



What's News – December 2021

L'Arche Hobart Beni-Abbes Community

NEW L'ARCHE HOBART GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The L'Arche Hobart Annual General Meeting was held at 40 Pire St on 4 November. Those of us who gathered were able to express our gratitude to all – those present and those absent – who have put in so much effort to keep our community alive over these last troubling few years. We were unanimous in our deep appreciation of the leadership and countless voluntary hours that Brendan Sullivan, our exiting Chairperson, has given to our community over his six years of leadership at the Board level. We are also heartened by the fact that though he steps down from the Board, Brendan's commitment to remain a very active community member remains the same. Thank you Brendan for all the love and effort you have shown us through your actions over so many years. It has been a mammoth effort.

After long discussion prior to and during the AGM it was decided that while we wait for the discernment process to take place for a new Community Leader, the leadership of L'Arche Hobart will be a shared one. We now have an expanded Board of Management and this will

continue to meet on a monthly basis. The board has the continued commitment of several 2020/21 Board Members – Michael Stanelos (our new Chairperson), Jon Parkes (Treasurer), Leigh Delaney (Secretary) and Eamonn Pollard. Community Council members will continue to meet on a fortnightly basis and currently these are Lesley Lewis, Claire Manthorpe, Leigh Delaney, Maria Flynn, Paula Sullivan and John Coleman. Each alternate fortnight the two groups will meet as an extended Board of Management. All Community Council and Board members are elected members of the L'Arche Hobart Board of Management. There will be at least fortnightly communications between Michael Stanelos (Chairperson) and John Coleman (Community Council rep) in order we have clarity around how our mission is being fulfilled.

We therefore have a section of the Board that has responsibility for the legal and financial aspects of our Community – that can ensure we use our resources wisely and in line with the Identity and Mission of L'Arche. We also have a section of the Board (Community Council) that takes responsibility for the planning and animation of community

events, communication between L'Arche Hobart and members and friends, encouraging new people to become involved and trying to ensure that our current people with and without disability feel valued, heard and supported. As a team we want to build on the extraordinary life that is so clearly present here in L'Arche Hobart.

There is a great feeling of energy and hope at this time – and a trust that these governance arrangements will work for us as we steer our way into our new way of being L'Arche. We have the opportunity to create something quite unique. We need all of you reading this to support and encourage us as we discern how we move forward. Please feel welcome to contact *any* of our Board of Management folk if you have particular questions, ideas or concerns.

We are grateful that Claire Lawler, who is the newly appointed National Leader of L'Arche Australia, will continue to maintain her close relationship with L'Arche Hobart and assist and guide us as we discern our ongoing steps as a L'Arche Community.

John Coleman
Community Council member



From left: Michael Stanelos (Chairperson), Leigh Delaney (Secretary), Jon Parkes (Treasurer) and Eamonn Pollard. We will have photos of Community Council members for the next edition.



Christmas BBQ, nativity play and Rosey's birthday celebration – 12 noon Sunday 5 December, 40 Pirie St. See page 11 for full details.

Christmas Carols – Thursday 16 December – see page 11 for details.

Note: There will be no Solidarity in December (as previously advertised) or January.

All welcome

Index

1. New governance structure, events
2. Prayer Points, editor's ramblings, things ...
3. Medal for Fr Terry
- 4-5. L'Arche Australia Retreat
- 6-7. Vale Miriam Sayer
8. Recent activities
9. Maintenance, excess furniture
10. Café L'Arche
- 11-12. Calendars of events 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.

Bits and pieces

Dear L'Arche friends,

Not much to add this month. I hope you're well, not being overwhelmed by Christmas plans and that you enjoy the newsletter!

Claire Manthorpe

Editor



Prayer Points

This month we especially pray for:

- * All members of our community.
- * Family and friends of Miriam Sayer as they mourn her passing.
- * David Treanor as he finishes his term as National Leader of L'Arche Australia and takes up a new position.
- * Claire Lawler as she moves into the role of Interim National Leader.
- * The Krishnan and van Galen families as they welcome baby Shivani, daughter of Hannah and Vasaant.
- * Hillary and Jared as they start their married life together.
- * All those affected by Covid, especially those who have lost a loved one.
- * L'Arche Brisbane as they discern a new Community Leader.
- * That, in this season of Advent, we take the time to prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas.



Above: Ed and Trish van Galen with their first grandchild, Shivani Angelina Krishnan. Trish (Parkinson) was one of our early live-in assistants.

Below: A more recent live-in, Hillary Moore, recently married Jared Bond in Ontario, Canada. Through the wonders of technology, we were able to watch the ceremony from here and share in their joyful day. Congratulations!



Guilford Young Medal awarded to Fr Terry

The Archdiocese of Hobart recently created an award, named in honour of the late Archbishop Sir Guilford Young, to recognise people “who have made a substantial contribution to the mission of the Church in Tasmania”. Twelve people were honoured in this inaugural year, including Fr Terry Yard, one of the founders of L’Arche Hobart. Amongst the other recipients were Mr Robert McManus who was Treasurer of our Board for a number of years, and Sr Jill Dance RSJ who, with her Josephite Sisters, has always been supportive of our community. Congratulations and thank you to all of them!

Fr Terry’s commendation is, unsurprisingly, quite long, and makes for interesting reading.

Fr Terry Yard was born in Ulverstone. He entered the Seminary in 1958 and was ordained by Archbishop Young in 1966 in Deloraine. After he was ordained, Fr Terry was appointed as an assistant priest at Invermay and since then has worked in Bellerive, New Town, Devonport, Launceston and the Meander Valley.

Fr Terry’s priesthood has been deeply pastoral and his strong connections to Catholics and the wider community demonstrates his commitment to the service of others.

The list of organisations and works that Fr Terry has been involved in, whilst also being a busy parish priest, is as varied, as it is lengthy:

- L’Arche
- Marriage Encounter
- Clarence Football Club – Chaplain
- Young Catholic Workers
- Inter-Church Trade & Industry Mission – Chaplain
- Vietnamese Community – Chaplain
- St Vincent de Paul
- Ashley Youth Detention Centre, Deloraine
- Diocesan Representative Maritas (Marriage Education)
- Launceston General Hospital – Chaplain
- Faith & Light

Fr Terry has spent much of his priesthood in chaplaincy roles. He began as a chaplain for the Inter-Church Trade & Industry Mission, where he claims to have really been thrown into the deep end. As a very young priest he was sent to a local foundry where he had to speak with all the employees, with the aim of building up a rapport with the staff so that in the event that they really needed somebody to talk to, they already had a connection with their chaplain. Fr Terry realised quickly that this was both important and privileged work; with one man telling him that he was the only person he had to talk to. Fr Terry was later appointed as a chaplain to the Launceston General Hospital, a place that became like a second home to him as he was there so often.

His work with both L’Arche and Ashley Youth Detention Centre is particularly noteworthy.

During the 1980s Fr Terry was instrumental in establishing a L’Arche community in New Town, where adults with intellectual disabilities live in community with able adults, as equals. Fr Terry maintains strong connections with L’Arche and they said of him on the occasion of his golden jubilee “...he has lived both as a priest and as a cornerstone of the L’Arche Hobart community. We give thanks for his gifts and for his faithfulness to the mission and identity of L’Arche. Father Terry, you are a true Universal Brother to all.”

Fr Terry has had a long involvement with the Ashley Youth Detention Centre. While he was in the Meander Valley he would visit the centre every second week and share a meal with the young people at the centre and spend some time chatting to them; giving them a different adult to speak with. He said “I accept where they are at. They appreciate an ear and I appreciate their perspective.”

Fr Terry’s long, faithful and service focused priesthood, makes him a worth recipient of this medal.



Archbishop Porteous presenting the Guilford Young Medal to Fr Terry at St Mary’s Cathedral on 23 November.

With thanks to the Archdiocese of Hobart for this material.

L'Arche Australia Retreat

“Mud and sunglasses” was the cryptic theme for the first L'Arche Australia online Retreat which took place on Saturday 30 October.

We gathered in eight localities – Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane, Alice Springs, Adelaide and Perth. There was a bit of wrestling with the technology to start with but we were able to join with approximately 150 people on the retreat. The program

started with some input – music, a reading, reflection – and then we had lunch in our communities. (It was probably breakfast in Perth!)

After lunch we moved into a range of activities. The theme invited us to take the symbolic “mud” from our eyes and see things afresh. Some people went for a walk, others did some art work, others spent time in the “quiet room”. Afterwards we gathered again with the other

communities and shared stories, interpretations of the theme and so on.

The technical wizardry was coordinated by Tony Robertson in Brisbane. Tony even broke us into smaller online groups and we had the opportunity to interact with the Brisbane community and chat to Stewart and his children! One of the highlights was spotting familiar faces on screen in many different places.



Trying to get the IT to work.



Garry added some music.



Shared lunch. No-one went home hungry.



Quiet walk after lunch. Snow-capped Kunanyi was magnificent.



Hobart and Brisbane catching up.



We were excited to see Stewart and his children.



Leanne, in Hobart, showing Stewart, in Brisbane, her artwork. Pretty cool, eh?



Louise created a lively piece of art.



Louise and Felicity.



Brendan and Adrian.



And right at the end, we sang Happy Birthday to Claire Lawler, who is in Sydney.

Vale Miriam Sayer

Short Reflection on the life of Miriam Sayer

It is my belief that the life of every person has meaning and impact and importance regardless of our abilities or limitations. However hidden the meaning might appear, every life is gift. Some people's lives however, especially illuminate and energise the lives of others – often without the illuminator's intention or knowledge that they are having any effect. Miriam Sayer was an "illuminator" and an energiser for me – but not just for me of course – for countless others – for people with and without intellectual disability, for students she taught and teachers she worked beside, for musicians she sang and sometimes played along with, for groups with whom she worked and prayed and demonstrated with for justice and peace. And many more. Miriam was an illuminator for these people and also of course for her family and those of you reading this who knew her.



You see, Miriam's life shone. I remember an old Quaker friend of Miriam's saying to me one day, with just a touch of exasperation – "Miriam has enthusiasms." What I felt she meant was that when Miriam would have an impulse to go and do something she would often just go straight ahead and do it rather than "carefully discern for a goodly length of time". I can see there's some truth in my Quaker friend's observation – but just take a moment to consider the variety of wonderful endeavours Miriam entered into and how many lives she touched – and those that I will mention are only some.

Firstly, she was of course a very fine primary school teacher. Now there's nothing too radical about being a primary school teacher, but she taught in several quite challenging state primary schools – and also at the prestigious Friends School in Hobart which would have had its own particular challenges. Clearly not totally content with the ordinary – Miriam also had a couple of stints teaching on Manus Island – long before it became a concentration camp.

She was always interested in people with special needs – in fact she was part of the first Special Needs postgraduate programme offered at Tas Uni in 1974. Sometime after that, Miriam successfully applied for a travelling scholarship to go

to Vancouver to see how children with disabilities were being integrated into Canadian schools. Though a busy teacher, she began volunteering at the newly formed L'Arche Community in Hobart. Over many years Miriam lived in L'Arche houses both in Hobart and in Canberra. By this time her days of classroom teaching were over – later I'll touch on some of her other forms of teaching.



But in the late 1990's Miriam moved back to the UK to live in the semi monastic Northumbria Community – close to the Isle of Lindisfarne. There she lived a life of hospitality and celebration, prayer and work. She loved it and is still remembered with fondness in that community after all these years. Miriam had two stints in Northumbria before coming back to Hobart to resume her connection with L'Arche and Quakers. Those who knew her well were very aware that Miriam was a person whose faith was shaping her life. She was very influenced by Celtic Christian spirituality and the particular insights of Quakers – but her fundamental view, I believe, was that our faith needed to be useful.



When Miriam was very sick – some twenty years ago – she thought her death was imminent. And we her friends and family thought so too. The wake that she organised then was the opportunity for us to gather and to remind her of her own uniqueness and value – to remind her of how much she was loved. What a marvellous idea. Don't you think we should all have one of those little wakes?



Around that time I woke early one morning and knew I needed to write a song that said something of Miriam. I had an image in my mind of her sitting in the little flat in Lawrenny Court – an image of her in the garden there – her garden of beauty and her vase of yellow flowers. I wrote the song “Yellow Flowers” in that early morning about twenty years ago. Miriam knew it was her song. It references Lindisfarne – the Lindisfarne of Hobart and the Derwent River – and the Lindisfarne of Northumbria. Thank you Miriam – our illuminator.

John Coleman

(extracts from the eulogy delivered at Miriam's memorial gathering, Smithton 19.11.21)



Mowing, gardening, never-ending tasks...



The wet weather has meant the grass has been growing at lightning speed! Here's Garry having a go at taming it.



Peter is just the man you need for those high bits of pruning.



Job done. The green waste bin is overflowing. We're always on the lookout for helpers! See page 9.

What have people been up to?



Pictured at the AGM, new Chairperson Michael Stanelos, Fr Terry, and retiring Chairperson Brendan Sullivan. The night of the AGM, there was a spectacular Aurora lighting up the southern skies – even the heavens were cheering us on!



Mel came to visit and everyone was very happy to see him.



Happy birthday Lauren! (And Dennis)



Louise presenting her Learning Activity project on the history of jewellery and getting her certificates. Great morning Louise, well done.

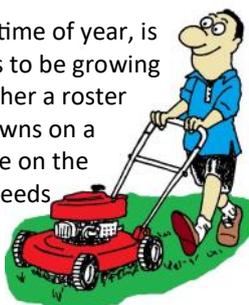


Can you help? Need some furniture?

Maintenance at 40 Pirie St

We have a wonderful facility in the house and gardens but, like all buildings, things wear out and maintenance will need to be done. As part of setting things in place for the future of our community, I have volunteered to look after the ongoing maintenance. If you identify any issues which need to be rectified please either talk to me when you see me around the place or phone me.

A major issue for us, particularly at this time of year, is the need to mow the grass which seems to be growing as you look at it. I am going to put together a roster of people who are willing to mow the lawns on a regular basis. Obviously the more people on the roster the less frequently each person needs to do it. We have a battery powered mower so you don't need to provide anything other than the energy to push



it around. If the lawn is kept under control, it takes a bit over two hours to mow it so it would be good if we could get enough people to make up teams of two people. If you are able to help please let me know .

I am also keen to know if you have any home maintenance or construction skills, irrespective of whether that is as a handy-person or tradie. Obviously we will call in professionals for things like electrical and plumbing work but the more we can do ourselves the better.

Thanks for your help.

Leigh Delaney

0409 871 037



Furniture to give away (for a donation)

The reorganization of Beni-Abbes means that we have a number of furniture items which are no longer required. The following items are available on a first-come first-served, as-is basis for a donation to the community. The items are in the shed at 40 Pirie St and can be viewed by contacting me on 0409 871 037. If you are interested in anything, please contact me by Friday 10 December. Any items not claimed will be disposed of after that date.

Quantity	Item	Description
1	desk	corner, veneer chipboard, 1000mm x 1000mm x 740 mm high, with keyboard slide and monitor shelf
2	chair	recliner, blue leather
1	filing cabinet	2 drawer, MDF, 470mm x 450mm x 700mm high
1	microwave oven	Anko, 540mm x 410mm x 300mm high
1	desk	4 drawer left hand side, veneer chipboard, 1110mm x 455mm x 730mm high
1	desk	6 drawer left and right, laminex, 1200mm x 520mm x 740mm high
1	desk	4 drawer right hand side, shelf left hand side, pine, 1060mm x 590mm x 770mm high
1	dining table	pine, 1860mm x 960mm x 740mm high
1	dresser	stained pine, 3 doors and 3 drawers in lower, 2 glass door cupboards in upper, 1400mm x 470mm x 1950mm high
2	bed ends	pine single bed ends
1	dining table	stained timber, 2100mm x 1000mm x 780mm high
1	desk	2 drawer and shelf right hand side, laminated wood, 1500mm x 690mm x 760mm
1	washing machine	top loader, Speed Queen commercial
1	freezer	upright, Westinghouse, 620mm x 650mm x 1700mm high
1	desk	3 drawer right hand side, stained pine, 1100mm x 470mm x 770mm high
1	microwave oven	Casera, 420mm x 330mm x 260mm high
1	chair	dining, pine
1	coffee table	wood with chess board squares in wood inlaid, 390mm x 390mm x 400mm high
1	coffee table	wood with ceramic tiles top, 970mm x 650mm x 480mm high
1	coffee table	wood, 410mm x 435mm x 340mm high
1	drawers	laminex, 4 drawers, 405mm x 400mm x 725mm high
1	chair	bucket style, blue suede
1	chair	office chair with gas lift

November Café L'Arche – what's to say? The pictures speak for themselves.



This is Greg Wells, a wonderful singer songwriter.



A rousing rendition of "I Have a Light"



December 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Anniversary of naming the house "Beni-Abbes" in 1983.	2	3	4
5 Christmas BBQ 12 noon, 40 Pirie Street	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 	13	14	15	16 Christmas Carols – details below	17	18
19 Rebecca Kaminski's birthday 	20 Helen Quinn's birthday	21	22 Jenny Coleman's birthday	23	24 Paula Sullivan's birthday	25 
26	27 Liza Schapira's birthday	28	29	30	31	

You are invited to our Annual Christmas BBQ and Nativity Play. PLUS Rosey Dean's birthday!

12 noon, Sunday 5 December at 40 Pirie St, New Town.

Please RSVP by 1 December: email hobart@larche.org.au

Please advise any dietary requirements.

Please bring a salad to share. Meat, bread, condiments and punch will be provided.

(P.S. If you forget to RSVP, just come anyway!)

Christmas Carols – Thursday 16 December, gather at Louise's house at 5 pm, then sing carols as we stroll to 40 Pirie Street for a light tea.



Joy to the World!



January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
						HAPPY NEW YEAR	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13 Marianne Grant's birthday	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20 Judy Towart and Andrew Stanton's birthdays	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27 Angie Clarke's birthday	28	29	
		<i>L'Arche Bendigo visiting Hobart</i>					
30	31						

Nothing formal has been planned for January as many people will be enjoying holidays and perhaps even going away.

We'll let you know if any events come up that you might like to attend.

In the meantime, we hope you all have a happy and safe time over the festive season and return reinvigorated for 2022!

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



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



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