Community Leader & we pray that she settles into her new role quickly. She is a wonderful Christian woman & we thank you for her caring nature, experience & talents that she brings to this role.
- We pray for Tracy Tohl, the Adelaide Board & all others involved in preparing for our soon-to-be-open community house. We pray for those moving into the house and their families.
- We pray for Rev Andrea McDougall & the members of the congregation at St Francis Anglican Church at Clarence Gardens. They have made the L'Arche Adelaide members feel very welcome & we thank them for their hospitality.
- We thank you for Lara Damiani's contributions to L'Arche Adelaide as Community Coordinator over the last 12 months & ask for your blessings as she pursues other projects.
- We pray for those feeling loss or grief this Advent season as loved ones have died or live far away. May this be a time when hope comes anew in the form of the baby Jesus.

Our Community Weekend – Save the Date – All Welcome



When: Saturday 15 (9AM – 9PM) & Sunday 16 (10AM – 2PM) January

Where: St Francis of Assisi Anglican Church Hall, 835 South Rd, Clarence Gardens

Plans are well underway for our annual community weekend in January. It's always a great weekend of fellowship, discussion, creativity, music, worship, fun and games, cricket, and great food! The theme of the weekend will be 'Resilience'. Members, friends, and families are welcome to attend all or part of the weekend. **More details closer to the date.**

Recent News – National & Local

- After time away for family reasons, our L'Arche National Board Chair, Julia Walters has resumed her role. We thank Rob Nicholls for stepping in as Interim Chair during this time.
- Lara Damiani, our Community Development Coordinator for the last year has finished her time with our community. We're thankful for her work, in particular, with NDIS registration.
- We are awaiting final approval for our registration as an NDIS provider.
- Our new Community Leader, Tracy Tohl, is in the process of seeking out suitable Assistants (support workers) for our house.
- We will initially be offering the home as a place of Welcome & Hospitality (respite) for people with disabilities prior to permanent residents moving in.
- We are still looking for a suitable replacement to join Mark Tanner in the community house.
- We are planning an official opening for our house on Saturday 15 January – save the date!
- The Board has begun work on a Membership & Marketing Plan – we will start the process of identifying & prioritising tasks in the new year – all help will be gratefully received.
- Norelle and Andrew Pearce have found a home for their daughter, Kelly and also for themselves, in Campbelltown – we wish them all the very best for their move.

Finance Update

- We are commencing an exciting "Venture of Faith" in setting up our first house.
- There are of course considerable expenses associated with this venture, including monthly rental costs, a house bond, our community leader's salary, expenses in setting up the house, and paying for the "Shared Services" provided by L'Arche Australia which includes accounting, payroll & assistant rostering services.
- We are estimating that these expenses will amount to \$20,000 over the next 4 months before we can commence receiving regular income from our permanent residents.
- The net cash position of L'Arche Adelaide on 5 December 2021 was \$43,147. THANK YOU for your donations over the last 3 months!
- Obviously, our cash reserves will be reducing over the next 4 months, so it would assist us to have additional working capital to cover the costs mentioned above.
- We know that with prayer and support from our supporters, God will provide during this time.
- Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to assist in covering our costs. Thank you!

For further information, contact our Honorary Treasurer, Mel Zerner:

Mobile: 0418 852 353; Email: melz@messengerzerner.com.au

Direct deposits to: L'Arche Adelaide Inc. BSB 704942 Account No 153579

Welcome to our new Community Leader, Tracy Tohl



Hello to all. My name is Tracy and I am very honoured to be your first Community Leader. I am humbled by the call from the L'Arche Adelaide community and excited about the journey we are going to all walk together. So my official journey began on the 1 December which has meant I've hit the road running! I'm now setting up our house of welcome and hospitality, and engaging the outside community in our quest to find the right people to join us as Assistants, and help

nurture and grow our community.

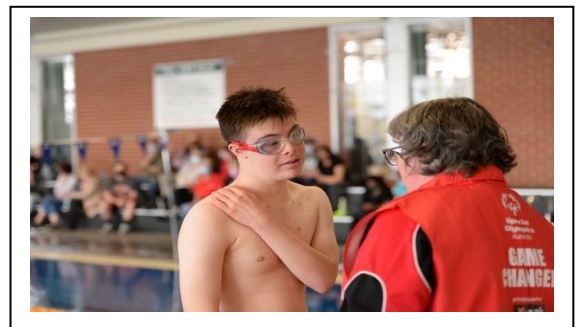
I give thanks for the wonderful support we've received from St Francis Anglican, and look forward to our ongoing collaboration. I trust that this will lead to the provision of opportunities for people in the community to be a part of activities that nurture skills and passion, and provide opportunities to meet others. If Covid has taught us anything it is the importance of connection and meaningful relationships.



I have been blessed to have worked within organisations that provide support for people with disabilities, from respite, schools, children services, and later in supported accommodation. They've given me the opportunity to walk with and learn from some very colourful characters. I was lucky enough to spend some time in an Irish L'Arche community which has left incredible life-giving marks that I'll always carry with me. It has given me the drive to advocate and provide support to our core people to live life to the full and care for the whole person.

Sport is another one of my great loves which drew me

in to being a part of Special Olympics as a coach, official and mentor. I still love to get out on the netball court but play it socially these days. I also love walking and pool swimming.



Many of you would be aware of my connections to the Faith and Light community. Besides sharing one of the same founders with L'Arche, we share similar beliefs in nurturing the whole person, plus having lots of fun along the way. That's me for now. I look forward to meeting you all, and please know that you are always welcome to pop into our house when we are up and running. Please feel free to contact me on 0418 497 539.

We look forward to officially welcoming Tracy at her commissioning on Saturday 15 January during our annual community weekend.