



COMMUNITY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2025



From the Community Leader

Dear friends of L'Arche Brisbane,

Welcome to this special edition of our September newsletter. As I approach three months since stepping into the role of Community Leader, I want to thank you for the way you have welcomed me with open arms. From my very first days, I have experienced the warmth, generosity, and life-giving spirit that make this community so special.

Over these past months, we have shared in many moments together. We have held various community gatherings that have deepened our sense of connection, with the highlight being our recent Community Weekend. It was a time filled with laughter, reflection, and celebration - an expression of what it means to be "together at the table." As we celebrate milestone moments and anniversaries within our member and assistant teams, we also pause to recognise the everyday moments of joy. These come through fellowship with one another in our group meetings, shared meals, and the simple but profound experiences of life

together. They remind us of the heart of L'Arche: a place where friendship, welcome, and belonging are lived out daily. Looking ahead, I am excited about the opportunities before us to strengthen our community and share its spirit more widely.

Grace and peace,

Christina Jeong
Community Leader



Meet our community

Siddharth Contractor

Hi everyone,

I'm Siddharth (Sidd). I came to Australia when I was 16 originally from India and completed my studies in Melbourne. Over the years, I've had a few interesting experiences – I was a barista champion for a few years in Queensland, and I'm also a passionate fish-keeping enthusiast.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family, playing and watching cricket, and I feel very lucky to have my large family all here in Australia. One of my proudest recent achievements was buying my first home, just a day before I turned 30.

I really enjoy working at L'Arche and have developed strong bonds with the core members. I also feel fortunate to have been trusted with the opportunity to step into the role of stand-in House Coordinator for Carina House. I have been with L'Arche for 3 years now



Philipp Beck

My name is Philipp and I came here to L'Arche Brisbane on an internship as part of our school program at Hibernia School. I am 18 years old and am doing an apprenticeship as a carpenter at Hibernia School, which I will complete next summer after two years of training. My interests are my dog, watching anime, doing things on the computer and cooking with my friends. I am a very helpful person and open to new challenges and tasks. I like to pass on my knowledge and skills. I find Australia fascinating, and I had heard Brisbane is a very beautiful city.



I enjoyed getting to know the individual people and helping them overcome the small and large challenges in their everyday lives.

Philipp returned to Germany on July 27th.



A Place at the Table

Our Community Weekend at Brookfield

At the end of August, we gathered as a community at QCCC Brookfield for our first Community Weekend since 2019. It was a time filled with joy, creativity, and connection.

The theme of the weekend was "coming Together at the Table" Throughout our time, we reflected on what it means to live the L'Arche Charter in Brisbane today. There were intentional discussions, moments of prayer, and creative workshops that helped us to express our hopes and commitments for the future.

Music and art were highlights for many. Saturday's craft activities gave space for peaceful creativity, while the band and dancing filled the hall with energy and laughter. As Nitish shared later at Formation, "the band made everyone very happy." Others noted that these times of fun allowed people to relax and truly be themselves.

While organised activities were important, many people noted that it was the informal chats after meals or the casual greetings

exchanged while moving about the grounds were just as significant in offering chances to connect, meet new friends and feel welcomed.

We also celebrated important personal milestones, including Warren's first year living in L'Arche Brisbane. On the Sunday, Christina presented Warren with a certificate to mark this achievement in what turned out to be a very moving and memorable moment.

Feedback from across the community has been positive with people mentioning feeling welcomed, included and uplifted. During the meeting where the local Listening and Speaking Group were asked to provide their feedback, Peter was so enthusiastic he suggested we have Community Weekend every month!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make the weekend possible. Those who planned and facilitated sessions and times of prayer, supported the assistants by delivering equipment and assisting with routines, led music, and offered quiet acts of care behind the scenes. Each contribution helped create a space of belonging and celebration.



Audrey and Anthony dancing to the music of BSB Swing

L'ARCHE
You invite us to give life
You are with us in
calm and troubled waters.
Be our hope
as we continue the
Journey together

Together in PRAYER

As we look back on our time together, we give thanks for the gift of community and look forward with hope. The Charter reminds us that we are called to build relationships of trust, celebrate diversity, and create spaces where everyone has a place at the table. Our weekend at Brookfield was a beautiful step on that journey.



As spring begins to unfold and we gather around the table of community, let us hold one another in prayer:

- For Warren, as he celebrates his first year living in L'Arche Brisbane. May his life here continue to be filled with friendship, joy, and growth.
- For the success of our recent Community Weekend at Brookfield, in gratitude for the moments of connection, creativity, and celebration we shared. May its spirit continue to inspire us in our daily life together.
- For those in our community who are unwell, recovering, or feeling low, may they be surrounded with comfort, strength, and care.
- For those in our community who are unwell or recovering, may they be wrapped in healing, care, and peace.
- For all who are lonely or searching for belonging, may they find welcome, kindness, and a place at the table.
- For L'Arche communities across Australia and around the world, especially those living in the midst of conflict or hardship. We pray for peace, safety, and the courage to keep building communities of hope.

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

Bridging the Digital Divide with Good Things Australia

L'Arche Brisbane is excited to be partnering with Good Things Australia to host a special event as part of Get Online Week. This national initiative shines a light on the digital skills divide and supports people to feel more confident using technology in their daily lives.

Our event will be held on Sunday, October 26th, and is open to the public. Together, we'll explore practical ways to build digital confidence, whether that is learning how to connect with family and friends online, exploring new apps and tools, or simply discovering how technology can make everyday life a little easier.

To help make this possible, we successfully applied for and received a \$1,000 grant from Good Things Australia.

We look forward to welcoming community members, friends, and neighbours to join us in this important initiative. By coming together, we can help bridge the digital skills gap and create more opportunities for connection, independence, and inclusion.



Vote for L'Arche Australia



The current My Giving Circle round runs until September 30th and L'Arche Australia has currently fallen behind to 27th place.















Funds from this campaign are important source of fundraising for L'Arche Australia. 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!

SEPTEMBER



2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4  L'Arche Australia Prayer @7pm via Zoom	5 	6  Warren's 1 st Anniversary Brisbane Bronco's Club @ 11:30 pm
7	8	9	10	11	12	13  
14 	15	16	17 	18  L'Arche Australia Prayer @7pm via Zoom	19 	20
21	22 	23	24 	25	26 	27 
28  Shared Meal @ St. Oliver Plunkett's @ 5 pm	29	30				

NOTES



Martin Falcongreen - Sept. 5th



Alison Semple - Sept. 22nd



Pierre Scholtes - Sept. 13th



Letwin Gurapira - Sept. 24th



Bill Semple - Sept. 14th



Chris Austin - Sept. 26th



Clive Tillman - Sept. 17th



Siddharth Contractor- Sept. 27th



Navpreet Kaur - Sept. 19th