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## **Preface**

At long last ! A sequel to the 1985 "draft" directory of Australian Christian Communities ! We had hoped to update and reprint this directory yearly, but alas, life is too busy for that.

As was stated in the first edition, our overall aim is to facilitate the exchange of ideas and resources between Christian communities in Australia. The immediate purpose of ACC is to provide information about the aims and activities of existing communities and thereby lifting the readers' awareness of God's work in this area.

The main section of this publication is a detailed directory of communities, listed alphabetically. We have followed a more structured format than last time, in order to make information more accessible and to make comparisons of communities more easy. However, though we dictated the structure, the content has been written by the participating communities.

Following that, there is an address list of known communities which are not described in detail. The accuracy of this list is somewhat dubious.

We have then included some information about communities which have ceased operation since 1985. The causes of community closure may be particularly interesting to those contemplating starting a new community. Jim McKnight has estimated that a new Australian intentional Christian community has an average life expectancy of about 6 months. "For every community that passes the two year mark several do not survive the first month."

Lastly, there is a section which contains some community related documents, particularly regarding beliefs, purposes and membership requirements. It is hoped that this will benefit those of you who are attempting to form similar statements for your own group.

We have not made any judgment on which groups should be included in this directory, except that they must be in Australia, profess Christianity, and have some living together community-ness.

There are no further plans to expand or reprint this directory. However, if someone else wishes to continue with the project or wishes to incorporate some of this information into other publications, the current editor would be pleased to assist.

All typesetting was carried out on a Macintosh Plus using MS-Word (graphics added by hand). Laser printing was done at the Sydney ITeC (see Phillip Bay Community).

Matthew C. Clarke  
August 1988

5 Muttama Rd  
Artarmon, 2064  
(02) 412 2204

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Title page for Sec 2 - Community Descriptions



## **Allelon Christian Community**

**Address :** 14 Tree Top St  
Tea Tree Gully  
SA, 5091

**Phone :** (08) 264 7413  
(08) 264 6432

**Contact person :** John McKay

### **Chief purpose of the community :**

To express the reality of the Kingdom of God within the world, and to provide mutual support and encouragement for each others' personal ministry to others.

### **Size :**

Number of families : 4  
Number of children :5Number of singles : 8  
Total membership :  
Non-members involved with the community :

### **Type of accommodation :**

Five houses on one property in an outer, middle-class suburb north-east of Adelaide.

### **Affiliation with other groups or denominations :**

Members have links with various local churches. The community is responsible to the Ingle Farm Baptist Church.

### **"Inward" activities :**

Daily fellowship through community lifestyle.

Meals together regularly.

Weekly worship and prayer together.

**"Outward" activities :**

Prison ministry.

**Membership requirements :**

No formal requirements at this stage : interested parties are free to find their own level of involvement.

**History :**

The original members met in 1979 and joined together in 1981. The expression of community life has varied over the years depending on the makeup and needs of both its members and its ministry to others.

**Key principles / characteristics of the community :**

The life, worship and ministry is charismatic in nature.

Some households have permanently extended their numbers beyond the nuclear family, while others provide short term accommodation as the need arises.

**Newsletter :**

None.

**Visitors :**

In general, the community is not equipped to cater for visitors. Exceptions are made under special circumstances.

**Additional information :**

The name 'Allelon' is taken from the NT Greek word for 'one another'. This is primarily from the command of Jesus to "love one another, as I have loved you", and also from the numerous Pauline exhortations to build up one another and serve one another. This epitomises the community's reason for being together, as a living demonstration of the Kingdom alternative.

## **The Bread of Life Community**

**Address :** 30 Edmund Rd  
Highbury  
SA, 5089

**Phone :** (08) 263 0086

**Contact person :** Neil Hayter

### **Chief purpose of the community :**

To help members live a fervent Christian life, strengthen family life and to evangelise others.

### **Size :**

Number of families : 21  
Number of children : 7 Number of singles : 54  
Total membership : 100  
Non-members involved with the community : 0

### **Type of accommodation :**

Members live in their own houses.

### **Affiliation with other groups or denominations :**

Bread of Life does not consider itself a church, but is part of the Catholic parish of Modbury.

A formal member of the International Brotherhood of Communities (IBOC).

### **"Inward" activities :**

Separate weekly meetings of men and women for prayer, sharing and teaching.

Fortnightly meetings on Sunday afternoon for the whole Community.

Monthly meetings for all adults (including the celebration of Mass).

**"Outward" activities :**

Monthly Christian Men's Breakfasts with witness speakers.

Bi-monthly Christian Women's Suppers with witness speakers.

Monthly men's and women's Bible study / prayer groups.

**Membership requirements :**

Commitment to the covenant (see Section 5), statutes and way of life of the Community.

Two year Underway membership; two year Intermediate membership (repeated if desired); followed by Full Covenant membership.

**History :**

1980 : Call by God to Neil Hayter to build a community with his wife Beulah. Invitation to teach at a men's prayer meeting in Modbury parish. Commencement of a wives' meeting.

1981 : Community formed with 12 families.

1982 : The first two year commitment. Relationship formed with Emmanuel Covenant Community. Joined the Related Christian Community (RCC) movement.

1983 : First outreach to young singles (discontinued in 1986).

1984 : First Full Covenant members (10 families and one single person).

1986 : Joined IBOC. Men's Breakfasts commenced.

1988 : Outreach ladies suppers and home Bible study groups commenced.

**Key principles / characteristics of the community :**

Openness to the fullness of the Spirit and his Gifts.

A covenant commitment to build a basic Christian community in the Catholic church.



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**Newsletter :**

A newsletter is published for internal use only.

**Visitors :**

Visitors are welcomed into the homes of community members.

**Additional information :**

## **Bush Christian Community**

**Address :** 7 James Ave  
Aspendale  
Vic, 3195

**Phone :** (03) 587 1885

**Contact person :** Paul Greco

### **Chief purpose of the community :**

To discover what it means to be the people of God and to express this both within each members' lives and to the outside world.

### **Size :**

Number of families : 3

Number of children :4Number of singles : 1

Total membership : 11

Non-members involved with the community : Not applicable.

### **Type of accommodation :**

Two houses.

### **Affiliation with other groups or denominations :**

Bush is but one small part of the church. It has no affiliation with any particular church denomination, but has informal contact with many church groups.

Bush is a member of ANOCC.

### **"Inward" activities :**

Worship on Sunday.

Shared meals at least twice a week.

Weekly studies and regular community meetings.

**"Outward" activities :**

Contact with and support for local unemployed people.

Peace and justice activities.

Link building with 3rd world churches.

Involvement with other communities (ANOCC).

House building (ie hammer and nails).

Nuclear Free Independent Pacific Group.

National Campaign Against War Toys.

**Membership requirements :**

"We see it as being essential to a meaningful relationship with one another that the following points be basic criteria for membership in the Bush Christian Community :

1. That we strive to be involved in all aspects of Community life (including regular attendance at corporate worship, and involvement in Community elections and discussions).

2. That we accept as a statement of our faith the Community Confession of Faith and that we believe in and accept for ourselves the contents of the Community statement.

3. That we recognise this Community as our spiritual home and consequently as the only church of which we are members.

4. That we will be involved in some way in an area of mission of the Bush Christian Community, remembering that the Community is open to new areas of mission being pursued.

5. That we be involved in a cell group.

6. That we will be available to members in times of need.

For those wishing to become members there will be a period of pre-membership during which all the above conditions of membership must be met.

### **History :**

In 1977 a group formed out of a common mission (the local CYSS scheme). Initially these people worked together but worshipped separately. Gradually the commitment to each other grew until the group decided to form their own ecclesia in 1983. Working and worshipping together has enabled the group to begin to discover what it means to be united in God and to become more involved in wider social issues.

### **Key principles / characteristics of the community :**

Common economics : all income is pooled and distributed so that all members have a common "wage level".

Bush sees itself as a family of believers struggling to meet the spiritual, emotional, social, and economic needs of each other. There is a shared commitment to care and nourish each other.

Bush seeks to live simply so that time and money can be shared with others.

### **Newsletter :**

A semi-regular newsletter is available to anyone who is interested.

### **Visitors :**

Visitors are always welcome and in fact greatly looked forward to. Visitors even get a room to themselves.

### **Additional information :**

## **Christ Church Celebration Community**

**Address :** P.O. Box 103  
Queanbeyan  
NSW, 2620

**Phone :** (062) 97 1072  
(062) 97 3206  
(062) 97 1769

**Contact person :** Rev. Michael Cockayne

### **Chief purpose of the community :**

The commitment of the community is to renewal of the Queanbeyan Anglican Parish through :

1. Revitalising worship (music is particularly crucial in this)
2. Building of commitment, trust and accountability within the parish (for example, through neighbourhood church groups)
3. Serving the local community (especially the poor and marginalised members) through direct care as well as public advocacy and action.

### **Size :**

Number of families :  
Number of children :5Number of singles :  
Total membership : 15  
Non-members involved with the community :

### **Type of accommodation :**

Three separate houses.

### **Affiliation with other groups or denominations :**

Much of the community's activity falls within the sphere of ministry of the Anglican Parish of Queanbeyan (within which it is located). It is becoming increasingly difficult to draw distinctions between what is parish ministry and what is community ministry.

Member of ANOCC.

**"Inward" activities :**

**"Outward" activities :**

Assist in the running of the parish opportunity shop and accommodation for homeless youth.

Involvement in community service caring agencies such as the Community Tenancy Scheme, Community Youth Support Scheme, YMCA, etc.

Hospital visiting, scripture teaching in schools, church music ministry.

**Membership requirements :**

There are no vows : baptismal commitments for the basis of commitment to the community.

**History :**

The community joined together in 1979 after several years of embryonic development. Most members previously belonged to the parish.

**Key principles / characteristics of the community :**

The community shares a common purpose. It derives its vision and style of life from a number of sources, especially the Franciscan movement, the Focolare and the Communities of Celebration. While the community has no formal constitution, it generally follows in practice the constitution developed by the Communities of Celebration.

**Newsletter :**

**Visitors :**

**Additional information :**

## **Commonlife**

**Address :** 105 Blair St  
Dallas  
Vic, 3047

**Phone :** (03) 309 2347

**Contact person :** Neville Cann

### **Chief purpose of the community :**

To be a community of life - work - worship - witness in the Dallas area.

### **Size :**

Number of families : 10

Number of children : 5 Number of singles : 24

Total membership : 50

Non-members involved with the community : About 10 other families

### **Type of accommodation :**

One 11 bedroom house with large common dining and lounge room facilities. Three adjoining houses of normal size.

### **Affiliation with other groups or denominations :**

The community has grown out of the local Baptist church.

Member of ANOCC. Close contact with other Melbourne communities.

### **"Inward" activities :**

Morning and evening prayer/worship are held each day.

All meals are shared.

Production of milk and vegetables on a 120 acre farm.

**"Outward" activities :**

Commonlife runs a building/renovation business as well as local retail shops, an apiary and a food co-operative.

**Membership requirements :**

**History :**

Beginning around 1977, a number of people from the Dallas Baptist Church began to join together in household life. This occurred as a result of confronting issues such as the Kingdom of God (its meaning and implications); corporateness as an alternative to individualism and privatised faith; the need to renounce the idols of materialism, safety and success; the importance of Jesus' words about poverty and the poor; the need for a genuine spirituality; the call to a rhythm of life; and the call to rediscover the value and meaning of work.

**Key principles / characteristics of the community :**

The issue of "common-ness" is important - common living space, economics, worship and work. These things express the uniqueness of the gospel of the Kingdom.

The community allows the freedom to be a sinner and a freedom to grow. There is an absence of covenants and rules.

**Newsletter :**

None.

**Visitors :**

Organised visits are welcomed (contact Stephanie). Visitors are accommodated within the community houses. Visitors staying for a while can join in the daily work activities.

**Additional information :**



## **Coolibah Christian Community**

**Address :** PO Box 408  
Strawberry Hills  
NSW, 2012

**Phone :**

**Contact person :** Douglas Kuhl

**Chief purpose of the community :**

To make Jesus' Name and salvation known in Sydney's inner city, by means of proclamation, lifestyle witness, acts of caring and commitment, and through intercessory prayer.

**Size :**

Number of families : 7  
Number of children : Number of singles :  
Total membership : 40  
Non-members involved with the community :

**Type of accommodation :**

**Affiliation with other groups or denominations :**

Coolibah is an independent organisation. A Board of Directors (drawn from three different denominations, a medical doctor and a senior social worker) provide a covering for the work.

The community is pleased to work together with any Christian organisation to see the Gospel of Jesus established in the lives of downtown Sydney-siders.

**"Inward" activities :**

**"Outward" activities :**

**Membership requirements :**

**History :**

Coolibah formed in 1981 in obedience to God's directive to them - "Go to the poor and oppressed, minister to them in love".

**Key principles / characteristics of the community :**

**Newsletter :**

**Visitors :**

**Additional information :**

## **Cornerstone Community**

**Address :** Wanarring Rd  
Bourke  
NSW, 2840

**Phone :** (068) 722 973

**Contact person :** Laurie McIntosh  
Paul Roe

### **Chief purpose of the community :**

To build Christian maturity and to mobilise Christians for evangelism and disciple making.

### **Size :**

Number of families : 12 to 26  
Number of children : 50+  
Number of singles : 40+  
Total membership : 150+  
Non-members involved with the community : 50 to 100

### **Type of accommodation :**

Cornerstone has four centres - in Bourke, Emerald, Dalby and more recently Broken Hill. Accommodation typically includes a central building, dormitory buildings, family homes and caravans.

### **Affiliation with other groups or denominations :**

Involvement with churches and other communities is welcomed, though there are no official ties.

### **"Inward" activities :**

Cornerstone runs a two year course which commences with a year at one of the three centres. This year involves studying the Bible, learning to live as part of a Christian community, farm work, and development for mission. The study course covers -

1. Christian Basics - broad scan across the Old and New Testaments
2. Christian Literature - analysis of the key books of the Bible
3. Christian Concepts - fundamental Christian truths
4. Christian Evidences - apologetics
5. Christian History - growth of the church since New Testament times
6. Christian Perspectives - current developments in society
7. Christian Strategies - practical application of Christian truth to ourselves and to the world

Devotions, pastoral counselling and an annual Muster (reunion) complement the study program.

### **"Outward" activities :**

In the second year, teams move back into a secular setting to practise the principles and lifestyle learnt in the first year.

Each team establishes themselves in a town or suburb (initially supported from their previous year's earnings, but later by finding casual employment) and develops ministries which suit the needs of the local community. This could mean being involved in local churches, Religious Instruction and ISCF work in schools, running drop-in centres, camps, street witnessing etc.

### **Membership requirements :**

Commitment to Christian growth and submission to leadership.

### **History :**

In 1976 Paul Roe and Laurie McIntosh led Owen Boone and Jack Buster to donate land and machinery to establish the Bourke centre. The Emerald and Dalby centres opened in 1980.

Mission teams are now active in half a dozen towns in NSW and Qld.

In recent years a post-graduate course has been started, leading to a Certificate in Theology, awarded by the Australian College of Theology.

### **Key principles / characteristics of the community :**

Basic Christianity in action.

**Newsletter :**

Newsletters are available to anyone who is interested.

**Visitors :**

Visitors are welcome, though the quality of accommodation varies.

**Additional information :**

## **De Porres House**

**Address :** PO Box 130  
Chippendale  
NSW, 2008

**Phone :** (02) 698 9486

**Contact person :** Noel and Trish

### **Chief purpose of the community :**

Love till it hurts.

De Porres House is a place where people are welcomed and accepted for themselves. New friends are met and a network of caring and concern for each other becomes the focus of new growth within each person (as it does within a family situation).

Living at De Porres House is an effort to bring hope to those who find no aim in life. Thus, after a friendly chat, or sharing a meal, one is able to walk away believing in oneself again, head held high, knowing that someone cares and is interested in **me** as a person, for I am worthwhile.

### **Size :**

Number of families :  
Number of children :Number of singles :  
Total membership :  
Non-members involved with the community :

### **Type of accommodation :**

### **Affiliation with other groups or denominations :**

### **"Inward" activities :**

**"Outward" activities :**

Meetings on racism, peace issues.

Involvement in the local community with those who are on the fringe of our Australian Society.

**Membership requirements :**

**History :**

**Key principles / characteristics of the community :**

**Newsletter :**

**Visitors :**

**Additional information :**

## **Elkanah**

**Address :** Buxton Rd  
Marysville  
Vic, 3779

**Phone :** (059) 633 229

**Contact person :** Graeme Cann

### **Chief purpose of the community :**

Elkanah is a community based conference and retreat centre which aims to strengthen the body of Christ and to uphold the importance of the family.

### **Size :**

Number of families : 7

Number of children : Number of singles : 5

Total membership :

Non-members involved with the community :

### **Type of accommodation :**

A large, old guest house which can house up to 80 people. Some community members live in nearby houses.

### **Affiliation with other groups or denominations :**

Close ties with the interdenominational Marysville United [sic] Church.

### **"Inward" activities :**



**"Outward" activities :**

Elkanah runs regular courses which include Marriage and Family Counselling, Marriage Enrichment, Pre-marriage Retreats, Pastoral Care, and Shalom Retreats (for those over 50). Some courses are especially for people in ministry roles, engaged couples, missionaries and missionary candidates. Highlights include the annual Christmas and Easter houseparties.

Several counselling centres are run in Melbourne (Box Hill, Rowville, Frankston and Mornington).

**Membership requirements :**

**History :**

Commenced in 1974.

**Key principles / characteristics of the community :**

**Newsletter :**

A newsletter is available to anyone who is interested.

**Visitors :**

Apart from the courses organised by Elkanah, the centre can be booked for church houseparties, retreats etc. Individuals are welcome to drop in for a meal, a chat, or a holiday (but ring first).

**Additional information :**

Elkanah is currently undertaking major renovations to improve fire safety, at a cost of \$200,000.

## **Froggatt Community**

**Address :** 1 (and 6) Cobb Cres  
Ainslie  
ACT, 2602

**Phone :** (062) 474727  
(062) 472591

**Contact person :** Louise Vickery  
Carmel Franklin

### **Chief purpose of the community :**

To build a sustainable and just alternative in the areas of lifestyle, work, housing etc.

### **Size :**

Number of families : 3  
Number of children : 2 Number of singles : 7  
Total membership : 15  
Non-members involved with the community : 8 adults and 8 children

### **Type of accommodation :**

Two houses in the same street.

### **Affiliation with other groups or denominations :**

Catholic, with an interest in Eastern spirituality.

Member of ANOCC. Informal contact with various other communities.

### **"Inward" activities :**

Monthly members' meetings, weekly house nights, daily morning prayers, women's nights (every few months), quarterly community weekends, annual one week holiday and review/planning session, gardening, car maintenance, financial sharing, wood workshop, homebirth.

### **"Outward" activities :**

Housing co-op (for low income people), food co-op, social justice group and activities (rally's demonstrations etc), overseas aid, developing local self-reliance.

Individuals are active in welfare rights, community legal centre, local employment initiatives, ALP, Community Aid Abroad, Christians for Peace, Homebirth Association, Ainslie Village (low cost accommodation).

### **Membership requirements :**

Must be familiar with the community : its aims, ideals and lifestyle. A commitment to participate in the activities of the community.

### **History :**

June 1980 - Started with 5 young people who were all involved in the Catholic Youth Ministry in Canberra. Moved into Froggatt St, which soon became a drop-in youth centre. The aim was to pray together, live simply and follow the gospel.

1982 - Moved out of the youth ministry due to opposition to Froggatt's concept of Christianity and a wish to be more directly involved with the disadvantaged instead of middle class Catholic youth.

1982 to 1984 - Moved into Ainslie Village. More involvement with unemployed, housing, welfare and the peace movement.

1984 to 1986 - Change of emphasis due to more families in the community and a desire to become more self-sustaining. This led to the development of more just methods of housing, working (eg building a wood workshop), feeding, and energy usage (solar and wood).

### **Key principles / characteristics of the community :**

A percentage of income is shared for rent, cars etc.

Simple lifestyle and accountability to each other.

Working against the injustice of sexism.

**Newsletter :**

There is a newsletter which is available to anyone who is interested.

**Visitors :**

Visitors are welcome, though there is little space.

**Additional information :**

## **The House of Freedom**

**Address :** 69 Thomas St  
West End  
Qld, 4101

**Phone :** (07) 844 7268

**Contact person :** Edmund Cocksedge  
Jeanette Little  
Dianne Craig

### **Chief purpose of the community :**

To develop patterns of living which are consistent with the teachings of Jesus and relevant to the needs of women and men in the contemporary world.

### **Size :**

Number of families : 5  
Number of children : 4 Number of singles : 3  
Total membership : 12  
Non-members involved with the community : 12

### **Type of accommodation :**

People live in a number of houses which are relatively close to each other.

### **Affiliation with other groups or denominations :**

The House of Freedom is a church, with no affiliation to any particular denomination.

Member of ANOCC.

**"Inward" activities :**

Worship - The community meets for worship every Sunday and has other opportunities for devotions, so that life can be centred in prayer and Bible study.

Discipleship - Members affirm that Jesus is Lord and that they are seeking to submit every area of their lives to the scrutiny of the Biblical demands. To make discipleship concrete, members contribute to the financial needs of the House and involve themselves in one of the areas of team mission.

Community - Because the shape of discipleship should not be determined alone, Jesus called a group of people who travelled together with him. Members are expected to live and share with others in the community, so that their daily lives can reflect a concern for each other's emotional, spiritual and economic well being, and in a spirit of humility, bear witness to the new values of the Kingdom of God.

Education - As Jesus taught the disciples, so the members of the House are expected to undertake learning. Members all do a course (one night a week for three months) which is designed to provide an introduction to the House of Freedom and to explore some of the theory and practice of various areas of discipleship and mission. Regular teaching is provided during the year.

**"Outward" activities :**

Involvement in peace and justice concerns and activities.

Drama and educational presentations on current issues from a Christian perspective.

Local area involvements, including the local housing co-operative.

Publishing a quarterly magazine on discipleship, justice and community.

### **Membership requirements :**

There is an expectation that people will :

- live in the House of Freedom community;
- attend weekly worship and the monthly community meeting;
- donate at least one tenth of their income to the community;
- pray for the community;
- be involved in at least one ministry area;
- undertake at least one spiritual retreat a year;
- commit themselves to being in the community to two years  
(renewed annually);
- affirm the Lordship of Jesus over every aspect of life.

### **History :**

The House began in 1972.

### **Key principles / characteristics of the community :**

Located in an inner-city suburb of Brisbane, the community's distinctive emphasis is on the Lordship of Jesus Christ over every aspect of life and the need for the Christian to make a corresponding radical commitment involving all of life.

### **Newsletter :**

"Dayspring" is a quarterly publication to which anyone may subscribe for \$5 per year.

### **Visitors :**

Accommodation is available for visitors in the members' homes.

### **Additional information :**

## **The House of the Gentle Bunyip**

**Address :** 94 Hodgkinson St  
(P.O. Box 82)  
Clifton Hill  
Vic, 3068

**Phone :** (03) 489 4274

**Contact person :** Marita Munro

### **Chief purpose of the community :**

Responding to the demands of the Gospel requires living lives of radical discipleship. This involves commitment to the poor and the oppressed, community living, simple lifestyle, the renunciation of power, and dependence upon God in prayer.

The community came together for the purpose of mission : evangelism, social justice and some political action.

### **Size :**

Number of families :  
Number of children :12  
Number of singles :  
Total membership : 42  
Non-members involved with the community :

### **Type of accommodation :**

Several households within close geographical proximity (in the inner-Melbourne suburbs of Clifton Hill and Collingwood).

There is also a small centre in Shepparton.

### **Affiliation with other groups or denominations :**

The Bunyip is an ecumenical community with members belonging to different churches (Catholic and Protestant). Many worship at the Community Church of St Mark (Clifton Hill Baptist) for which the Bunyip has pastoral responsibility.

Member of ANOCC.



**"Inward" activities :**

Worship is very important in the life of the Community. Morning Prayers are held Monday to Saturday in the Chapel of Hope. This is followed by breakfast in the Community Dining Room. There is Friday evening Eucharist and Sunday Evensong.

Special therapeutic care is offered to some who come to live in the community.

**"Outward" activities :**

School of the Prophets - a 12 month course for those interested in mission, theological education and community.

Involvement with the two-thirds world through a Partners in Mission project (Sri Lanka and the Dominican Republic).

Designated 'mission areas' include the Burnt Billy Coffee House, Fintry Bank Emergency Accommodation, Evening Quail Food Co-operative, Billabong Arts and Craft Workshop, Cameron House Day Care Centre for the Elderly (in conjunction with the Uniting Church), the Community School of St Mark, the Bunyip Peace Ministries Group, the Vere Street Collingwood Food Co-operative and Sunday Club.

Discipleship and mission course twice a year. Weekend and holiday conferences on such topics as mission, spirituality, Biblical studies and community.

A well-stocked cassette library (Platypus Cassettes).

**Membership requirements :**

**History :**

The Bunyip was founded by Rev Dr Athol Gill in 1975.

**Key principles / characteristics of the community :**

**Newsletter :**

**Visitors :**

The community is open to visitors during the year and runs programs for people who wish to experience community for 2 to 4 weeks ('Monk for a Month').

**Additional information :**

## **Jubilee Fellowship**

**Address :** 15 Eagle Terrace  
Torwood  
Qld, 4066

**Phone :** (07) 371 4705

**Contact person :** Peter Lane

### **Chief purpose of the community :**

To live and support each other and especially the needy who are referred to the community.

### **Size :**

Number of families : 21  
Number of children : 37  
Number of singles : 18  
Total membership : 97  
Non-members involved with the community : 10

### **Type of accommodation :**

Scattered housing, a few of which are reasonably close.

### **Affiliation with other groups or denominations :**

Jubilee is a local interdenominational church. It has links with other ministries to troubled people.

Informal contact with ANOCC and especially the House of Freedom.

### **"Inward" activities :**

Weekly worship service, Care groups, fortnightly ladies' meeting, monthly men's meeting.

**"Outward" activities :**

Annual seminar on issues like drug and alcohol abuse.

Ministry to homosexuals.

Counselling courses.

**Membership requirements :**

To be committed to a Home Care Group and weekly worship, and to respond correctly to elders.

**History :**

The group was originally connected with the Teen Challenge Youth Ministry. In 1978, Jubilee set it's sights on being a church specifically to support Teen Challenge staff and contacts. This scope has since been broadened so that the church now provides care for any needy people.

**Key principles / characteristics of the community :**

An emphasis on pastoral care for needy people.

Strong healing and counselling ministry.

**Newsletter :**

A weekly newsletter is available to anyone.

**Visitors :**

Visitors are welcome : they are accommodated in family homes.

**Additional information :**

## L'Arche

**Address :** "Genesaret"  
29 Gledden St  
Chifley  
ACT, 2606

"Emmaus Cottage"  
100 Princes Highway  
Milton  
NSW, 2538

306 Burwood Rd  
Burwood  
NSW, 2134

**Phone :** (062) 82 2786

**Contact person :** The Director

### **Chief purpose of the community :**

The creation of homes with people who have intellectual disabilities.

**Size :** Genesaret (not including other centres)

Number of families : 2

Number of children : 4 Number of singles : 17

Total membership : 32

Non-members involved with the community : 7

L'Arche worldwide has 67 communities which provide homes for some 1,000 handicapped people.

### **Type of accommodation :**

Genesaret has three suburban homes in adjoining suburbs of Canberra.

### **Affiliation with other groups or denominations :**

Linked to various denominations (including Catholic, Uniting, Anglican and Salvation Army) through community members.

Member of the International Federation of L'Arche.

Member of ANOCC.

### **"Inward" activities :**

The creation of a home/family atmosphere. Meetings for administrative and community issues, sharing, therapy and prayer.

### **"Outward" activities :**

Involvement with other groups providing services to the disabled (local churches, government agencies, professional people).

### **Membership requirements :**

The process of membership (whether as a person with an intellectual disability or an assistant) requires living at least three months in the community and progressing through various stages of "formation", "reflection" and "review".

### **History :**

Jean Vanier started a community in France in 1964 which has become the model on which each L'Arche community is based. Genesaret (the first L'Arche community in Australia) was founded by Dick and Margaret Bromhead in 1978 at Bungendore. Genesaret relocated to Canberra in 1980 to be closer to work and social opportunities. The community became a permanent member of the International Federation in 1982.

### **Key principles / characteristics of the community :**

The first goal of L'Arche is to create communities of peace where members live, work and pray together, sharing their sufferings and joys like brothers and sisters. There is a conviction that each person (whether disabled or not) is gifted by God. The human family needs the gifts of its weakest members (even when this is not recognised). Each person is weak and in need of the care offered by others. In a particular way, the good news of Jesus is manifested in the lives of people considered marginalised.

**Newsletter :**

L'Arche Australia publishes a national newsletter which is available to members and associate members for five dollars.

**Visitors :**

Visitors are generally welcome. Overnight visits may require some forward planning and sometimes may be limited depending on the needs of the community. Accommodation is normally in the community houses but occasionally in a small flat.

**Additional information :**

See "The Charter of L'Arche".

Donations are tax deductible.

## **McDonald Track Christian Community Inc.**

**Address :** P.O. Box 6  
Nyora  
Vic, 3927

**Phone :** (056) 596 226  
(056) 596 256

**Contact person :** Barry Rodgers

### **Chief purpose of the community :**

The community was formed for mutual support and to provide a base for various ministries.

### **Size :**

Number of families :  
Number of children : Number of singles :  
Total membership : 50 to 60  
Non-members involved with the community : 300

### **Type of accommodation :**

Various : the community is loosely structured and most folks have their own homes close by the main property.

### **Affiliation with other groups or denominations :**

None.

### **"Inward" activities :**

Fellowship in home groups and Sunday Church service etc.



**"Outward" activities :**

A mud-brick, environmentally planned school (registered from prep. to year 10) with an enrollment of about 130 (in 1988).

Several employment projects including a clothing factory and a farm implement workshop (which employs about 30 people).

Organisation of gymkhanas and annual community markets.

Various youth outreaches.

**Membership requirements :**

**History :**

McDonald Track formed in 1980 with the feeling that the Kingdom lifestyle is best demonstrated within the context of a Christian Community.

**Key principles / characteristics of the community :**

**Newsletter :**

None.

**Visitors :**

More than welcome.

**Additional information :**

## **New Pilgrims Christian Community**

**Address :** P.O. Box 175  
Annerley  
Qld, 4103

**Phone :** (07) 397 9609

**Contact person :** John D'Alton

### **Chief purpose of the community :**

The Universal Church is composed of local churches as well as "higher commitment groups". New Pilgrims is a "higher commitment group" which aims to know God and to make him known; to live out the Sermon on the Mount and the characteristics known as the Fruit of the Spirit; and to incarnate Jesus Christ in the world.

### **Size :**

Number of families :  
Number of children : Number of singles :  
Total membership : 12  
Non-members involved with the community :

### **Type of accommodation :**

### **Affiliation with other groups or denominations :**

### **"Inward" activities :**

It is envisaged that the community will be split into House Groups of about 15 people which will be further divided into Cells of about 5 people. Each Cell will follow the Teaching Program.

**"Outward" activities :**

**Membership requirements :**

Members agree to an "Underway Commitment" for some time before making the full "Covenant of the New Pilgrims".

**History :**

Commenced in 1982.

**Key principles / characteristics of the community :**

There are a written statements of principles, doctrines and policies (although these are still developing).

**Newsletter :**

None.

**Visitors :**

The community is open to visitors on particular occasions.

**Additional information :**

## **Phillip Bay Community**

**Address :** 13 Yara Rd  
Phillip Bay  
NSW, 2036

**Phone :** (02) 661 9403

**Contact person :** Steve Lawrence

### **Chief purpose of the community :**

Within St Mark's Anglican parish, the community sees its call as being to release and support lay people for local ministry.

### **Size :**

Number of families : 1  
Number of children : 2 Number of singles : 4  
Total membership : 8  
Non-members involved with the community :

### **Type of accommodation :**

Two nearby houses.

### **Affiliation with other groups or denominations :**

The community's ministry is intertwined with the ministry of St Mark's Anglican church in Malabar (in Sydney's eastern suburbs).

Member of ANOCC.

### **"Inward" activities :**

Common meal on Tuesday nights. Worship together each weekday morning.

**"Outward" activities :**

The community provides some ministry leadership to the parish in music/liturgy and in the organisation of the neighbourhood "Family Groupings".

Two core members are part of the Peninsula Community Services : a parish neighbourhood ministry agency involved in employment and community development projects (a computer training centre, clothing recycling, transport and resources for local community groups, kid's holiday centre).

**Membership requirements :**

Membership is open to any who share the community's life and vision.

**History :**

The group originally formed as the Malabar Parish Community in late 1975.

**Key principles / characteristics of the community :**

The community's core members share a common purse.

The community see itself as an extended family with a particular calling to ministry and creative, simple lifestyle within the wider community of the church and neighbourhood.

**Newsletter :**

None.

**Visitors :**

Visitors are welcome to share in the community's life but prior arrangement is necessary.

**Additional information :**

## **The Servants of Jesus Covenant Community**

**Address :** 1/56 King St  
St Mary's  
NSW, 2760

**Phone :** (02) 623 1508

**Contact person :** John Manion (Administrator)  
Lynne Hussy

Godfrey Perera (Emu Heights)  
(047) 35 1684

Arvi Ranniste (Harris Park)  
(02) 637 6202

### **Chief purpose of the community :**

1. To grow closer to God through prayer (Mark 12:30).
2. To grow in love, honour and respect for those we live with (Exodus 20:12, 1 John 4:7).
3. To joyfully serve our brothers and sisters in the Community as well as outside (Galatians 5:13, Philippians 2:3-11).
4. To witness the Gospel of Christ by proclamation and demonstration (Acts 4).

### **Size :**

Number of families : 37  
Number of children : 88 Number of singles : 71  
Total membership : 233  
Non-members involved with the community :

Attendance at Encounter Jesus meetings is up to 150.  
About 40 people are currently doing Underway formation.  
200 visiting young people join the He's Alive Weekends.

**Type of accommodation :**

There are three main clusters of homes - 25 in Emu Heights, 16 in Harris Park (including some flats) and 3 in Merrylands.

**Affiliation with other groups or denominations :**

Individuals in the community belong to various churches : Catholic, Anglican, Baptist, Uniting, Lutheran and Pentecostal.

Servants of Jesus has informal contact with the Emmanuel Covenant Community, New Israel, Bethel, Hephzibah and The Disciples of Jesus Covenant Community.

Member of the International Brotherhood of Communities (IBOC).

**"Inward" activities :**

General Gatherings on Sundays.

Sharing / Home groups on Tuesday evenings.

Cluster prayer meetings on Friday mornings.

**"Outward" activities :**

"Encounter Jesus" prayer on Sunday evenings.

Meetings in Granville Town Hall.

Involvement with many other Christian groups and prayer meetings.

Royal Rangers (Christian Scouts).

**Membership requirements :**

Must be a committed Christian.

**History :**

In 1981, Mr J. Chircop was the leader of a group of 11 adults who felt God had called them to make a covenant with him and each other.

**Key principles / characteristics of the community :**

The Community is ecumenical.

**Newsletter :**

There is a publicly available newsletter.

**Visitors :**

Visitors are welcomed into the Community homes.

**Additional information :**



## **St Benedict's Monastery**

**Address :** 121 Arcadia Rd  
Arcadia  
NSW, 2159

**Phone :**

**Contact person :** Fr Michael Kelly, OSB

**Chief purpose of the community :**

The monastery wishes to be the setting where members support each other's search for God through prayer and work, according to the needs of the Australian Church.

**Size :**

Number of families :  
Number of children : Number of singles :  
Total membership : 14  
Non-members involved with the community :

**Type of accommodation :**

A traditional brick building set in 40 ha of improved pasture and bush.

**Affiliation with other groups or denominations :**

Belongs to the Benedictine tradition of the Catholic Church. Other Benedictine communities exist in New Norcia (WA), Tarrawarra (VIC), Camperdown (VIC), Jamberoo (NSW), Riverstone (Sydney) and the Sisters of the Good Samaritan (in various locations).

**"Inward" activities :**

The community meets 4 times each day for prayer. Other activities include farming and printing. The community has a library of about 10,000 books.

**"Outward" activities :**

Providing hospitality (especially for retreatants), parish ministry, teaching and lecturing.

**Membership requirements :**

Catholic men seeking life of permanent dedication to God.

**History :**

The Benedictine tradition dates from the 6th century. The Arcadia monastery commenced in 1961 and was last extended in 1980 by the addition of a permanent chapel and library.

**Key principles / characteristics of the community :**

Prayer and work.

**Newsletter :**

None.

**Visitors :**

Visitors are welcome : there is accommodation for individuals and small groups.

**Additional information :**

## **St Joseph's House of Prayer**

**Address :** 153 Taralga Rd  
Goulburn  
NSW, 2580

**Phone :** (048) 21 3092

**Contact person :** Lyn Kelly

### **Chief purpose of the community :**

To promote a deepening in the prayer life and calling of ordinary people.

### **Size :**

Number of families : 3  
Number of children : 8 Number of singles : 2  
Total membership : 7 adults, 6 children  
Non-members involved with the community : 3

### **Type of accommodation :**

A large 2 storey building capable of accommodating groups of up to 50 people. A hermitage and poustinia (places for prayer and solitude) are also available.

St Joseph's is situated on 50 acres of ground on the outskirts on Goulburn, at Kenmore.

### **Affiliation with other groups or denominations :**

The House is affiliated with the Catholic church, welcoming Christians from all branches of the wider church.

Member of ANOCC.

### **"Inward" activities :**

Regular prayer in common (three times/day).

Work : farm, domestic and cooking for visiting groups.

### **"Outward" activities :**

Music at Mass.

Hosts various retreats and encourages people to visit for prayer, a time of reflection etc.

Hospitality : welcoming those who come for retreats, for a time apart or for accommodation.

Catechetics [Ed. - I had to look that one up !]

Manages the Christian Bookshop in Goulburn.

### **Membership requirements :**

To be a baptised Christian and to seek God's call through a three month period of discernment with the community.

### **History :**

The community was established in 1976 under the authority of the Catholic Church to serve the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

In its early life the Community membership consisted of all single people but over recent years has welcomed families into its midst. From the outset, the community has welcomed all people who come. This feature of hospitality has brought the community to a sense of humility and dependence on God.

### **Key principles / characteristics of the community :**

The vision of St. Joseph's is very largely found in the scripture from Isaiah 56 : "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the people".

The vision of the community speaks of :

- a place of welcome;
- a place where people are led to the Lord;
- a place where people may listen and respond to God's call and deepen their faith.

**Newsletter :**

A newsletter is produced twice per year.

**Visitors :**

Groups interested in holding retreats, family weekends, prayer days, Cursillos, or individuals wanting to share the House's way of life, are welcome. Current rates are \$20/day adult, \$10/day child over 5 years, \$50/day family rate.

**Additional information :**

## **Street Level Community**

**Address :** 6 Denison St  
Parramatta  
NSW, 2150

**Phone :** (02) 635 0761

**Contact person :** Greg Hirst

### **Chief purpose of the community :**

Street Level attempts to live out New Testament Christianity on the streets amongst the bikers, the alcohol and other drug users, the prostitutes, the unemployed and other outcast and rejected people in the Western suburbs of Sydney.

### **Size :**

Number of families : 13

Number of children :27Number of singles : 13

Total membership : 65

Non-members involved with the community : Outreach effects 100's

### **Type of accommodation :**

### **Affiliation with other groups or denominations :**

The community acts as an independent church but works alongside Protestant denominations.

### **"Inward" activities :**

Cell groups, Ladies Bible Study, motorcycle outreach and fellowship, retreats, ladies seminars, discipleship one-to-one, basic theological course, 'Drug Free' self-help meeting for Christians.

**"Outward" activities :**

Annual mission, biker outreach, Scripture teaching in high school, street stalls.

Street Level has two ministry arms, which exemplify their commitment to evangelism and social action -

1. Brotherhood Christian Motorcycle Club : living and riding among the most alienated biker groups

2. Street Level Concern : provides welfare services to the homeless, the unemployed, the lonely, the destitute and those with alcohol or other drug problems

**Membership requirements :**

Regular attendance for a 4 months is a pre-requisite before one can vote on Church matters.

**History :**

Founded in 1981 as an outgrowth of the Brotherhood Christian Motorcycle Club and Streetwork drop-in centre.

**Key principles / characteristics of the community :**

Based on New Testament principles.

Reaching the homeless, alienated and troubled sections of our community.

**Newsletter :**

Yes.

**Visitors :**

**Additional information :**

## **The Way**

**Address :** 50 Gertrude St  
Fitzroy  
Vic, 3065

**Phone :** (03) 417 4898

**Contact person :** Mr Chris Knight  
Ms Marg Fogarty

### **Chief purpose of the community :**

To provide a home to alcoholic men, who, because of their drinking and behaviour, are ineligible or rejected at all other alternatives.

### **Size :**

Number of families : 0  
Number of children : 0 Number of singles : 6-12  
Total membership : 6-12

Non-members involved with the community : Many part time volunteers help the two full-time workers.

### **Type of accommodation :**

Two adjoining two-storey shops with additional rooms.

### **Affiliation with other groups or denominations :**

Catholic.

Informal contacts with Corpus Christi Community, Regina Coeli, Bethlehem, and Ozanam House.



**"Inward" activities :**

Effort is made to make the house as homelike as possible. The residents are encouraged to help with chores, keep themselves clean, and be responsible for themselves. There are regular meetings for all workers to discuss all aspects of running The Way, as well as other items essential to group endeavours. A small Core Group of experienced workers meet at regular intervals to ensure that The Way is remaining true to it's Spirit.

**"Outward" activities :**

Former residents who may be sick or in prison are visited. Boarding houses are also visited, to keep in touch with men who cannot be residents.

**Membership requirements :**

All *workers* are screened, but no requirements are made of other residents except a willing openness.

**History :**

The Way began in 1980. It sprang from the desire to people who had a long history of being with homeless, alcoholic men. The least lovable men were always being shoved aside in the name of order, ease of running or just because they were too much trouble.

It was envisaged that there would be a live-in community of workers who share their lives with the residents but that possibility is still being explored.

**Key principles / characteristics of the community :**

Although some of us are better able to hide it, everyone is weak and broken, and it is through Jesus that we come to live with this. Jesus loves us as we are, and it is this acceptance as residents or workers wherein peace and meaning will be found.

**Newsletter :**

None.

**Visitors :**

Because of the "home" nature of The Way, and because of the importance of relationships, casual visiting is not encouraged.

**Additional information :**

There community has a set of guidelines called "The Way - its Spirit".

## **Westgate Baptist Community**

**Address :** 16 High St  
Yarraville  
Vic, 3013

**Phone :** (03) 314 7626

**Contact person :** Alan Marr  
Ross Langmead  
Ron Miers  
Lyn McVernon

### **Chief purpose of the community :**

To be part of the people of God in Yarraville and South Kingsville.

To make the gospel visible in our lives, both at the personal level and in working through the wider implications of the gospel.

### **Size :**

Number of families :  
Number of children : Number of singles :  
Total membership : 100  
Non-members involved with the community : 30

### **Type of accommodation :**

Many family houses in clusters (within close walking distance). Some shared households and extended families.

### **Affiliation with other groups or denominations :**

The community is a constituent Church of the Baptist Union.

Member of ANOCC.

**"Inward" activities :**

Sunday Worship.

Weekly home groups.

Christian education - Christian Living Seminars (weekly)  
- Focus on Christian Community (monthly)  
- Sunday Kid's Club

Prayer breakfasts (twice weekly).

**"Outward" activities :**

South Kingsville Health Services - a Christian clinic now run as a local co-operative. This includes a frozen casserole bank and volunteer drivers for transport to specialists etc.

Lanigiro - emergency accommodation for youth.

Learning for Life - craft and activities program.

Compuskill - a community based computer training scheme for the disadvantaged unemployed. Now run by Westgate Community Initiatives Group which is a local incorporated body funded by the federal government and linked with Compuskill in Sydney.

Spotswood Food Co-operative - operating with a "food justice" emphasis.

Frig Bank - small refrigerators are donated and lent to disadvantaged families.

Economic sharing scheme - an economic supplement without strings attached is offered to all those in fellowship with the Community who live below the poverty line through no choice of their own.

Camps at St Paul's Discovery Centre , Newhaven.

Rooming house scheme - a house for transitional accommodation

Social Justice - the Community organises debate nights to bring speakers of differing view points together. Involvement in a wide range of social justice issues from housing to poverty and human rights, including some paid workers in these fields.

### **Membership requirements :**

Membership is open to those who profess Christian faith and are in general agreement with the Baptist doctrinal basis. Believers' baptism is practised, but not insisted upon for membership. Members commit themselves to participate in the worship, fellowship and mission of the Community , with an emphasis on joining a small group.

### **History :**

In 1978, Ross Langmead wrote a report for the local Baptist churches containing a vision for incarnational mission, Good News to the poor and a caring church life based on small groups. It was largely ignored, but after a long period of germination and change, members from three small churches amalgamated to form the Westgate Baptist Community. Answering a call to come and commit themselves to the area, many have come from other parts of Melbourne, though in recent years many others have linked up as locals too. Taken together with the older members who have stayed and supported the new vision, the result is a diverse community with a wide range of ages and views, but intent on exploring community and committed discipleship.

### **Key principles / characteristics of the community :**

Westgate is a cross between a radical Christian community and a progressive local church. So while its characteristics are central to some (perhaps the leadership especially) they are only 'flavours' to as large number of others who are faithful and active.

These emphases include :

- grass roots initiative (decentralised and participatory decision making); the priesthood of all believers.
- a small-groups based pursuit of community
- a bias towards the poor and needy
- a consciousness of the social and political implications of the gospels
- a journey towards simpler lifestyle
- a strong 'local' feeling and sense of permanent involvement
- personal and spiritual growth as a vital partner to costly mission.

### **Newsletter :**

'Friends of Westgate' is available to anyone.

### **Visitors :**

Visitors are welcome and will be accommodated in the homes of community members.

### **Additional information :**

See also the "Yarraville Group Covenant" in Sec 5.

## **Youth With A Mission**

**Address :** 52 Mundy St  
Goulburn  
NSW, 2580

**Phone :** (048) 21 2274

**Contact person :** Kevin Clark

**Chief purpose of the community :**

World evangelism and discipleship

**Size :**

Number of families : 5  
Number of children : 12 Number of singles : 70  
Total membership : 92  
Non-members involved with the community : 0

**Type of accommodation :**

One central building with other scattered houses used occasionally.

**Affiliation with other groups or denominations :**

Some affiliation with most major denominations.

**"Inward" activities :**

Discipleship.

**"Outward" activities :**

Evangelism.

**Membership requirements :**

Members are required to know God.

**History :**

YWAM started in the early 1960's because of the need to reach out to people with the gospel. YWAM mostly involves youth and utilizes people during their holidays.

**Key principles / characteristics of the community :**

1. Commitment to the Lord Jesus.
2. Commitment to relationship with others (accountability to each other).
3. Common purpose - "Go you into the world and preach the gospel".

**Newsletter :**

There is a national, bi-monthly magazine called "OZ" which is available to anyone.

**Visitors :**

Visitors are most welcome to use the limited dormitory and small room accommodation. There are communal bathrooms and meals are held together.

**Additional information :**

YWAM's motto is "To know Christ and to make Him known".

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Title page for Sec 3 - Other Known Communities





## **Other Known Communities**

### **The Abode of the Friendly Toad**

Martin Sievers  
85 Henley Beach Rd  
Mile End, 5031  
(08) 43 5225

### **Abotsford Baptist Community**

Melbourne

### **Bethel**

Kevin Horgan  
78 Kavanaugh St  
Leederville  
WA, 6007  
(09) 381 3917

### **Bundeena Christian Training School and Fellowship**

25 Bundeena Dr  
Bundeena  
NSW, 2230  
(02) 523 5655

### **The Disciples of Jesus Covenant Community**

Anthony Howard  
P.O. Box 549  
Wahroonga  
NSW, 2076  
(02) 489 7200

### **Emmanuel Covenant Community**

John Carroll  
P.O.Box 566  
Fortitude Valley  
Brisbane  
Qld, 4000

### **Hephzibah Covenant Community**

John Kennedy  
1 Bullumbir St  
Braddon  
ACT, 2601  
(062) 48 0733

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**Hesed**  
Melbourne

**Jireh Community**  
Norwood (Adelaide)

**New Israel**  
Minto  
NSW, 2566

**Redeemer Baptist**  
Noel Cannon  
33 Crane Rd  
Castle Hill  
NSW, 2154

**The Resurrection Community**  
(Melbourne)

**St Judes**  
Rev Dr Peter Adam  
235 Palmerston St  
Carlton  
Vic, 3053  
(03) 347 5152

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Title page for Sec 4 - Recently Deceased Communities



## **Recently Deceased Communities**

### **Artarmon Christian Community**

The Artarmon Uniting church sponsored a community house for several years (commencing in 1983). The aim was for the household to become a centre for fellowship and to assist in the organisation and leadership of the various church activities.

Over time, the church's commitment to the aims of the community declined, and consequently the community's commitment to the church declined. The house is still occupied by 5 single Christians, but there is no longer the sense of working together for the common purpose of serving the church.

### **Blue Mountains Covenant Community**

This community was associated with the Logos Foundation in Blackheath (NSW). It had existed for about 16 years and had established its own school. Recently Logos moved its headquarters to Toowoomba (Qld) and the community was disbanded.

### **The Falls Community**

The Falls boasted a marvellous property surrounded by State Forest, with its own mountain stream, at John's River (north of Taree, NSW). It commenced as a non-religious community in 1973, but later became primarily Christian.

However, the community disbanded in 1986 and the property was sold.

### **Related Christian Communities**

RCC was a network of (primarily) Roman Catholic lay covenant communities, headed by the Emmanuel Covenant Community in Brisbane. Most of the communities involved still exist, but there is no longer an entity called RCC. At least some of the communities have become members of the International Brotherhood of Communities (IBOC).

### **True Vine Christian Community**

True Vine was an Assemblies of God church at Yelgun (near Mullimbimby, NSW). After surviving for about eight years and growing to about 400 people, the group suddenly disappeared. I have now idea where the members dispersed to, nor why.

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Title page for Sec 5 - Community Related Documents





## **Charter of the Communities of L'Arche**

### **I. The need for a Charter**

We feel we need a Charter to safeguard the spirit of the initial foundation. Verbal tradition is not enough as the organisation grows and homes are separated by greater distance.

The aims of the Charter is to help keep alive the fundamental vision of L'Arche and to help deepen the spirit and unity which must flow from this.

### **II. The initial vision of L'Arche**

We believe that EACH person, whether handicapped or not, has a unique and mysterious value. The handicapped person is a complete human being and as such he has the rights of every man : the right to life, to care, to work and to work.

We also believe that a person who has been wounded in his capacity for autonomy and in his mind is capable of great love, which can be called forth by the spirit of God. We believe that God loves him in a special way because of his very weakness.

Because of his handicap and because he feels rejected, a wounded person may shock or repel. But given an atmosphere of security where his latent capacities can develop, he can also radiate simplicity, welcome, joy and peace.

The world of suffering and the number of mentally handicapped people rejected, denied work, or shut up in psychiatric hospitals causes deep anxiety. But this anxiety must not paralyze us. It should incite us to work for the rejected by creating communities of peace and to do all we can to encourage our society to develop a greater sense of justice and brotherly concern for all men.

### III. The life of the community of L'Arche

The first aim of L'Arche is to create communities inspired by the Beatitudes and the spirit of the Gospel.

Our communities seek to be communities of peace where handicapped people and assistants live, work and pray together sharing their sufferings and their joys like brothers. We know that we are all handicapped; for some the handicap is external, for others it is the handicap of selfishness or pride.

Our communities should try to remain poor, with a way of life that is simple, detached from the riches of the intelligent.

Our communities strive to be communities of hope, where handicapped people and assistants seek to progress together both humanly and spiritually. We seek whatever autonomy of life and work is possible for each person, and to respond to God's call for each individual.

This means that some people will spend all their lives in L'Arche homes, deepening their unity with God and with their community. Others will become more autonomous and become integrated into society.

L'Arche communities take two forms :

- Homes which believe deeply in a spirit of welcome towards any guest, visitor or temporary assistant.
- Communities of work which help their members to acquire a sense of form and matter and to participate in creative activity, and in which whenever possible help them to get the professional training which will encourage greater autonomy.

Both homes and workshops try to apply the resources of science and technology which may help the handicapped people to progress.

These communities are integrated into society; they are part of it. Society meets at least part of their financial needs and provides work as well as technical and professional help.

Far from withdrawing from society, we seek to act as leaven in the dough. We try to make our own contribution to transforming our society from one which puts value on individualism, intelligence and technical skill, and on the search for pleasure, riches and power, to one that comes closer to the values of the Gospel. We want to help society find hope.

Thus L'Arche can be a sign of contradiction, a question mark, a call to our society. There is, however, no question of judging those who do not live our values and who often feel a deep longing to make these values their own and so find renewed inspiration in their lives.

L'Arche seeks to play its part in the care of handicapped people wherever it is, and it feels involved in their problems the world over. It cannot remain an isolated island where a few handicapped people lead happy lives. This means collaboration with private enterprise, industrial or commercial, and with official administrations. It also means, where possible, participation in commissions, government projects and laws.

#### **IV. Members of the communities of L'Arche**

L'Arche communities are made up of :

- Men and women who have been wounded in their bodies and in their minds and who are at the very heart of the community. They are welcomed without distinction of religion, race or social class, though priority is given to the most rejected.
- Assistants, with or without professional training, who have chosen to live their lives with the handicapped.
- Professional people, who are often not called to live with the handicapped. They form part of the community, however, by sharing its objectives and by their attitude towards handicapped people. Their contribution is essential to the maximum progress of each individual.
- Boards of Directors (Committee members, members of Governing Bodies or Trustees) who support L'Arche by assuming responsibility before the law and the public for the good management of its affairs and for maintaining the norms of government.
- Parents and relatives of the handicapped people who have a very special place in the community. We must build close collaboration with them in a very personal way. Parents particularly may need help to overcome their disappointment and sadness and so to discover the unique person of their child; they may need help to discover the mystery of hope and joy through their suffering.
- People who live the spirit of L'Arche with different degrees of commitment, although they no longer live in one of the communities or may never have done so. They belong to the spiritual community and can often bring real inspiration and life, as well as contributing to the vocation of L'Arche in society.
- Neighbours and those who live in the area, who also have their specific place in the community. We are happy to cooperate with them and to try to create a climate of friendship and mutual help.

By creating deep bonds between people of all ages, intellectual levels and social classes, L'Arche tries to work towards that unity to which Jesus calls us all. At the heart of this unity must be the little ones - the poor, the weak, those who suffer - for whom Jesus showed His preference and with whom He identified Himself.

## **An Australian Network of Christian Communities**

### **Present Aims :**

1. To provide support and encouragement to member communities
2. To share resources and gifts
3. To work together on common projects
4. To provide opportunity for challenge and mutual accountability
5. To present corporate challenge to the church and society

### **Membership**

Membership is open to Christian Communities which have been operating for at least two years. These communities would have some form of shared common life and spirituality, and be intentionally working in mission and ministry.

The process of joining ANOCC is through invitation from a current member community to participate in their particular regional network. After attending one national gathering, communities would indicate whether they wish to become formal members of ANOCC.

Each community is eligible to send up to three representatives to the annual gathering. (The network covers the cost of sending two of these.) It is usual for a community to appoint at least one of its representatives from among its leadership. Communities are encouraged to maintain some continuity in their representation.

The annual membership fee is \$150 / community (negotiable if cost is prohibitive). The financial costs of the annual gathering are shared out equally among all the communities. In past years, accommodation and travel costs have averaged \$260 / community. It is important that each community keep an account of its travel expenditure.

The annual gathering is normally hosted by St Joseph's House of Prayer over the long weekend in June. The program usually includes some teaching from a visiting speaker and input from member communities on various subjects of interest such as "marginalised people in the community", "families and singles in community", "the role of worship", "relationships with the institutional church" to name a few.

At the beginning of each national gathering, every community presents a brief report of the previous twelve months of its life. Communities are asked to provide written copies of this report (on A4 sheet) for all member communities.

## **Current Members**

- Sydney - Phillip Bay Community
- Melbourne - The House of the Gentle Bunyip  
- Bush Christian Community  
- Commonlife  
- Abotsford Baptist Community  
- Hesed  
- Westgate Baptist Community
- Canberra - Christ Church Celebration Community  
- L'Arche
- Goulburn - St Joseph's House of Prayer
- Brisbane - The House of Freedom
- Adelaide - The Abode of the Friendly Toad

## **ANOCC Executive**

The executive has four members who meet annually to prepare for the national gathering and to deal with business which may arise between communities.

The current members are :

- Mike Cockayne (Christ Church Celebration Community)
- Robert Herdman (The House of Freedom)
- Edie Ashley (Phillip Bay Community)
- Paul Greco (Bush Christian Community)

For further information, contact your regional executive or the Secretary :

Paul Greco  
Bush Christian Community  
7 James Ave  
Aspendale  
Vic, 3195

## Yarraville Group Covenant

(A group within Westgate Baptist Community)  
9 October 1985

We agree that we will have a special love for each other, and for God's work around here.

- (a) by trying to live near each other so that we can get to know each other better
- (b) by having tea together on Wednesday night, with time for thinking about God and each other, for thinking up good ideas and doing things for God and others
- (c) by agreeing to share our things more freely
- (d) by our group having a fund where we keep money for special things the group decides on. This money is made up from what each of us decides to give. We can give some money to the fund each group night, or if that is hard, we give when we can. The money we give to the group fund does not replace the money we give in the Offering Plate on Sunday - it is separate.
- (e) by helping the Community to do its work and by showing others that we love Jesus, by what we say, what we do and the way we live.
- (f) by talking about the things which are important to us.
- (g) by helping each other see the things we do well, remembering that each one of us is allowed to be different.
- (h) by making our group one which is helpful, honest, forgiving and caring about each others' feelings. People in our group can be trusted not to tell anyone outside our group about other group members' troubles.
- (i) by agreeing to pray regularly, and to pray for each other and our Community.
- (j) by agreeing to help one another work out what it really means to be a Christian.



## **The Bread of Life** **Community Covenant**

We commit ourselves to -

- \* Membership of this Community through prayer, teaching and fellowship so that we can give our whole lives to the Lord and become disciples of Jesus Christ.
- \* Love, support and prayer for one another and help meet each other's needs.
- \* Attend and participate in the meetings and way of life of the Community and encourage each other to do the same.
- \* Forgive one another as readily as God has forgiven us in Christ and not hold grudges against one another.
- \* Accept and support our Co-ordinators in leadership of the Community and submit to their discernment and decisions in matters relating to the life of the Community.
- \* Speak in an upbuilding manner about one another and to guard against negative and destructive talk so as not to grieve the Holy Spirit.
- \* Do all that we can to preserve unity in the Community by acting in charity, selflessness of service, gentleness and showing patience to each other.
- \* Work for the renewal of the Church and to help bring the Good News of the Gospel to mankind.
- \* Accept and welcome those who join our Community.