

## L'Arche Australia Newsletter

June 2023

Welcome to the L'Arche Australia mid-year Newsletter. We continue to live life to the full within our communities as we live out our L'Arche Mission.

### Federation Assembly

#### What is the Federation Assembly?

According to constitution of the International Federation, once every 5 years, L'Arche needs to call a big meeting of representatives of all the communities in the Federation. This is called the International Federation Assembly (IFA for short!). This meeting has the authority to make big decisions that affect the whole Federation. For instance, at the IFA 2023, Community Delegates will be voting on the new draft Charter.

This year, rather than meeting in a particular place, as was done previously, (e.g. in Belfast in 2017), the IFA will happen in 3 separate ways: **within** communities, **between** groups of communities, and **all together** across the Federation. Each of these different ways will play an important role. Much will be online, with live events, as well as pre-recorded videos that can be downloaded and watched at a time that suits your community.

The Delegates are:



Marilena and Krishnee -L'Arche NSW



Claire - L'Arche Australia



Julia - L'Arche Australia

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Damian and Ann- L'Arche Brisbane



Deb and Rose - L'Arche Melbourne



### Congratulation to Rosa Rita (L'Arche NSW)

Rosa Rita (L'Arche NSW) has been appointed by L'Arche Australia to be a member of the Federation Council for a five-year term by the International Leadership Team. The Federation Council is a place to take counsel on the progress of the International Mandate of the Federation at mid-term.

### L'Arche Australia Online Prayer

L'Arche Australia is facilitating a short prayer on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month for L'Arche Australia and L'Arche International. The gathering commences at **7.00pm (AEST) and concludes at 7.30pm, 6.30pm (Adelaide), 5pm (Perth)**. It is a gentle prayer time with Zoom details as follows:

Meeting ID: 826 4347 1339  
Password ID: prayer

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82643471339?pwd=QVNQb2tzSUh5SHFZRWZhTWpKenI1QT09>

To receive weekly notice about our prayer theme and the Zoom link send your email address to [social.media@larche.org.au](mailto:social.media@larche.org.au)

Tony Robertson (Online prayer Facilitator)





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## L'Arche Australia Long Term Members Retreat - May, 2023 in Sydney



22 members of communities in Australia participated in the Retreat. We met at Stanmore House, a familiar place of welcome and nurturing for our community. The staff and hospitality of the venue supported our time of reflection and sharing

The retreat was based on “Lament” (reflecting on the recent publication of the report from L’Arche International outlining the hidden culture of abuse and control in the founding of L’Arche)

Trish Watts, facilitated our Retreat by animating the spirit and soul transformation as we explored the key moments in song, poetry, movement and storytelling:



- The Fallen Hero
- Deep Waters
- Troubled Waters
- Brokenness to Wholeness
- Care for Survivors
- L’Arche keeper Values
- Deep Listening
- Celebrating Unity



In our prayer space, you will see photos of the tableau we built in the centre of our circle gathering. You will see symbols of dark, light and shadow, broken glass as well as colours. What do these images stir in you? Perhaps like us at the retreat you might chose to journal your response to these images.

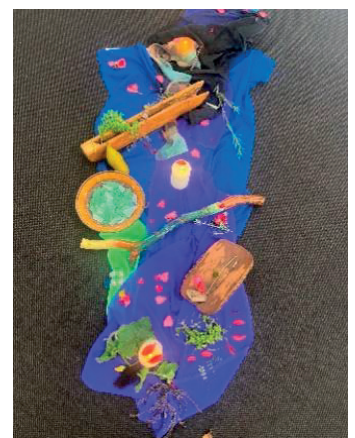
One of the many songs we sang during the retreat was - **Wade in the Water** – (Spiritual)



*Wade in the water, wade in the water children  
Wade in the water, God's gonna trouble the water*

*I stepped in the water and the water was cold  
God's gonna trouble the water  
It chilled my body but not my soul  
God's gonna trouble the water*

*Well I went to the water one day to pray  
God's gonna trouble the water  
And my soul got a happy and I stayed all day  
God's gonna trouble the water  
(p) 1901 New Jubilee Songs*



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Could you be a regular donor to L'Arche Australia?

Regular Donors help us in L'Arche Australia in supporting current communities and growing new communities.

*L'Arche is a worldwide federation of people, with and without intellectual disabilities, working together for a world where we all belong*

I would like to support the work of L'Arche in Australia with a donation of: \$



L'Arche Communities are vibrant places of welcome, belonging and celebration. Find out more at [www.larche.org.au](http://www.larche.org.au)



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Signature

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PLEASE USE YOUR SURNAME & INITIALS AS THE REFERENCE Return this form with your details so that we can thank you.

OR Please find enclosed  Cheque (payable to L'Arche Australia)

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Donations over \$2 are Tax Deductible


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L'Arche Australia keeps donor's information private. If you do not wish to receive future Newsletters, please tick this box

*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 [fundraising@larche.org.au](mailto:fundraising@larche.org.au)*

Address: L'Arche Australia PO Box 4065, Homebush South NSW 2140

 Post in the reply-paid envelope

 Call L'Arche Australia to speak to us about a donation. Office: 0490 759 528

 Donate online at: [www.larche.org.au/](http://www.larche.org.au/)