



Pacifica News December 2020

In a week we will finish the second semester of our second year of training. We have had interviews with all of our fourteen students and all of them are determined to continue, despite the numerous challenges involved in arranging their lives to accommodate a demanding full-time course. This is a real testament to their commitment and courage and we would like to acknowledge them all!

Under-croft and Garden

Our home continues to evolve and grow. As of August we have a semi-enclosed usable space (we call it the under-croft) beneath our studio, with curtained change rooms, kitchen facilities, a luscious leather couch (a gift) and a table, and all of this, looking onto our burgeoning bio-dynamic vegetable garden which is tended weekly by the Beta students, guided by the wonderful Peter Kearney.





Bees

Thanks to Dave Rule from SVSS some new residents came into the garden recently, and settled in with help from a team of Pacifica astronauts! Another slender, shy resident also showed itself briefly....



Education Courses

In the July and September breaks Alpha students participated in their first Education Courses. These programs had a double purpose as nine teachers from Australia and NZ who are working actively with movement in the classroom had asked for intensive work of this nature and were planning to join us. Covid border closures made this impossible. In response we took the lecture component which focussed on the stages of child development online. The talks were presented by Pep Wright and Sue Simpson. The first round was met with such enthusiasm that we opened the second series (via SEA) to all schools, and invited them to support Pacifica by buying 'open access' to the talks for their teachers. The feedback again, and from a wide range of teachers, was glowing. It is exciting that we can offer something of such value to the whole teaching community and we will continue to develop this work into the future.

The next two courses in which the Betas will also participate will be:

**July 13th-16th and
September 27th- October 1st 2021.**

Let us know if you are interested in practical workshops and/ or the daily Zoom talks.
email Sue: pacifica.eurythmy@gmail.com



Encounter with Johnny

Near the end of term three we had a very special visit from Renai and Charles, owners of Equine Healing Australia, who brought Johnny, a rescued Kosciusko stallion to our home to meet the students. What they spoke about, and what you can see in the photos, is the way in which relationships can be built between horse and human being entirely through sensing and sensory awareness, based on trust and mutual respect. We could all feel that this is kin to the space out of which we are endeavouring to work in the practice of eurythmy.



Twelve Senses

A few days later we had yet another rich experience, when Dr. Jackie Cox-Taylor, a colleague from SVSS who is developing their centre for children with disabilities, came to share some insights into working with the twelve senses.

The (sometimes hilarious) exercises we attempted involved re-enacting the progressive stages of development from birth to speech, and had us wiggling armless through a 'birth-canal', rolling, crawling, balancing and finally speaking a poem. We will have further session with Jackie in the new year.



In class

As we have shared before all students have two music theory lessons per week. Recently the Alpha group sat the AMEB (Australian Music Education Board) Grade three theory exam online and all passed with flying colours. A triumphant moment. The value of this intellectual effort is evident daily in the rapidly increasing understanding of the music pieces we are working on together in tone eurythmy.

The form-drawing work with Pep Wright is both wonderful and demanding. She is leading the students into the movements of planetary pathways, drawing them free-hand, in gradual preparation for drawing the planetary seals.



Meanwhile with speech and drama teacher Nicole Ostini, students have also ventured into experiential encounters with the senses: taste, smell, balance, hearing and movement thus far. Nicole has also worked closely with Josefina developing an integrated approach to poetry for both groups this term. Finally Alphas have been very delighted to move for the first time to violin and will present an Air by Purcell this term.



Miliwanga Sandy

During the Waldorf 100 high school conference hosted by SVSS in August 2019, Miliwanga Sandy an elder and healer from East Arnhem land was holding workshops and found the opportunity to visit us on the newly acquired property where she did a blessing ceremony invoking the spirits of the magnificent white gums in front of the house. A week ago she came again at dusk and this time, in addition to a ceremony, shared with us stories of her family, of the white gums, and of her star totem.



In return Josefin and Jan performed the fourth part of the Foundation Stone and Hallelujah. Jan then offered a brief improvisation accompanied by Shakuhachi-style soprano saxophone played by Neish Kyle, and we concluded with a quiet action in which everyone participated, making a 'painting of footsteps' dipping our feet into red or yellow ochre (with Mili's permission) and walking across a white canvas laid on the ground. Following this everyone washed each other's feet before we settled around the fire and under the stars listening to more of Mili's stories. We are evolving a plan to work with her in a rhythm over the next few years.



Looking ahead

We are grateful that we can use the SVSS eurhythmy room until the end of this year but in 2021 it will become a classroom for a year while the school's Covid- delayed building project is underway. We will be innovative and make do with our studio and one improvised space for our two cohorts.

We have already 9 potential enrolments for our next intake which will be in 2022 and by this time we will manifest rooms galore!

If you or anyone you know is interested in the training please contact us: pacificacollege@gmail.com

Wishing you all a wonderful summer break and a good start to the new year.

Josefin, Jan, Patries, Sue, Elien, Liz, Diane
Pacifica College circle