



What's News — March 2022

L'Arche Hobart Beni-Abbes Community

Community Council

In the last newsletter, John Coleman explained that, until we embark on the discernment process for a new Community Leader, the leadership of L'Arche Hobart will be a shared one. Our expanded Board of Management continues to meet on a monthly basis.

The board has the ongoing commitment of several 2020/21 Board Members – Michael Stanelos (Chairperson), Jon Parkes (Treasurer), Leigh Delaney (Secretary) and Eamonn Pollard. (Their photos were in the last newsletter.) 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. We have recently welcomed Felicity Rose back to Community Council. We are pleased that Stewart Betts is back in Tasmania and back on the Board, so we've included his photo here with the Community Council folk. Each month the two groups will meet as an extended Board of Management.

We therefore have a section of the Board that has responsibility for the legal and financial aspects of our community and 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.

Please feel welcome to contact *any* of our Board of Management folk if you have any questions, ideas or concerns.



Paula Sullivan



Lesley Lewis



John Coleman



Maria Flynn (in festive spirit)



Felicity Rose



Stewart Betts



Claire Manthorpe

Events!

Wednesday 13 April – Passover Meal and Foot Washing liturgy –
6.00 to 8.00 pm, 40 Pirie Street. This is a L'Arche tradition shared worldwide on the Wednesday before Easter.

Wednesday 20 April – Coffee Night 7.00 to 8.30 pm, 40 Pirie Street.
Members of the National Listening and Speaking Group will be our guests at this gathering.

All welcome

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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,

We did have some lovely plans for the early part of the year but along came Omicron and we had to put things on ice. The warm weather allowed us to enjoy some outdoor gatherings. We were sorry that the Bendigo community weren't able to come over for their holiday but there was just too much Covid around.

Now we're looking forward to welcoming the National Listening & Speaking Group in April. We're also looking forward to the annual Passover Meal and foot washing which is a very moving ceremony.

We were happy to welcome Stewart Betts back, after his time in Brisbane helping with the transfer to a new Community Leader. And, watch this space, there's a possibility of an Enneagram session coming up.

Claire Manthorpe
Editor



Prayer Points

This month we especially pray for:

- * The people of Ukraine and all who are caught up in the violence there.
- * Those who have lost their homes, lives, and businesses in the floods in Qld and NSW.
- * The Stokes family as they rejoice in the birth of Jacob Michael.
- * The safe delivery of Baby Clarke.
- * Fr Terry Yard who is unwell.
- * L'Arche Adelaide as they welcome members with disability into their first house.
- * That, in this season of Lent, we take the time to prepare our hearts and minds for Easter.

The washing of the feet

The word became flesh so as to wash my tired feet. He touches me precisely where I touch the soil, where earth connects with my body that reaches out to heaven. He kneels and takes my feet in his hands and washes them. Then he looks up at me and, as his eyes and mine meet, he says: "Do you understand what I have done for you? If I, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you must wash your brothers' and sisters' feet" (John 13:13-14). As I walk the long, painful journey toward the cross, I must pause on the way to wash my neighbors' feet. As I kneel before my brothers and sisters, wash their feet, and look into their eyes, I discover that it is because of my brothers and sisters who walk with me that I can make the journey at all.

Henri Nouwen

Dear friends,

Before Easter, you'll have the opportunity to participate in our Easter Online Retreat, led by Candice Wilson, from L'Arche New Zealand, and Jim Cargin, a member of the L'Arche International Communication team based in the UK.

The retreat will take place from 3 to 9 April. It will comprise five talks by Candice and Jim by video link on five days and two days where you are invited to join a small group sharing for reflection and exchange with other retreatants in your time zone/community for about an hour, if you so wish. More info on lafermedetrosly.fr/en/session/easter-hope

To register for this retreat, send us an email to welcome@lafermedetrosly.com

It would be great to have you with us! For the team of La Ferme – Paul, Thomas and Tim



Another new life! Jacob Michael Stokes was born on 7 Jan and is the first grandchild for Carol and Leigh Stokes, and son of Martyn and Adelphie Stokes. Congratulations to all the family!

The Community and Spirituality Forum is a group of two representatives from each L'Arche community around Australia. John Coleman and Felicity Rose are our Hobart representatives. We meet monthly with the National Leader, Claire Lawler, our purpose being to pray and share together how life is being lived in each community, to uphold the mission

of L'Arche and to assist the National Leader in planning events and programs for all the communities to take part in.

As Lent begins, I am reminded that Tony Robertson, who facilitates the weekly (via Zoom) L'Arche Prayer each Thursday evening will take us through the Lenten journey to Easter. This is a half hour prayer time in the traditional way of

L'Arche households with a short time of fellowship afterwards. It is open to anyone who receives this newsletter and the weekly reminder.

(Details, including the weekly theme, can also be found on the L'Arche

Australia Facebook page.)

We have reviewed the guidelines for the former Prayer Partners, now termed Companions on the Journey and prioritised formation and retreats for this year. A mix of zoom and face-to-face presentation will be used, and later we hope to be able to gather for some residential events. Claire presented these suggestions to the National Council for the Community Leaders to consider.

If you google L'Arche Australia you can find out lots more about the structure of L'Arche.

Felicity Rose



L'Arche Australia is conducting a raffle to support our mission and values. All the sales will contribute to support L'Arche Australia in solidarity with L'Arche Zimbabwe. The prize is this magnificent Queen size quilt made by a member of L'Arche Brisbane.

Please note that online tickets are only available to NSW, ACT, TAS, SA and QLD residents. For details and to buy tickets go to: <https://www.raffletix.com.au/larchequiltraffle2021>

Tickets are \$2 each and the raffle closes on 16 April. Phone 0447 217 468 for more info.

One of the splendid mulberry trees bore its last fruit this summer, and then fell over one night. It has certainly opened up the side yard. (See page 5 for a last look.)



Can you help?



Our big-hearted friend Epiphany is trying to raise the money to bring her seven orphaned nephews and nieces from Rwanda to Australia so she can care for them here. Epi is their only living relative. It is a very expensive process and any contribution would be greatly appreciated. Go to <https://gofund.me/7ae14301>

We finally found an opportunity to thank Willie Gearman and Arbie Jaurigue for their many years of dedication and service to Beni-Abbes. Because of covid rules, it had to be a small event. Below, Rosey and Paula thanking Willie; Maria, Garry and John thanking Arbie (out of shot, unfortunately). They have been important in the lives of many and we hope they will continue to be a part of our community.



Solidarity, and Ukraine

March Solidarity was our first official event since Christmas, due to the impact of Covid. It was good to gather again. After dinner we presented Katrina Wickham with a small gift and thanked her for all she gave to the community as an assistant, going above and beyond on many occasions in her care for our core members. We hope she will continue to be part of the community.

Then we talked about the two L'Arche communities in Ukraine, and Bogdan, the member who featured in the film "Let the Birds Loose", made in 2016. Bogdan could be angry but he doesn't want to have stones in his soul. We spent some time in solidarity with Ukraine when we each had the chance to offer a prayer (silent or aloud), light a candle, and place a stone into a bowl, symbolising the laying down of anger.

If you haven't seen the short "As I Am" film about Bogdan, here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvvN6IE6np4>



Above: Louise thanking Katrina for her contribution to Beni-Abbes and for being a good friend.

Right: Focal point for our prayer for Ukraine.



Prayer for Ukraine

Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and
protect them.

We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and
wisdom to guide their choices.

We pray for the world
that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity
to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways
so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people of
Ukraine
and for all the world.
Amen.

CAFOD (UK)



News of L'Arche in Ukraine

The inhabitants of Lviv and Ternopil try to do all they can for others

Update – March 3, 2022

Basia Wójcik, International Envoy for L'Arche Ukraine, reports: "Both cities, Lviv and Ternopil, where our Communities are located, are relatively far from armed conflicts for now. The main goal of everyone today in Ukraine, the members of our Communities included, is to survive and to help others survive."

The inhabitants of both cities, including members of our Communities with and without intellectual disabilities, try to do all they can for the benefit of their

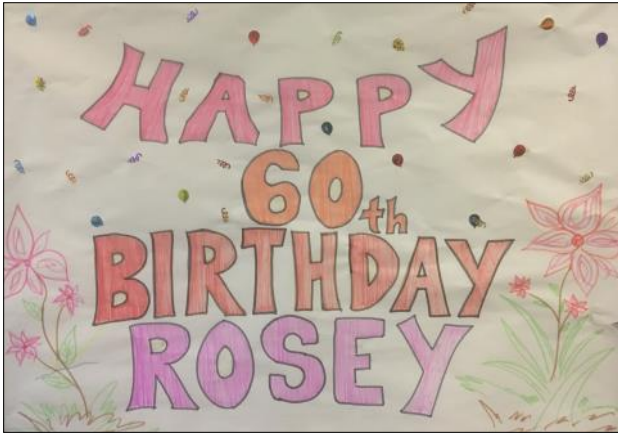
country: first of all, they take in refugees, some for the entire duration of the war, others who are on their way further west, temporarily. Our community's house in Lviv welcomed a group from Kharkov in the East several days ago already. Today (3rd March) children from eastern Ukraine who have lost their parents arrived to Ternopil. The city is organizing safe places for them to stay. Besides, many members of our Communities are engaged in baking bread and preparing other food products for long-term storage. Core Members from both communities are staying with their families at home. They are all safe for now.

Communities receive many expressions of support from a number of Federation

communities and from individual members. L'Arche in Poland and in Lithuania have offered to welcome refugees from L'Arche in Ukraine. Cash collections are organized in many places.

The way the war develops fills our Ukrainian friends with great optimism. They are suffering greatly because of the victims, orphaned children and the destruction of their homeland. However, they are well organized, strongly motivated and full of energy. They look forward to the future with optimism, all the time hoping for a quick end to the war. They are grateful for all the gestures of solidarity and any help they can get."

Regular updates can be found on the
L'Arche International website:
larche.org/en/welcome



Rosey Dean celebrated her birthday with a family dinner, with cake and candle at 40, and a shared birthday party / Christmas BBQ. She's a wonderful woman and we are always happy to celebrate her life.



Above: One of Rosey's many gifts.



Left: Passing the candle.

Below: Adrian making a speech in honour of Rosey.

The wind had other ideas about lighting the candle on the cake!



I was going to crop out most of the tree, but decided you can have one last look at it, because ... see page 3.

Christmas



Top: Carols in Pirie Street on 16 Dec. Some neighbours emerged, and passers-by stopped. A fun way to get into the festive spirit.



The traditional Christmas barbecue and play was held on a beautiful day and was combined with Rosey's birthday party. We were very happy to welcome her extended family.

It was also good to incorporate some young talent into the Christmas play.



Thank you to cooks Nigel and Samundra, and kitchen elves Jenny, Susi and Samundra.

And thank you to everyone who came and made it such a wonderful day.



The players were all wonderful, although the "animals" played tricks on us. The inn keeper ended up with the sheep, the shepherds had camels, and the angels had the donkey. But no matter!

The wise men, below, were played by Pastor Bill, Father Krish and Monsieur Nigel.

Joseph (Peter Ramsden) and Mary (Rosey Dean) were visited by angels, shepherds and finally the wise men bearing VERY large gifts.



We all sang carols and finally Peter and John led us in "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" before a blessing from Fr Terry.

Baby Shower!



Our very dear friends Angie and David Clarke are preparing to welcome a little one into their family. They recently held a baby shower to share their joy. There was much laughter, singing, food and frivolity. (And can all that pink mean something?)

A special interlude was the traditional L'Arche passing of the candle where each person had the opportunity to give their blessing and good wishes to David and Angie. Angie especially appreciated the "deep wisdom from the experienced mums".

In a twist on a usual baby shower, the family asked that, rather than baby gifts, donations be made towards recovery from Typhoon Odette in the Philippines.



Left: Cake!

Right: Angie and Louise sharing a joke.

Below: Margo and Graeme Clarke, David's parents.





April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Chris Coleman's birthday	5	6	7 Community Council 10-12	8 Eileen Glass' birthday	9
10 Palm Sun 	11	12	13 Passover Meal and Footwashing 6-8 pm	14 Holy Thurs 	15 Good Fri 	16 Easter Vigil 
17 Easter Sun 	18	19 Eamonn Pollard's birthday	20 Coffee Night with National Listening & Speaking Group 7-8.30	21 Community Council 3-5, Combined C'cil and Board 5.30-7.30	22 Louise Pickering's birthday	23
National Listening and Speaking Group meeting in Hobart						
24	25	26	27	28 Raphael Jaurigue's birthday	29	30

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

Do you have any aluminium cans?

Our friends Leanne Cowen and Terry Watson collect aluminium cans.

If you ever have any, could you bring them along to any one of our events (or contact *Claire by email*) and we'll make sure they get to Terry and Leanne.



Belated happy birthday to Stewart Betts (16 Jan), Mel Betts (19 Jan) and Rennie Jaurigue (2 March). And happy birthday to Garry Freeman (20 March) and Geoff Whittaker (31 March).

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Paula Sullivan – 33 years – Apr 1988

Hannah Shackcloth – 12 years – Feb 2010

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



Phone 0458 006 811



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



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