



Pacifica College
of Eurythmy

Pacifica News

August 2021

No one has remained untouched by Covid19 restrictions which are constantly reshaping the travel and work landscape, and of course affecting students' capacity to visit their families during breaks, but remarkably we have been able to continue with our third year uninterrupted. The first semester was carried by local tutors Josefin, Jan and Patries, and with the creation of the NZ- Australia bubble we were delighted that our colleague Sue Simpson could skip across the Tasman for the first time since March 2020 to join us this term.

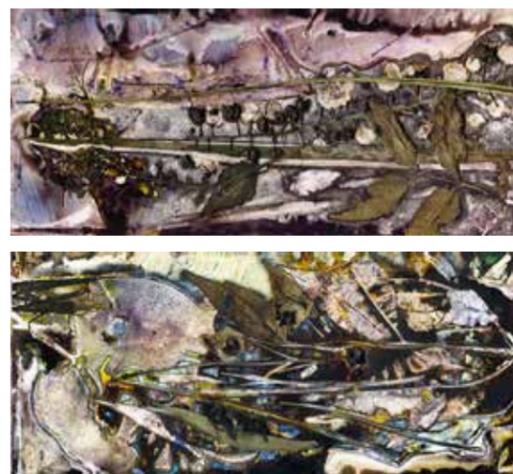




Performance

Usually, the students give a presentation of their work to a local audience of school classes, friends and supporters at the end of each term. In July this year, Samford Valley Steiner School (SVSS) was to host the biennial Steiner Education Australia (SEA) national teachers' conference and Pacifica College was invited to prepare a performance for the event. We saw this as a wonderful opportunity to showcase the students' and tutors' work for a much wider audience. A tremendous effort went into preparation. Josefin Porteous took on responsibility for the students' contribution.

Alongside the eurythmy, we collaborated with local artist Renata Buziak who created large-scale artworks on fabric to frame the stage; student musicians from Qld Conservatorium of Music were lined up to perform, and the show was to unfold as a progressive outdoor/ indoor experience.



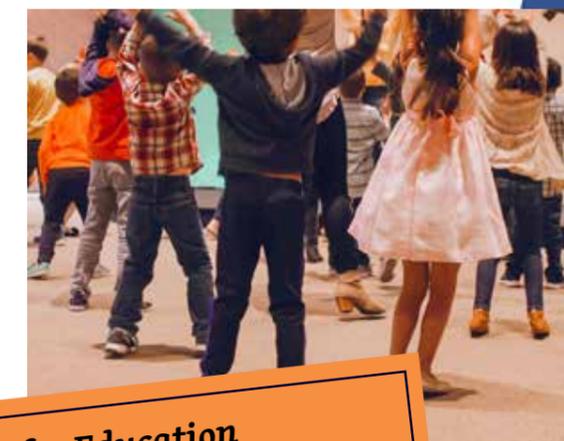
Educational Eurythmy

With their growing understanding of eurythmy in education, the students were now in a very receptive space for a four-day course prior to the beginning of term three. Sue Simpson led the excellent practical and reflective work which focussed on eurythmy for young children. Out of their wealth of experience with children and education, Jackie Cox-Taylor and Connie Grawert gave insightful talks on the stages of early development.



Looking ahead: Movement for Education

Pacifica College will soon be offering the first of a series of workshops to address the demands and challenges of successfully incorporating movement into the classroom. This course will be for teachers, aides, parents who are working with children aged six- nine. The content will include morning circle activities, games, creative movement and eurythmy exercises.



Movement for Education
A series of workshops to address the demands and challenges of successfully incorporating movement into the classroom.



Send us an email if you or someone you know wants to attend.
pacificacollege@gmail.com



But all this was not to be- at least not now. At the 11th hour the conference was cancelled as borders closed once more. Not to be deterred we considered a short-term postponement of the show, but this proved impossible, and we decided to reschedule for October.

Watch this space!



Budding Buddies

In February the Alpha students who are now in their third year took on a new initiative. Each adopted a lower-school class and, with some apprehension but much enthusiasm, began giving them a fifteen-minute eurythmy session once per week, mentored by eurythmy tutors and supported by the class teachers. The term one trial was very positively received and SVSS teachers were keen for more, so the students opted to take on an additional class in the second term. As time progressed, we heard them begin to articulate how the activity of teaching children contrasted with being immersed in the training, and how they were coming to value these two experiences. We could not have hoped for a better outcome!



Research



Eurythmy has been integral to education in Steiner/Waldorf Schools since 1919. While there are many excellent eurythmy practitioners throughout the world today, little research into the reasons for having eurythmy in schools is available in English. Recognising this and having gained permission from the publishers, we have undertaken to translate a number of extracts from qualitative research carried out by a German University. We are very pleased to acknowledge a \$4000 contribution by SEA towards getting this work underway.



Funding our future

We are still a young organisation, in our pioneering stage and what we have undertaken in launching the training was no doubt ambitious. Undergoing our first financial audit this year has led us on a steep learning curve regarding compliance and legislative requirements, and we are extremely grateful to Wendy Butler for the many hours she has invested on our behalf.

The one-off and regular donations that continue to come toward us, give confidence and courage to meet the ongoing financial challenges that are part of establishing ourselves as a reliable and recognised training. Amongst these we are tremendously grateful to have received a substantial legacy earlier this year. Such legacies and gifts mean we can work towards building additional facilities and achieving long-term sustainability.



We look forward to the day when we can once again interact with the wider public, visiting schools around the country, providing performances, running workshops at conferences, and we warmly welcome you to visit Pacifica whenever you are able to come.

Just let us know by sending an email to: pacificacollege@gmail.com

and watch out for our website which is due to be launched soon!