



# COMMUNITY

# NEWS

JUNE 2025



## Community Update

As we know, since Damian stepped down, L'Arche Brisbane is without a community leader. In the interim, Michael, myself, Megan, our community life coordinator, and our house coordinators, Martin and Jackson, manage to keep the boat afloat. The reason why we did not recruit a new leader straightaway comes from the concern that the role has become increasingly more complex and time consuming. L'Arche Australia wanted to find ways to refocus the leader's role onto the mission. We hope that the revisited position – which we recently advertised for Brisbane – will help the new community leaders across L'Arche Australia to spend more energy on leading the community. As for now, Claire and the discernment team (Carmel from the Board, Anne Low and myself) have pre-selected four applicants for interviews in early June.

We all want a community leader who can implement our new mandate and fulfil our mission, who will unite our community and will help us to deepen and to grow. It is an important time, an important decision for all our members. Let us keep the discernment team in our prayers. Let us give our full support to our future leader.

Contributed by Pierre Scholtes

**Jenny enjoying a day out at  
the Jurassic Lawn Safari at  
Rivermakers**



# Meet our community

## Julie Ha Awi

My name is Julie Ha Awi, and I am 22 years old. I come from a small town in Myanmar, but I spent over a decade living in Malaysia. Growing up in Malaysia was incredibly challenging—I couldn't even attend school because I had to prioritise work to support my family financially. I never imagined I would be able to break free from that difficult life cycle. However, just four years ago, my family and I were granted permanent residency in Australia. Since then, my life has taken a positive turn. I am currently pursuing a Diploma of Paralegal Studies, which is a pathway to earning a Bachelor of Laws. My dream is to become a lawyer and make a real difference by helping those in need and supporting my community.

Since August last year, I have been working at L'Arche Brisbane. It has been a truly rewarding experience, as L'Arche focuses not only on the well-being of core members but also on the development of assistants.



Working here has taught me to appreciate life more and has deepened my empathy for people with disabilities. This experience has strengthened my resolve to make a positive impact in the lives of others. I like giving back to the community in ways that reflect my passion for helping others. I am deeply grateful to God for blessing me with this life I never imagined, and I remain committed to using these opportunities to create meaningful change.



## Dhahabu Mohammed

My name is Dhahabu Mohammed, and I serve as an assistant at Carina House, part of L'Arche Brisbane. I am a wife and mother of two. I joined L'Arche in July 2024, after arriving in Australia in September 2022. I come from Kenya, East Africa, where I lived and worked in Nairobi before moving to Australia.

Being part of L'Arche Brisbane has greatly shaped my understanding of intellectual disability. I have built meaningful connections with core members and feel fortunate to work with a supportive team.

In my free time, I enjoy exploring new places and learning something new.

I live by the motto: "Do your best, put God first."







# Faith & Friends

## Celebrating Danny's 20 years in L'Arche

This month, we are set to celebrate an incredible milestone, Danny's 20<sup>th</sup> L'Arche Anniversary. Over the past two decades, Danny has brought so much heart to L'Arche Brisbane through his deep faith, love of music, and generous spirit. Whether it's sharing stories, singing along at gatherings, or welcoming new friends, Danny has been a friend, a teacher, and a source of strength in our community.

Danny was one the guests who attended the Morningside House opening. Despite the upstairs being roped off, Danny took the time to explore 16A. Afterwards, he told Catherine that he had chosen his room for when the time came for him to move in. A short two years later, he did just that moving into the very room he chosen two years before.

Over the years, Danny's journey with L'Arche has taken him well beyond Brisbane. One of the highlights was travelling to Belfast to represent our community at the L'Arche International Federation Assembly, alongside Michael and Martin. This year, Danny is preparing for another great adventure as he

embarks on a road trip along the west coast of the USA with Jackson and Chris. The trio will visit some iconic American sites while sharing stories, laughter and each person's unique musical tastes.

While in the U.S., they are also hoping to catch up with former live-in assistants, Sydney and Colin.

Throughout his time in L'Arche, Danny has nurtured deep and meaningful friendships that make experiences like his upcoming holiday possible. His strong connection with the community is a testament to the relationships at the heart of our shared life. Danny also shares a special bond with Marianne Grant, his companion on this journey, and their regular catch-ups have become treasured moments for both of them. He is a loyal friend and often a wise, mentoring presence to Anthony and Jenny. These relationships reflect the very mission of L'Arche: a community built on mutual care, friendship, and belonging.

To honour Danny and the gift of his 20 years with us, we're gathering for a celebratory dinner on June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at East Leagues Club. It will be a night of stories, laughter, and gratitude as we reflect on the blessing that is Danny.



**Danny playing  
Throw Throw  
Burrito at the 2024  
Games Night**



# Together in **PRAYER**

As winter settles in and we gather close in community, let us take a moment to hold one another in prayer:

- For Danny, as he celebrates 20 years with L'Arche Brisbane and prepares for a big adventure in the USA with Jackson and Chris. May his journey be joyful, safe, and full of wonder.
- For all our volunteers, past, present, and new, in gratitude for the warmth, joy, and support they bring.
- For those in our community who are unwell or recovering, may they be wrapped in healing, care, and peace.
- For L'Arche across Australia and around the world, especially as communities continue to live out our shared mission in diverse and beautiful ways.
- For our community leaders including the new leaders of L'Arche Melbourne and L'Arche Bendigo, that they may be guided with wisdom, patience, and love in all they do.
- For all who feel lonely, uncertain, or weary, may they find rest, companionship, and a sense of belonging in this season.
- For our L'Arche communities around the world who continue to live in the shadow of war and violence, especially in Syria, Ukraine, and Bethlehem. May peace take root, and may safety, dignity, and hope be restored.

Let us remain united in spirit, and continue to walk gently with one another.

## Help Us Prepare for Our Community Weekend!

Our annual L'Arche Brisbane Community Weekend is happening at the end of August, and planning is already beginning!

We're gathering a small group of people who are interested in helping shape this special event. Whether you'd like to help with ideas, music, prayer or simply want to help make this a fun and joyful time for everyone attending, we would love to hear from you.

If you're interested in being part of the planning or helping out on the weekend itself, please get in touch with Megan ([megan.dodd@larche.org.au](mailto:megan.dodd@larche.org.au))

Let's make it a weekend to remember!





# Vote for L'Arche Australia



The current My Giving Circle round runs until 30th June 2025, and L'Arche Australia is currently in 12th place. With your free vote and any donations, we can push into the top 10 and secure a \$2,000 grant!

Funds from this campaign go towards important initiatives like the National Listening and Speaking Group, which gives members with a disability a real voice in how our communities are run. These vital activities aren't directly funded through the NDIS; only your support makes them possible.

Please take a moment to vote, and don't forget to invite friends and family to support us too.

[Vote here](#) and help us build a more inclusive future!

## Brother Sun & Sister Moon: An Online Retreat

Community members are invited to join a reflective online retreat exploring the life, joy, and deep spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi with Hazel Bradley. Through five inspiring talks, daily meditation, and optional prayer partnerships, you'll be guided into deeper connection with creation, simplicity, and faith.

Available as a 5-day retreat (July 7-11) or at your own pace over 5 weeks

Online - videos and resources provided in advance

Cost: 100€

For more info or to register, email:  
[welcome@lafermedetrosly.com](mailto:welcome@lafermedetrosly.com)

