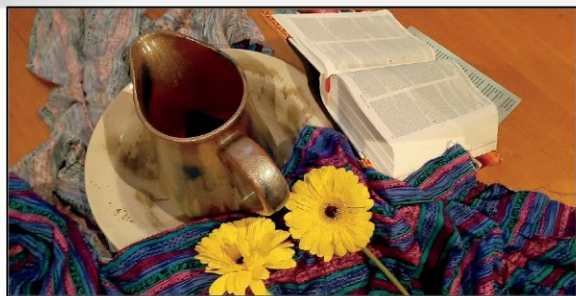




Welcome to Our Mid-Year Newsletter!

We continue to live life to the fullest within our communities, embracing the mission of L'Arche within joy and purpose.

We take a moment to reflect on all that we've lived together in light of our Mission. This journey has been full of meaningful moments, shared growth, and continued commitment.



 www.larche.org.au

   L'Arche Australia



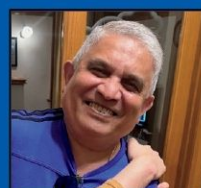
LITURGY OF THE WASHING OF THE FEET

The washing of the feet is a sacred and symbolic liturgy cherished by L'Arche communities around the world. As Jesus knelt to wash the feet of his disciples, he revealed a powerful model of humility, love, and service. This simple yet profound gesture reminds us that we are called to care for one another with tenderness and respect.

In L'Arche, it unites us in our shared humanity. It is a moment where vulnerability meets dignity, and where service becomes a sacred expression of love. Through it, we remember that true leadership is found in compassion and that every person has the capacity to both give and receive love.



WELCOME TO NEW COMMUNITY LEADERS



It is a great pleasure to announce Mel La Brooy as the new Community Leader for L'Arche Melbourne. Mel commenced in this role on the 19 May 2025.



It is a great pleasure to announce Kevin Bourke as the new Community Leader for L'Arche Bendigo. Kevin Bourke commenced in this role on the 26 May 2025.



NATIONAL LISTENING AND SPEAKING GROUP

The National Listening and Speaking Group meets twice a year. Our members are Garry (Hobart), Stewart and Rose (Melbourne), Marilena and Anne (NSW), Peter (Brisbane), Mark and Cameron (Adelaide), Yolanda (Perth). This group plays a vital role in ensuring that the voices of our members living with a disability are heard and valued across Australia. It serves as a sub-committee of the L'Arche Australia National Board, offering guidance and insight grounded in lived experience.



ANNOUNCING OUR MISSION AS L'ARCHE

ACU Conference -Melbourne

Members of the L'Arche Melbourne community and I recently participated in the ACU Conference held on 22-23 May, centred around the theme of the Image of the Disabled God Disability. The Imago Dei and Practical Consequences. Our session, Belonging Together, highlighted the spirit of inclusion and community that lies at the heart of our mission. We were deeply encouraged by the warm and thoughtful response it received from all participants at the conference.

Catholic Mission National Conference- Sydney

L'Arche NSW community led the conference in the Washing of the Feet which was very moving ceremony for all gathered. L'Arche NSW then led a workshop with YCW in the afternoon. This was a powerful witness of L'Arche to the Australian community.

We look forward to continuing to share our mission and build spaces of true belonging.

Claire Lawler - National Leader





LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

I am very happy to be writing in this mid-year Fund-Raising Newsletter as Chair of the National Board of L'Arche Australia. I was warmly welcomed into L'Arche in late November, and my ongoing reflection is one of gratitude as I witness the generosity, commitment and integrity of all L'Arche Community Members as we walk together in our mission with joy and purpose. I am especially grateful to Julia Walters, the outgoing Board Chair and to Claire Lawler, the National Leader.

Our purpose as the National Board is to steward the Mission of L'Arche and our current Mandate* in mutual relationship and co-responsibility with the Communities and Projects across Australia who lead, live and embody the mission locally.

*Mandate for L'Arche Australia 2023-2028 & Constitution for L'Arche Australia Ltd

Who we are - our identity

We are people with and without intellectual disabilities, sharing life in communities belonging to an International Federation.

Mutual relationships and trust in God are at the heart of our journey together.

We celebrate the unique value of every person and recognise our need of one another.

What we do - our mission

We make known the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities, revealed through mutually transforming relationships. We foster an environment in community that responds to the changing needs of our members, whilst being faithful to the core values of our founding story.

We engage in our diverse cultures, working together toward a more human Society.

We are renewing our national structures and processes to continue to enable ever greater engagement and participation whilst meeting our responsibilities within Australia and to L'Arche International. We are engaging more broadly with L'Arche community participation in Conferences (2025 Australian Catholic Mission Conference – L'Arche Sydney and Australian Catholic University Disability Conference – L'Arche Melbourne). We are renewing and establishing Committees of the Board to enhance our performance and service to L'Arche Boards and to increase our public profile – Safeguarding Committee, Communication & Fund-Raising Committee and Audit & Risk Committee. We are grateful for the expertise and generous contribution of many people to these Committees. This is all made possible through your generous and continuous financial, prayerful and active support for L'Arche across Australia.

Every blessing.

Philomena (Phil) Billington - Chair, L'Arche National Board

*We celebrate the unique value of every person and recognise we need each other:
With and without disabilities, we create community together*

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with a donation***



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☐ My Choice \$.....

☐ \$100

☐ \$30

OR

I would like to make a gift each month

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box

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Email region@larche.org.au or return the completed form with your details
so we can thank you and send your receipt

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4

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***To speak to us about a donation. Call
the office: 0490 759 528***

***Leaving a gift in your Will is a simple yet powerful way to support L'Arche Communities.
Please consider leaving L'Arche a gift in your Will- contact leader@larche.org.au***

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L'Arche Australia keeps donor's
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Post in the reply-paid envelope