

L'ARCHE ADELAIDE NEWSLETTER



**A seed
planted ...
a vision
manifests!**



House opening - January 2022



Early Gathering - August 2014

Since our last newsletter we've finally received the great news that our application for NDIS registration has succeeded. We can now put up a shingle on the front door of our house that says, "Open for community living and hospitality."

We first met as a diverse group of peoples in Jan. 2013, to share a common vision concerning a L'Arche house here in Adelaide. After nearly 10 years of gathering, praying and planning, the open door at 9 Dinwoodie Ave, Clarence Gardens brings realisation to that vision. Thanks to members and friends of L'Arche Adelaide who held to that vision. We thank St Francis Anglican Church, and their priest, Rev. Andrea McDougall, for making available their rectory for our purposes for the immediate future. We thank God for making the vision a reality.

As I write we've opened the house for weekend respites for various young people to get an initial taste of L'Arche community living. Before too long we'll welcome our first permanent community members. – Hallelujah!

However, this is just the beginning. We must now manifest the L'Arche principles we espouse and bring them to reality in the ups and downs of everyday community living.

In 2018 L'Arche songster John Coleman worked with our members to create a L'Arche Adelaide community song, "A Seed's Been Planted." In our early years together we've been putting down firm, faith-based roots. With our house opening the early shoots of community living are becoming visible. May those shoots now grow tall and strong as we embody faith-based community living in our first house. – Thanks be to God!

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



Prayer Points

All-embracing God, we offer prayers for our wider L'Arche community:

- for L'Arche Ukraine as it continues to offer care amidst immanent war
- for the leadership roles of our Interim National Leader, Claire, and our National Chair, Julia
- for L'Arche National discerning a new Leader

And we pray for our community & our house:

- for those people who come to live in our house, and / or utilise our living skills programs
- for House Assistants who offer their expertise and care with house members
- for the families whose children come to live in the house, in terms of respite, or permanently
- for our Community Leader, Tracy Tohl, and her work across our community
- and that our Board ensures due diligence regarding community governance.

..... O Lord, hear our prayer, Amen.

Happy Birthday!

Sep	Oct	Nov
18 Julie S	2 Peter B	2 Wendy J
	2 Shelley C	12 Andrea M
	25 Rob T	19 Lyn W
	26 Norelle P	26 Bev
	29 Claire L	

Weekly Prayer

L'Arche Australia's online weekly time of quiet reflection and prayer is held every Thursday at 6:30 PM South Australian time

The Zoom link is the same each week:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82643471339>

Passcode: prayer

All Welcome - Join Anytime

Finance & Resources Update

- The NDIS Registration was finally received in August, and we thank God that we are now able to plan for welcoming members with disabilities into our house at Dinwoodie Ave.
- Our Community Leader, Tracy Tohl and her two assistants welcomed members with disabilities into the house for two weekends of respite in September/ October, so we are now receiving NDIS funding to supplement our cash flow.
- We expect that two members with disabilities will commence permanent residence in the near future. We are planning to have a third permanent member with a disability and regular respite services to other people with disabilities.
- We continue to pay the house rental as well as our Community Leader's salary. This has presented challenges for our finances, however we've been blessed with a large number of donations; so a big THANK YOU to everyone assisting to meet these expenses.
- We continue to pay L'Arche Australia for administration, payroll and accounting services on a quarterly basis. L'Arche Australia are paying all relevant business insurances for the next 12 months as a grant to L'Arche Adelaide, so a big thank you to them.
- We thank God for the provision of sufficient resources and finance during our set-up phase. It's been exciting to have several community gatherings with members with disabilities in the house over the last few months; great to experience the L'Arche hospitality in our house.
- *Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to assist us in building up and maintaining our funds. 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

Reflection from our Community Leader, Tracy Tohl

As a community we continue to widen our experiences in Community Life and engaging in the general wider community. We have had opportunities to be a part of the global family of L'Arche. We continue to build our friendships with members of St Francis of Assisi Anglican Church as well as creating new pathways as we journey along the way.

So, some highlights along the way:

- Community members came together for an outing on Popeye and lunch out.
- Reflecting on the International Charter
- Visit from John Coleman and a chance to share some songs together
- L'Arche International Festival of Light
- L'Arche Family Day
- St Francis' Blessing of the animals
- L'Arche Australia Retreat Day (via Zoom)
- Welcomed members and visitors for hospitality/ respite

Event coming up:

- Future Proofing Workshop - Tuesday 22nd November - For family members and caregivers of people with an intellectual disability - Aims to help to plan and prepare for the future

Tracy can be contacted by Mobile: 0418 497 539 or Email: adelaide.leader@larche.org.au



Dinwoodie Community House Update

It was with much pleasure that during October the Dinwoodie community house received its first accommodated people for weekend stints of Welcome and Hospitality (respite). This was valuable for the people concerned and their respective families because it gave them a feel for whether permanent accommodation would work for them. It also gave valuable insight as to the useability of the house for the type of people who may live there. Reports indicate that the weekends worked well.

At this stage we are looking forward to welcoming our first permanent person into the house this November 18.

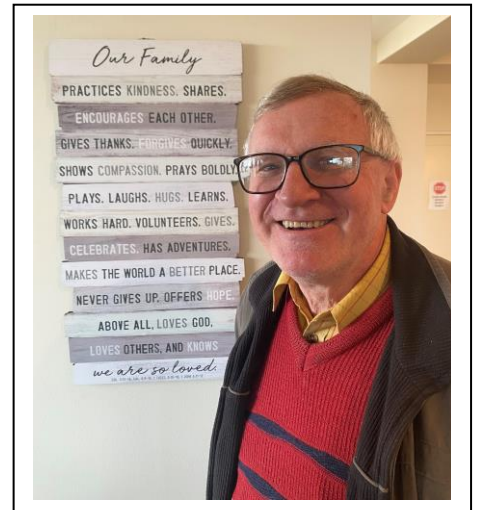
In all, we are aiming for the Dinwoodie house to accommodate three permanent people, leaving another bedroom available for those seeking short-term Welcome and Hospitality opportunities.

Bedrooms have not been fully furnished, leaving room for occupants to furnish their rooms with their items, thus giving them a sense of ownership of their rooms. We remain very grateful for all the items donated to the house.



Introducing our Honorary Treasurer, Mel Zerner

My first introduction to L'Arche was through my wife, Jill Sommerlad, when she was part of the first group of people interested in forming a L'Arche community in Adelaide way back to 2013. The group consisted of other well-known L'Arche people like Trevor & Lyn Whitney, Colin, Yvonne & James Zschech, Rochelle Whelan, Helen Warmingham, & Margie & Laura Zantvoort and we met in various homes for the first couple of years in typical L'Arche hospitality style with a meal and then a meeting. At first, I was more of an observer but gradually my interest increased particularly as my business and finance skills were required. Jill has worked in the disability sector for many years, and we were involved in social events with people with disabilities well before the L'Arche meetings commenced. I also had a son with some mental illness, and I felt a call from God to be involved in assisting the people in these communities.



In being involved with L'Arche, I have always first put my focus and energy on the purpose of what L'Arche is all about – providing supported accommodation & services to people with disabilities in a Christian community. I really love being with people with a disability as they show me their own gifts and teach me to take life in a more simplistic and less busy way.

So, my journey in L'Arche continued through an Interim Board process with Trevor and Rochelle, then a member of the full Board, taking on the Honorary Treasurer role, all the while being actively involved in all the L'Arche gatherings first at the Julia Farr chapel and more recently at St Francis Anglican Parish at Clarence Gardens in either the church services, events at the hall or in the new house of accommodation. This L'Arche model of Christian support for people with disabilities is so powerful and is much different to the secular model, but it continues to encourage me to ensure that this model continues in our society as God's purpose.

In my other interests, I am a member of the St Peters Lutheran Church at Blackwood and am involved there as a Pastoral Assistant. I am also involved at a Board level in the Lutheran Church of Australia.



I enjoy being a grandparent & spending time with my family as well as gardening, playing tennis and bush walking to keep fit. I grew up on a farm in the Mid-north of South Australia and have many personal and volunteer projects in the region that continue to draw me back to the places that I knew and loved as a child and young person.

I pray that God will continue to sustain me to serve the L'Arche organisation and give of myself to care for all people with and without disability.

(Thanks, Mel, for sharing a bit about yourself and your journey in L'Arche. We very much appreciate having you as Treasurer of the L'Arche Adelaide Board, and especially thank you for the enormous amount of work you continue to do in preparation for welcoming members with disabilities into our community house.)