



Sydney Grapevine



June 2016

Newsletter for L'Arche Sydney, Address: PO Box 4458 Homebush NSW 2140 Phone: 02 9787 8132 ABN: 47 638 387 615



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Message from Community Leader

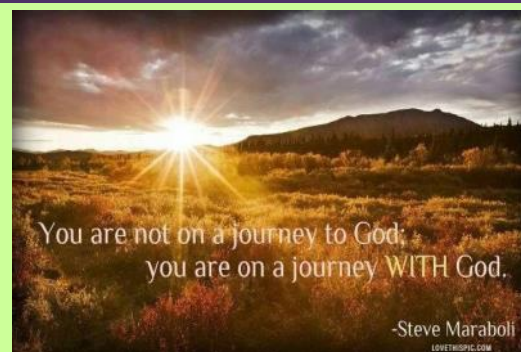
Retreat

With our Sydney Retreat, coming up, I thought of us taking some time to prepare ourselves for this time together so that we go equipped to embrace what God has in store for us.

'Retreat' means 'to withdraw, to drawback.' Throughout the ages, the Christian tradition has understood Retreat to be an important part of spiritual formation. That is, time consciously set aside for God, a deliberate act of stepping outside of the normal routine by withdrawing (not running away) from the noise and pressures; the immediate and insistent claims of our social, domestic and workday responsibilities in order to be in a quiet place where all our senses are open and ready to listen to God.

The goal of our retreat is to be as fully present as we can be, to God, ourselves, and to each other, so that in 'keeping company with God' and each other, we take the opportunity to give quality time to re-collect, remember, re-examine – that which is important and central, so we can be renewed for the journey ahead.

It is a recognition of the need to be by ourselves for a time to think, pray and reflect on 'who we are, what we are, where we are in relation to God, self, others and the world. We are going on a retreat to seek God through sharing time together which is why it's important to provide a context and framework for our retreat – sharing our call to L'Arche, solitude, stillness, time for prayer, music and reflection, time for God, time to stop, and time to talk and share things that are not always possible in the demands of normal everyday life.



Message from Community Leader

We are all part of an ongoing faith journey, which takes place in the 'landscape of the heart'. Retreat is pilgrimage because it is 'the symbolic acting out of an inner journey'. We begin to take stock of our lives and look for that which really counts. This often requires that we take steps to leave the pressures and demands behind for a time and 'return to the heart'.

Hence retreat is a journey to the centre of the spiritual world of our own inner life, and as such we need to prepare ourselves, as retreats are not always a nice place to be, as it often exposes our hearts, intentions and vulnerabilities.

Retreats gives us the opportunity to stop, to withdraw from the pace of life, allows those things we suppress to come to the surface. So, to truly open our hearts to God often means that we discover what Jean Vanier calls the weaknesses and vulnerabilities 'that are happening all around and within us. Retreat can bring us face to face with the 'in between place' of our old comfort zones and the huge changes of a 'nothing makes sense', new age culture in an increasingly post modern world. We can see, with this understanding, that retreat is not an escape from reality but a very real engagement with reality and often about facing the truth about ourselves. So, in taking the retreat we must bear in mind that God is at work, and that the inner journey stuff is not always pretty. We can also see that the purpose of retreat is to dispel illusion, set aside distraction and begin to penetrate the superficiality that deadens sensitivity to God. It is the opposite of a 'spiritual ostrich' attitude of burying our heads in the sand.

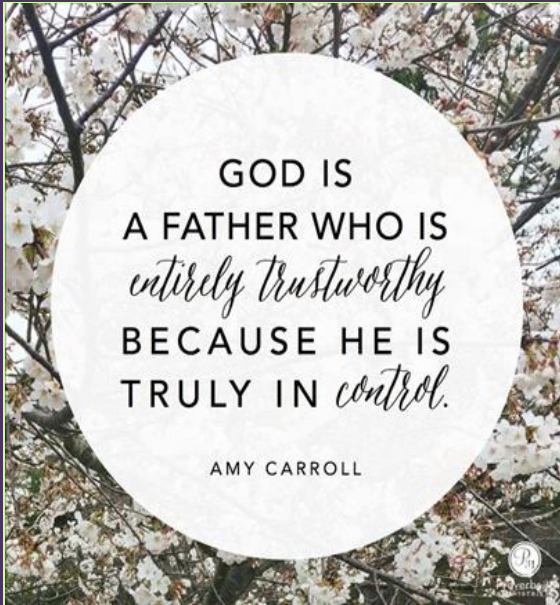
The greatest benefit of retreat, is that it gives fresh ways of seeing; opens new possibilities, enabling 'familiarity to no longer breed contempt'. Perspective gives the ability to see a situation objectively, stepping back to gain a bigger view. It is to see things as others do; and especially as God sees it!

This is our principal aim in going on retreat – to stop, listen, reflect, pray, share so that we see with new eyes, think with new minds, so that even though we have to go back into the very same situations, the same set of circumstances, the same roles, responsibilities and relationships that we left behind to come to the place of retreat, we do so having changed inside.

Retreat helps us get everything back in place, not a distorted view that is overblown or grotesquely out of synch but a true reflection of what is. The fact of 'this is me, this is where I'm at', this is where I begin the rest of my life. This can happen because renewed perspective brings us to a place where true priorities are reordered, a sense of direction is renewed and a right kind of action is resolved.

To quote Henri Nouwen we 'can be preoccupied with being occupied.' To be too busy, on the go all the time not only brings exhaustion without, but also a fragmentation within. This results in a disconnection, (with self, family, church, God and people around us) leading to compartmentalisation, resulting in 'a vague discontent where our lives stagnate in a resigned acceptance' preventing us from actively seeking new discoveries of God and each other. Retreat helps us dispel this murkiness of discontent by looking honestly at ourselves in relation to God. In this we need to be gentle with ourselves & others, as sometimes tired and battle scarred, we simply need the healing of space to be, to rest and be restored. To be aware of this is to seek out our God so as to rediscover his grace.

Message from Community Leader



The bottom line is this – God is worthy of our time – all else is a bonus. It's not about success, achievement or anything else other than being open to God, the God of surprises and those moments of serendipity.. Expect to know self better. Expect to be more aware of a sacramental world; to be content with God alone; to be changed from the inside out. But above all remember the principal purpose is to seek God for himself as the 'one thing necessary' so as to learn to 'love him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength'

See you at the Sydney Retreat in September



Message from Burwood House

Our lives have been very busy at Burwood house over the past month, but we love it that way.

We talk about things, we share, sometimes we disagree, but yes, we are loving it – being busy and sharing life together!!!

We have welcomed Ronny to Burwood house after Gregoire's departure. Ronny has settled in really well and it seems like he has been with us for much longer than a month.

Sydney VIVID light festival was a great reason to get out of the house a stroll around the beautiful city on a frosty winter night. It was a little bit cold, but lucky us, after a group prayer led by Geoffrey, we found a very close parking spot close to the Circular Quay. We enjoyed street musicians and other activities. A hot drink after at the local coffee shop was one of the highlights of the night.



Message from Burwood House



The month also started with a celebration of Kathleen's birthday. Kathleen wasn't feeling well for few days, but "Oh yes!", she was ready to celebrate her special day. We had a nice intimate dinner at Burwood house with a couple of friends and Kathleen's sister Maryanne joining in for the party. We all decorated the house, prepared a nice meal, and Kathleen's friend Lynne from Ashfield Church Parish baked birthday cupcakes! It was a very special night just as Kathleen wanted it.



Message from Burwood House

Joanne reminded us that it was her 21st year anniversary being at L'Arche. We had a nice time together remembering her happy moments from the past years. One of the most special ones was the trip to America where she went to Disney land.

Bruce was very excited to pack all his things as he went for a family gathering to Dubbo for the Queen's birthday long weekend. Bruce shared that it was very cold out there, so he was very lucky to have packed all those extra jumpers in his luggage.

The celebration of Francoise's birthday was another great reason for everyone to gather with lots of food, fun and laughter. Francoise got a hot water bottle as her birthday present to keep her warm at night during winter – just what she needed!!!

Geoffrey and Lawrence got an invitation from our community friend Lisle to attend an International Dinner at Uniting Church in Croydon. So they did! Geoffrey had a chance to perform on stage as he sang an Elvis Song – 'Return to Sender', a song that he always sings whenever played in the Burwood van. People clapped their hands as Geoff sang. There were other performers during the great night out. It was an amazing event to attend and get a chance to meet other people at the Uniting Church.

It was a great time as we gathered for lunch at Merrylands house for Gabriele's birthday and we also welcomed a core member Benito from Philippines L'Arche community, accompanied by Letlet - the Community Leader of L'Arche Punla. We had fun during the day, lots of games and Joanne and Kathleen won 2 of the games played. They got chocolate as a prize and it was very kind to see that core members shared their prize with Benito so he can share it with all the members in his community when he goes back home to Philippines.

And Bonfire's birthday was another reason to enjoy great food and wonderful company...

So, you see, we love being busy ... we choose being busy as we live, share. Love and laugh...



*God's method of work
is extraordinary and
invaluable. He will
show us the way and
satisfy our desires.*

Message from Campsie House

Just as the weather starts to get really chilly and unfriendly, Campsie House is just as eager to gear and heat things up. The cold weather didn't stop us from being out and about. This month has been full of memorable celebrations and fun-filled activities. From warm welcomes to heart wrenching farewells, from get-together lunches with other houses to spiritual meet-ups and not to mention the endless birthday parties which gave us the feel of everybody seemingly having birthdays.



And speaking of birthdays, Campsie's most anticipated birthday celebration was none other than our dearest Bonfire's. Surprisingly, and to everyone's delight, he chose to celebrate his birthday in an Italian Restaurant (*Oh, it's not much of a surprise actually when we know his favourite food is lasagne*). Bonfire's closest: Lindsey, June, James, Michael Hill, Aileen, Angela and David made time to squeeze in the occasion. Bonfire also kicked off the month with his yearly YHA Talk with Arthur for Gosford Boys High School to continually inspire and spread awareness of social justice to the youth. He did it not only once, but twice!



Meanwhile, Janine's most sought after reunion with Donna and Kerrie at Riverwood was held off initially. Unfortunately, she had been down with fever for a couple of days and needed some time to recover. But not much to her dismay, her sister Bernadette surprised her one Sunday and took her out the whole afternoon for lunch and cuppa. Janine told us about it throughout the week and she almost forgot about going back to Riverwood. And finally, the long wait is over, we're taking her to Riverwood again this week! It will be a surprise and we just can't contain the excitement of seeing her blissful face on the day. Hopefully, we can talk all about it in the next issue.



This month has yet been another important milestone for Anthony. A couple more shirts have been added to Anthony's wardrobe favourites and he simply can't get enough of them. Lately, he can be seen helping a lot in washing the car, bringing out the garbage and tending the garden. He's also transformed or better I'd say his athletic side unleashed as he's making a lot of progress in his swimming lessons with Alex. Arthur and Mark are also readying him for some biking adventures, while John Attard is taking him to another Kiss Concert which he uses as motivation these days.

Message from Campsie House



Katie continues to blossom in her day program at DSA. People in her day program sing praises for her and couldn't admire her more for being such a "social butterfly" wherever, whenever and with whoever. And aside from hitting it big in the centre-based activities, she's also in for more living skills, activities and music therapy with her new programs when DSA resumes next month. And while Katie is taking a week off from DSA, she's been making use of her free time watching her favourite musicals/operas, making crafts and arts and going out for lunch, cuppas, picnics and strolls.

In addition to the main highlights was the picnic at Auburn. Priya brought the whole house to Auburn Botanical Gardens, where everybody burnt their legs out enjoying the tour around the different gardens, seeing various animals and sharing a sumptuous lunch at the community picnic area. And of course, the most awaited comeback of Stephanie from her month-long Europe tour! Even before she came back, she already sent postcards of the amazing places she had visited and we were just so much in awe seeing her and her family on actual photos of their picturesque journey

In spite of the so many reasons to celebrate, we can also feel our hearts break with the many people leaving. Just recently, Gregoire left to pursue his studies and be reunited with his family in France and followed by Rimlia to focus on her new growing family. Both of them have been our inspiration, our motivator, our friend, our brother, our sister and have filled a large part of our lives. Everything about them will be missed and although it will pain us, we can only be happy for them as they venture in life and live their dreams.

To Greg and Rimlia, THANK YOU! Hence, as they say, goodbyes are not the end, but only new beginnings of our journey.



Message from Merrylands House

Greetings and God bless

Merrylands house has been happy and peaceful, the members are all in good health.

Gabriele's birthday was a day of epic fun and entertainment as Burwood house and Campsie house joined us at Merrylands to celebrate. We played musical chairs with prize hand outs and we played Gabriele's favourite game, where we hid things in this case it was chocolates and the guests searched for them.

We also took Gabriele, Joseph and Andrew to the movies to watch "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" the movie was good and the members enjoyed it as it was quite entertaining and exciting.

The members of Merrylands house also had a weekend away and came back exuberantly happy, the assistants just as refreshed and enthusiastic.

On the 20th June, the Queen's birthday; was a public holiday so Lukasz drove the members of Merrylands house and Cohen to a beautiful park, the weather was amazing and allowed for us to have a picnic with a scenic view. It was a great day.



International News

Pope Francis visit to the Il Chicco L'Arche community in Ciampino, Italy

This past May, as part of his ongoing Fridays of Mercy ministry, Pope Francis paid a surprise visit to the Il Chicco L'Arche community in Ciampino, Italy, just outside of Rome.

In each of the 147 L'Arche communities around the world, people with and without intellectual disabilities share life together. During his visit the pope "sat with residents and shared a snack with them and the volunteers who live with them," Vatican radio reported. In the photos from the visit, the characteristic joy and spontaneity of L'Arche are on full display.

In my favorite photo, Giorgio, an intellectually disabled community member, smiles from ear to ear, hugging the white-capped pontiff, who hugs him back with equal enthusiasm.

I knew Giorgio well. In the late 1990s, just out of college, I lived and volunteered for a year at Il Chicco. I remember how Roman Giorgio was, in looks and disposition: the aquiline nose and dark eyebrows, his penchant for making espressos. I remember how he greeted each person with such glee, as if he or she were the most famous person in the world—an enthusiasm, I am not surprised to know, he would also bestow on the man who may actually be the most famous person in the world.

That was L'Arche. Amid the challenges of disability, there was total acceptance. Behind the veil of life's toil, joy abided in the smallest things: a hug, a good meal shared, a song sung together, a walk to the market to buy bread. The spiritual reverberations of living at Il Chicco still throb quietly in my life today. One experience remains emblematic.

It was a summer evening, and through a rare set of circumstances, Fabio, a core member of the community (as they are known), and I were the only two in the house. Normally there were eight of us, four core members and four assistants.

Each evening after dinner, we would light a candle, sit down and pray together in the living room. It was a short affair. We would sing, offer intentions and end with the song of L'Arche, a slow and tuneful prayer to Mary. But that would not work if only Fabio and I were there. Besides his intellectual disability, Fabio was deaf and mute.

Housemates for 10 months by then, Fabio and I were friends. We were born the same year, 1975. We knew things about each other. For breakfast he would eat sweet biscuits drenched in milk while I sipped a café latte. He loved hugging people and I loved receiving those hugs. His sign language was his own, and we all became fluent. Twisting an index finger on your cheek meant you liked the pasta and wanted more.

Fabio also shouldered another, very visible, burden. His face and body were marked by bone disfigurement. From furtive glances to overt avoidance, many people had a reflexive response to seeing Fabio that I witnessed many times. They were instinctively repelled, at least at first. I did not hold it too much against them. Our eyes may be for judging, but our hearts are for knowing. To know Fabio was to love him.

After our dinner together, I motioned to Fabio to follow me into our small basement chapel. I figured that quiet prayer was probably best. We sat together silently in the candle-lit chapel facing the altar. Above it hung a replica of the San Damiano cross. St. Francis, so the story goes, was praying before the 12th-century original in the Church of San Damiano in Assisi when God told him to repair the church. At first Francis believed it was the physical church that needed rebuilding, but later came to understand his broader mission. The church was broken by power and greed and Francis was called to change hearts. He lived to bring the church back to the simplicity of the Gospel.



Pope Francis visit to the Il Chicco L'Arche community in Ciampino, Italy

I sat there with Fabio, before that cross, feeling lost in my own thoughts and brokenness, as I often am when I set myself to quiet prayer. At a certain point, I looked over at him. Something was going on. Fabio was rapt, his eyes afire. He was staring intently at the cross and smiling. His expression, his whole being in fact, indicated he was communicating. But there was only the cross. I wondered what he saw. I got goose bumps. Then it happened. Still smiling and still staring at the cross, Fabio opened his arms wide, imitating Jesus or trying to embrace him, I could not decide. I think about it both ways because in both ways it is true. Fabio remained that way for a while: one broken man embracing another. Then he turned his body toward me, his arms still held out wide, like a cross, his face still beaming. He was inviting me in—into his brokenness, into the brokenness of the cross and into a paradox: I never felt so whole as I did at that moment. I opened my arms wide too and smiled back.

So much of life seems broken—from our inner lives of quiet desperation to the outer, conflict-ridden world. The church is also wounded and needs repair. Pope Francis knows this and his saintly namesake did too. But there is a beauty in this brokenness that Fabio taught me and that Pope Francis reminded me of with his visit to L'Arche. And the beauty is this: It is our brokenness that leads us into the embrace. We only have to recognize this and mercy will be ours.

Catching up with Dave by Barbara Lumley



On Sunday, the 19th June, Frank and I made our way from Westminster via British Rail to Uxbridge, west of London, to visit David Williams, who, most of you will remember was the previous Leader of Sydney L'Arche. We met his lovely wife Jane, for the first time and caught up with some of Dave's family, Louise, Callum and Cerys, who we had met in Sydney a few years back. By the way, Uxbridge's unusual name comes from its early Saxon settlement though its history goes back much further to the Bronze Age.

Dave had invited us to lunch. It turned out it was Father's Day in England and he had cooked a magnificent roast dinner and Jane had made a Lemon Meringue pie for desert. I mention this because my mother was English and as a child, whenever the family had Lemon Meringue Pie for desert, always on a Sunday, we

knew it was for a special occasion and were always very impressed!

Dave also took us out to a rather beautiful place called Little Britain. Jane, during her time as a local Councillor, had been instrumental in turning a nearby old quarry into a lake, fed by one of the rivers nearby and surrounded by woods and a walkway which created a perfect recreational space for fishing, bird watching and walks and no doubt, recuperating from the demands of modern urban and city life.

Last but not least we finished up at a pub beside one of Britain's major canals and watched the river boats moving along while we had our drinks and kept an eye on young Cerys.

We really did have a lovely day and so pleased to see them all again. Jane was not well, and was beginning treatment for the return of cancer. Since our return home, we have lit a candle each evening for her, a very small gesture I know, for this generous and loving family.

David sent his love and best wishes to all the community of L'Arche, Sydney.

Barbara Lumley

New resources for parents

The NDIA has partnered with the Raising Children Network website to create online articles and a videos series to help parents get ready for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

NDIA General Manager Media, Communications and Engagement, Maryanne Diamond, said the NDIS would provide Australian children who had developmental delay or disability with the reasonable and necessary supports they needed to live an ordinary life.

“These new online resources will help parents understand how the NDIS can support their child, be it through early intervention, personal care and support, access to the community, therapy services or essential equipment,” Ms Diamond said.

“The NDIS is a big change, but there’s things parents can do in the lead up to get NDIS Ready, such as find out when the NDIS will be available in their area and think about their child’s goals.”

The new NDIS resources are freely available at on the [Raising Children Network website](#).

Bruce Bonyhady: Chairman, National Disability Insurance Agency M-Enabling Summit – Washington, D.C.

‘When Disability Becomes Normality: The Boundless Potential of Technology’

- An opportunity for technological progress;
- An opportunity for social progress;
- An opportunity for economic progress.



In just 17 days—on July 1—Australia will begin the national rollout of a new model of disability services and support. That initiative is the National Disability Insurance Scheme—or NDIS.

I’ll explain what the NDIS is in a moment, but first I want to put this opportunity in context.

Imagine for a moment that a new marketplace is about to be opened.

Imagine that this new marketplace will give customers with disabilities a collective purchasing power of \$1 billion a year just for technological aids.

Imagine that those customers will have control over that technology spend, so that it best meets their needs.

The customers—and there will be more than 400,000 of them—will be in control.

To win their patronage you will need to be innovative, you will need to be responsive, you will need to be reliable.

Further imagine that this marketplace will have the richest database on disability anywhere in the world.

Now imagine the potential benefits for your business, for tech companies—from start-ups to multinationals—that use this new marketplace and data as a test-bed to refine and develop new products that can then be sold globally.

That is what the NDIS is. That is why I am here.. We’ve also received a great deal of interest from the World Wide Web Consortium’s Web Accessibility Initiative.

The leader of that project—Shadi Abou-Zahra—is a computer scientist, who became a quadriplegic after a swimming accident. In a recent interview, Shadi was asked about the moments that most surprised him when working on disability issues, and he said, ...‘The ones I enjoy the most are the situations where disability ceases to differentiate ... The moments when disability becomes normality.’

That, ladies and gentlemen, is what the NDIS is all about: creating a lifetime of moments when disability becomes normality. And, make no mistake, technology has a leading role to play in that transformation—in making life boundless for people with disability. How leading? That’s not for me to say. I’m not a technologist, let alone—as my children remind me—a savvy user of technology. So, I’m not about to stand here and say what technology can create or how far it can go—innovation does not work like that. Innovation—like people—works best when possibilities are boundless. It works best when we adopt a start-up mentality. It works best when we are prepared to try something new—and learn from the experience ... and try again. And learn again. And try again.

The point I am driving at is this:

We believe technology is critical to the success of the NDIS—that the better technology is used the greater the chance of creating a lifetime of moments when disability becomes normality.

With that in mind, what I want to do today is ...

- Explain the unique features of the NDIS; and
- Explain the challenges and, above all, the opportunities of the NDIS.

And—in doing so—help you to see why the NDIS should be seen as a platform for global innovation for you and your businesses.

NDIS revolutionary is the unique way it brings together three key organising and operating principles.

Let me spell out those principles for you.

Control and Choice

First, the NDIS is controlled by the individual with a disability and their family. They have the power. They are free to choose.

The Scheme therefore embraces the shift to consumer-directed and personalised supports that have emerged in a number of countries, but it is implementing this market-based approach on an unprecedented scale.

Over time we expect that ‘control and choice’ will unleash new and powerful market forces which will lead to much greater efficiency, effectiveness and innovation.

Insurance

Second, the costs of disability services have traditionally been approached with a short- to medium-term welfare outlook. Governments plan for expenditure over a 12-month to at most a five-year time frame—and the funds available change depending on the economy, tax revenues and the requirements of other portfolios.

Consequently, disability services have been highly susceptible to short- to medium-term pressures to cap or cut costs. Utilising technology to reduce long-term costs has not been a priority or even seen as a potential opportunity.

The insurance model of disability changes everything. Under an insurance model, expenditure is factored in over the life of an individual. Scheme sustainability is measured by minimising lifetime costs and maximising lifetime opportunities of all those who are insured. This approach creates an incentive to make investments that build independence and reduce long-term costs. That might mean ...funding specialist equipment that represents value for money because it transforms a person’s independence at home and in the community, or providing mainstream devices that are already accessible or include specialist applications, such as an iPad so a young person with an intellectual disability can develop the skills they need to live and work in the community, or using technology and the internet to help participants in the NDIS make informed choices rough access to reliable and timely information—and letting those participant-led choices spark new services, opportunities and innovation.

Community Engagement, Inclusion and Full Citizenship

Third, the NDIS recognises that governments alone cannot and should not be responsible for all care, because a quality life and citizenship are based on loving relationships, friendships and sufficient government funding for an ordinary life. The NDIS will be making a major investment in family and community capacity and inclusion, through an approach called Local Area Coordination—an approach which already has a long track-record of successfully developing local service responses in Australia and which has been adopted internationally. Now, the potential to augment this approach and achieve full citizenship through the internet of things, smart homes, smart cities, cognitive products and services and remote personalised service delivery using technology is enormous.

- ♦ The NDIS by itself is not an innovation,
- ♦ The NDIS is a platform for innovation,
- ♦ The NDIS is a unique opportunity to invest for a lifetime and start aggregating new ideas that make a lifetime of moments when disability becomes normality., The potential from technology for people with disabilities is boundless.

A Sign of Something Bigger Stephen Rigby

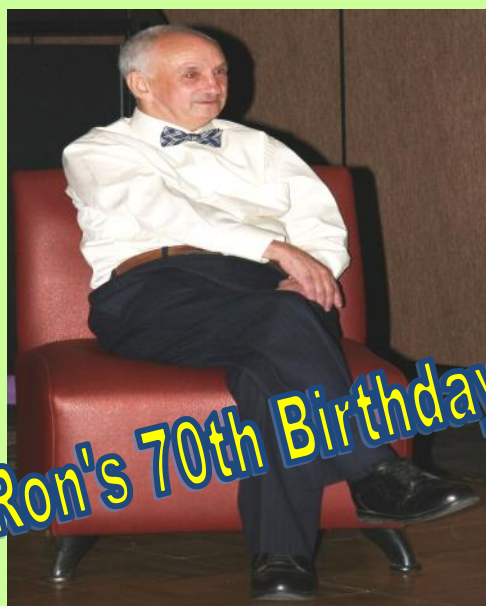
At present Stephen is living in Newcastle and is a Community and Board member of L'Arche Hunter. He wrote this story for *My Home in L'Arche* in 2014.

"My journey in L'Arche has at times been complicated. After spending fourteen months living-in in L'Arche Brisbane I moved to L'Arche Genesaret in Canberra. The community was in a time of transition. After about three months I was asked to move from one house to another within the Community. It was a time of struggle for me. The decision to leave L'Arche Brisbane had been a very painful one. I was struggling to settle into Genesaret and into this new house and new Community.

I would like to introduce you to one of my good friends in this house. The best way I know to describe Ron is that he is a gentleman; and I mean that literally, he is a gentle man. Ron likes a quiet and relaxed atmosphere. One of the things that first drew me to Ron is that he is a fellow caffeine addict; a coffee in the morning is an essential for both me and for Ron.

Ron also likes to be busy, he still works a few days a week even though he recently turned seventy four. One of the other things I admire about Ron is his skill in crocheting. He spends a lot of time in the lounge room in his house crocheting. One of my fondest memories is of him at a community weekend with some other people sitting together knitting, we jokingly called it the 'Knitting Circle'.

Another thing that I really admire about Ron and his crocheting is that he reminds me that the things that we do have an impact that we cannot always understand. When Ron starts crocheting he does not know what shape the ultimate product will take. He simply begins. In many ways he reminds me of that classic saying attributed to Confucius "the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step". It also reminds me that often we all need someone else to help us to see what is possible. Ron used to simply crochet pieces of wool together and then unravel them. One day an assistant had the idea of taking these pieces and creating out of the beautiful wall hanging pictured below. It now hangs in the lounge room of his house. Sometimes in L'Arche what we can do seems very small. I remember having a conversation with a house coordinator who put it this way, "when people asked me what I did today, I say "well I helped someone to get ready for work, I cleaned the house, had a rest, shared a cup of tea with someone and then helped to cook dinner". Ron and his wall hanging remind us all that the seemingly small can mean really big things. Ron helps me to remember that in L'Arche we are a sign of something bigger."



Ron's 70th Birthday



"I heard it through the Grapevine"

Continuing our Journey

L'Arche Sydney Retreat 2016



16 - 18 September 2016

Continuing our Journey

Date: 16 - 18 September, 2016

Time: 12:00 pm Friday - 12 noon Sunday

Place: Mount St. Benedict College,

Address - 449D Pennant Hills Rd, Pennant Hills NSW 2120

Cost - (Includes: Meals and Lodging)

\$250 Early Bird Registration

Early Bird rate applies to registrations and payments received by Friday, 29 July 2016

\$270 Standard Full Registration

RSVP by 1st May 2016

If you have any additional needs please Inform us

This Retreat Will Explore -

1. Our Relationship within L'Arche from different Timelines and Perspectives
2. What this Relationship looks like over a lifetime
3. Integrating Music in Our Journey in L'Arche



Guest Musician

John Coleman is a singer songwriter in the folk rock tradition and importantly for him, is a long term member of L'Arche in Australia. L'Arche is an international federation of faith based communities, where people with and without intellectual disabilities share life together.* John has experienced L'Arche as a place of deep belonging and joy. The earthy spirituality of L'Arche has fed his song writing and his work acknowledges and affirms the beauty and woundedness of all people - all of us - with and without apparent disability. Many of his songs are used in L'Arche Communities around the world and some have been translated into different languages. He has been fortunate to present his music in many countries - France, the UK, Italy, Japan, Canada, the Philippines, India, NZ, the US - and of course Australia



Invites you to join our Community of people with intellectual disabilities, families and friends to share a meal, friendship and prayer together



Date: 6th August 2016

Day: Saturday

Time: 12 – 3pm

Venue:

St. Matthews Anglican Church Hall
7 Wentworth Street Georgetown



You are welcome to bring a plate to share.

Our Community Gathering is the first Saturday of the month.

www.larchehunter.org.au

Please Contact:

Kath Bourke: 0447 696 505 Bev Rigby: 4943 0450

PEOPLE:

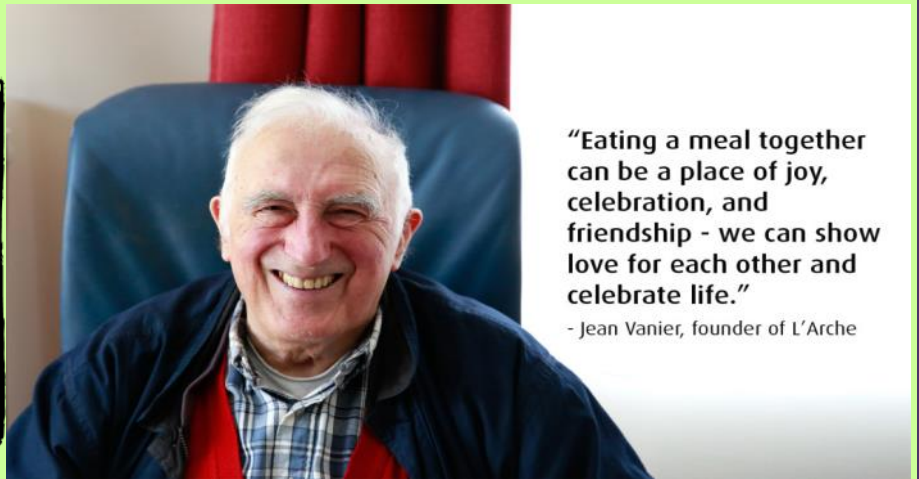
- ♦ In gratitude of Michael Hutchinson as he takes up the role of Community Leader for L'Arche Brisbane for the next four years

EVENTS:

AUGUST IS THE MONTH FOR THE L'ARCHE AUSTRALIA SHARE A MEAL

We are asking people to host a meal; that is invite their friends to share a meal with you and talk to them about L'Arche, why you are part of L'Arche and what you enjoy about it. For more information contact:

Dylan at fundraising@larche.org.au. or go to our L'Arche Australia website www.larche.org.au



"Eating a meal together can be a place of joy, celebration, and friendship - we can show love for each other and celebrate life."

- Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche

Jean Vanier

"We have a beautiful vision, a vision to be like yeast in the bread of society, where the weak heal the strong."

- Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche

"I heard it through the Grapevine"

“

Growth begins when we begin to accept our weaknesses.

”
OkDay.com

- Jean Vanier -

July Birthdays

L'Arche Sydney July Birthdays

3rd : Majella Galvin
6th : Lachlan McInnis
9th : Barbara Lumley



L'Arche Hunter July Birthdays

2nd : Laurie Brackenreg
14th : Rosie Amis
16th : Grace Goldman



L'Arche Sydney Club Nights

July Club Nights

4th : Wenty Leagues Club
11th : Burwood RSL
18th : Auburn Tennis Club
25th : Campsie RSL

August Club Nights

1st : Wenty Leagues Club
08th : Burwood RSL
15th : Auburn Tennis Club
22nd : Campsie RSL
29th : Wenty Leagues Club

L'Arche Hunter Events

14th July : Prayer and Spirituality
15th July : Spiritual life planning

L'Arche Sydney Spiritual Prayer Nights

12th August : 44 Dryden Street, Campsie
14th October : 306 Burwood Road , Burwood
11th November : 19 Victoria Street, Merrylands

Let's Pray Together

- Pray for peace and reconciliation in all the war worn countries.
- Pray that God will give all Live in assistant the joy and peace as they share life in their way
- Pray for God's wisdom to be evident in governments and in all our leaders

Wish List !

If you have a spare leaf blower in your garage—the office will gladly appreciate one