

Anthroposophical Society in Australia

News from the General Secretary

Issue No. 3, January 2024

Christmas Conference in Australia

In Melbourne between Christmas and new year, 85 striving Anthroposophists met over five days and shared a 'Whitsun-like' few days at the Michael Centre, Warranwood.

The days began with the Foundation Stone rhythms performed by Aurora Australis, followed by wonderful lectures, workshops and discussions.

The days together have served to restore and renew a sense of the community. We heard and felt whispers of the new mysteries between the human beings, in the present; we explored the evolutionary development of humanity and the planet (the past).

We contemplated depths and heights of reflection and deep listening together.

We examined the different streams and committed to meeting across the apparent differences.

The Anthroposophical Society can be viewed as a *heart organ* for the individual striving, and the community. May each member know and feel that they are a World Society member.

In overcoming our special interests, a spiritual law is enabled, Steiner says we become a 'general human'. If we find our rules and forms and overcome them for the objective, this is where Anthroposophia can truly live and weave amongst us.

To quote Rudolf Steiner
"anyone joining the Anthroposophical Society must feel yes, here I have found what moves me

an old person must feel: here I found something for which I have striven all my life together with other people

the young person must feel: here I found something which comes out to meet my youth when the 'free Anthroposophical Society' was founded I longed dearly to reply to the young people, who inquired about the conditions for joining, with the answer which I now want to give:

The only condition is to be truly young in the sense that one is young when one's youthful soul is filled with all the impulses of the present time."

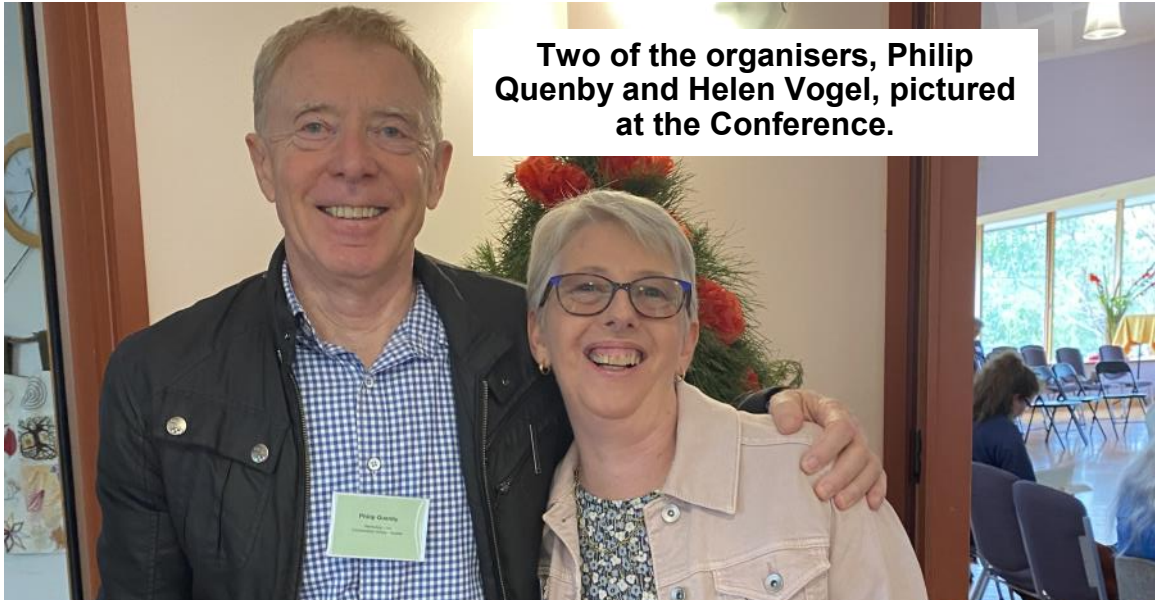
With warm thanks to the organising committee and all the presenters and participants.

*** The contents of the conference will be formatted, with photographs, to be shared with all members in February 2024.**



**General Secretary
Jane Bradshaw**

Save the date
ASinA AGM and members' event: 17-19 May,
at Maitland, near Newcastle, at Linuwel School.



Two of the organisers, Philip Quenby and Helen Vogel, pictured at the Conference.

* * *

FOUNDATION STONE 100 YEARS CONFERENCE — MELBOURNE 2023

We gather and meet, ponder and greet,
From places both near and far
We came by whatever means we could find
By plane, bus, train, taxi or car.

The morning Lesson is waiting for all
With mantrum of spirit-self proving;
The table of life has been well prepared
Doves in white, through sound, rhythmically
moving.

Not many can walk in this wide brown land
From where physical body abides;
In city or farm, small house or large
All over the country-side.

But from those who watch-over, guide or tell
The message is loud and clear,
You are here for one-and-all who know
To overcome doubt, hate and fear.

We know we must cross the rainbow-bridge
For a century it has been told;
The metal Kings showed that what we speak
Is more precious than highly sought gold.

To unlock the door to the knowing of self
You search for the primaeval key,
The way to true self, our great teacher has shown
Is through arts, music and poetry.

There are those who our will would seek to disable
By means of doubt, hate and destruction;
The fire, through cleansing our spiritual will,
Was over-come by architectural re-construction.

The Hierarchies, invoked by the foundation stone,
Now urge willingness to faith, hope and power;
Imagination, Inspiration and Intuition our goal
Through hard-working, spirit-self to endower.

Parsival showed us the most vital action
Of lovingly asking 'the question' ...
To listen, attend and caringly spend
Time awaiting the other's suggestion.

To value each other beyond all else,
To search, through the other, for truth;
To be brave enough our own thoughts to share
The ageless, the younger, the youth,

We thank all of those who made it come true
Our Conference's 100-year Celebration;
At the Michael Centre together to guide
Our ongoing future-preparation.

-- Janina Papas

News of membership from the Goetheanum and in Australia

Membership : world wide there were 111 new members in late 2023, 28 resignations and 66 members shine from across the threshold.

Three of those are from our Australian community. We acknowledge the passing of-

Florian Roger - Youth Section Oceania

Paul Harris - Canberra Branch

Sabina Domagawa - Sydney

**I was united with you.
Stay now united in me.
So shall we speak together
In the language of Eternal Being.
So shall we work together
Where deeds find their fulfillment.
So shall we weave in the Spirit
Where human thoughts are woven
In the Word of Eternal Thought.
— Rudolf Steiner**

* * *

Did you know?

The ASinA covers insurance for volunteer workers' personal accident or death when carrying out duties on behalf of the ASinA anywhere in Australia.

* * *

ASinA Journal articles

Jan Schjottelvig is no longer editing the Society's Journal, so please send articles to me, Jane Bradshaw.

Contact Jane Bradshaw:
generalsecretary.asina@gmail.com 0483 442 906

From the Goetheanum:

Membership administration

New members

According to article 4 of the Principles of the General Anthroposophical Society, "Anyone can become a member, without regard to nationality, social standing, religion, scientific or artistic conviction, who considers as justified the existence of an institution such as the Goetheanum in Dornach, in its capacity as a School of Spiritual Science."

A person wishing to join the General Anthroposophical Society completes the application form. Within the General Anthroposophical Society one then joins a country Society, a regional centre, a local or an interest group. In exceptional cases, one can



join as a direct member at the Goetheanum. This may be reasonable for people who often change their domicile or cannot maintain a connection to a local group.

The candidate sends in the completed and signed application form to the country Society, the regional centre or group, which he/she wishes to join. If the applicant wishes to be an individual member of the General Anthroposophical Society, the form is sent to the members' office at the Goetheanum.

Upon receipt of the application, the responsible person of the country Society, the regional centre or group processes the application and issues a membership card with the name of the new member, name of the country Society, the regional centre or group, and signs the card.

The membership card will then, together with the application form, be sent to the members' office at the Goetheanum. If the writing on the application form is barely legible, please transcribe the application data separately to avoid mistakes and further inquiries.

At the Goetheanum, the membership number and the date of entry (month and year) will be noted on the reverse side of the membership card, and the card will be signed from a member of the Executive Council. With this signature the member is acknowledged as a member of the General Anthroposophical Society.

Finally, the membership card will be sent back to the members' office of the country Society, regional centre or group, and from there handed over to the new member.

Groups directly attached to the Goetheanum may choose one of the two options for processing membership applications. They can proceed as described above, or they may opt to send the application directly to the members' office at the Goetheanum. Then, the membership card will be prepared and signed and after this sent to the group. Then the group will hand over the membership card to the new member.

Please note that a group member is at the same time a member of the country Society to which the group belongs. Likewise, a member of a regional centre is also a member of the country Society of which the regional centre is part.

Please note as well that EVERY member of a country Society, a regional centre, a local or an interest group or as a direct member at the Goetheanum is always also a member of the General Anthroposophical Society!

Duplicate membership card

A member who loses the membership card may ask for a duplicate. The procedure for issuing it is the same as for the card of a new member, i.e. the country Society or regional centre in question issues the membership card, signs it and then will send it to the Goetheanum where the card will be signed as well. The duplicate has to be marked with 'Duplicate' on the back side.

Changes of address and name

Please inform the members' office at the Goetheanum regularly on changes of address and name of your members, along with membership number and entry date. It helps to keep the address and membership database of the Goetheanum up to date and reduces misunderstandings and mailing expenses. We kindly ask you to submit information on changes of address and name in written form, preferably electronically.

Unclear memberships

Membership can become unclear when there has been no contact between the member and the country Society for a long time, for example because the member neglected to communicate new contact details, or when the member has not paid any membership contribution for several years. The country societies are asked to clarify such uncertainties in the membership.

Change of affiliation

When a member wishes to leave a group and join another, please indicate that it is his/her responsibility to get in touch with the chosen country Society or group.

Some members' offices have created a transfer form. They are useful in keeping track of the member.

Only membership affiliation changes between country societies, regional centres or groups affiliated to the Goetheanum need to be reported, not transfers between groups of the same country.

A change of affiliation is a movement of a member within the General Anthroposophical Society, it is not a resignation nor a new membership! Accordingly, the member does not have to complete an application, also the membership card is still valid.

Unfortunately, many members leave their group without joining a new one and consequently have no clear connection within the Society. Therefore, we ask each administrator to be aware of this issue and to assist in processing transfers as smoothly as possible.

Being member in two country societies or groups ('Double/Second membership')

A member of the GAS is free to join two country societies or groups of the GAS. The member has to negotiate the membership fee directly with them.

It is possible to receive the news of a country society without being a member of it. In such a case the costs are paid through subscription and not through membership contribution.

Resignations

Please inform the members' office at the Goetheanum as soon as possible on membership resignations from the General Anthroposophical Society, stating name, date of resignation (month/year), entry date and membership number.

After receiving a note of resignation from a member, the members' office sends a written confirmation of receipt and an acknowledgement of the resignation to the member. Afterwards, the members' office reports the resignation to the members' office at the Goetheanum. In case the latter receives a note of resignation directly, the confirmation letter will be sent from there, and the respective office of the country Society or group will be informed.

The membership card is the property of the General Anthroposophical Society. The member is asked to return the card to the members' office of the country Society or to the Goetheanum. The country Society or regional centre can receive and destroy the membership card, they do not have to send it back to the Goetheanum, but they have to inform the members' office at the Goetheanum that the card is destroyed.

Exception: When the membership card is signed by a historically significant anthroposophist (i.e. Rudolf Steiner, Albert Steffen), please send the card to the members' office at the Goetheanum, these cards will not be destroyed but archived.

With the withdrawal from the General Anthroposophical Society the membership in School of Spiritual Science (First Class) ends as well!

Re-entrance into the General Anthroposophical Society

It is always possible for a member who left the General Anthroposophical Society to apply again for membership and re-enter the Society. A re-entrance has to be processed like a new entry in to the Society, please see above. That means, the applicant must complete an application and send it to the country Society or group to which it wishes to be affiliated. A new membership card will be issued.

Please do not confuse a resignation or a re-entrance with a change of affiliation from one to another group within the Society.

Deceased members

Please inform the members' office at the Goetheanum as soon as possible on deceased members, stating name, exact date of death (day/month/year), entry date and membership number.

If the family or friends of the deceased member inform the members' office at the Goetheanum directly, we will respond by letter and inform the appropriate country Society or group.

Membership of the School of Spiritual Science

As a general guideline, a G.A.S. member can apply for membership of the School of Spiritual science after two years of membership in the G.A.S. A commitment to Anthroposophy and regular meditative exercise are required.

Karin Eckstein is the contact person for information on the School of Spiritual Science and membership in the First Class: Tel. + 41 (0)61 706 43 09 / Fax + 41 (0)61 706 43 14
hochschule@goetheanum.ch

The book *Die Freie Hochschule für Geisteswissenschaft Goetheanum. Zur Orientierung und Einführung*¹ ("The Blue Book") is available in any bookshop or can be ordered from the bookshop at the Goetheanum: info@goetheanum-buchhandlung.ch.

Annual statistics

Every January the members' offices worldwide are asked to hand in to the members' office at the Goetheanum their members' statistics for the year past. The request comes with a form to be completed.

The members' office at the Goetheanum will compile and summarise the data for the general assembly of the General Anthroposophical Society in the Spring. The annual statistics indicate the numbers and trends of the members within the Society.

Membership contribution

The contribution is part of being a member.² The share of the members' contribution paid to the Goetheanum is based on the number of members reported to the Goetheanum from the country societies. According to the principle of solidarity, resolved at the treasurers' meeting in 2008, it lies in the responsibility of the country societies to compensate for those members only partly or not paying their membership fees.

In Spring, the yearly treasurers' meeting takes place at the Goetheanum. On that occasion, the treasurers from the country societies and groups worldwide meet with the treasurer of the G.A.S. and talk about current questions concerning contributions and finances.

Information for members

The newsletter *Anthroposophie weltweit* and *Anthroposophy worldwide* appears ten times per year in German, English, French and Spanish respectively, and is sent electronically to each member (printed

1 The School of Spiritual Science Goetheanum. An Orientation and Introduction. Verlag am Goetheanum, 2008.

2 cp. article 12 of the Principles and article 13 of the Statutes.

version on request). It offers reports from various fields of activities, obituaries, news from the Goetheanum, notices of events and conferences.

The weekly periodical *Das Goetheanum* reports on diverse issues and areas of Anthroposophy and on current ongoing events in the world. It contains book and stage reviews and informs on art exhibitions, et al.

You can subscribe to the weekly periodical: Wochenschrift Das Goetheanum
Postfach, CH-4143 Dornach
abo@dasgoetheanum.com
www.dasgoetheanum.com/abonnieren

Goetheanum website

The Goetheanum website -- www.goetheanum.org -- offers comprehensive information in German (partly also in English, French and Spanish). It provides opening hours and contact details at the Goetheanum, addresses of all the country societies and groups directly affiliated to the Goetheanum as well as news articles. On top right, click on > *About Us* > *Become a Member* > *More*, and you will find the Statutes and Founding Statute of the General Anthroposophical Society. Furthermore, the website provides a detailed calendar of events.

— **Members Services Office at the Goetheanum**
Dornach, March 2021

News from Extended Vorstand meeting

About 70 people took part with 30 online as the colloquium for the *constitution* question, 24-26.11.2023. Reportedly “there was a good atmosphere and we heard that the reappraisal of this issue is largely completed. The facts around the constitutional history have been clarified. There are still differences of opinion in some areas, but these are no longer polarising. There is a broad consensus that we should now work together to shape the future.” The following questions will now be addressed:

What is a contemporary form for the Anthropo-

sophical Society?

What culture of encounter and what constitution do we need for this?

Nobody wants to return to the past. Legally we are in a society that was intended to support the development of a building (Building Society). The School was not legally constituted until 2014. The paper documenting the facts can be found online and the two years of work is now complete. Now it is time for patient work on the future shape and find appropriate structures that enable a spiritual impulse to work right into everyday life.

2. “Wanting Society”:

What should happen after the Michaelmas conference?
What is the status of the members' forums?

One group is still working on the voting issue so that more members can take part. An online vote is legally possible under Swiss law, but would have to be entered into the statutes. The feasibility of this is still being examined. If this option is chosen, all members must be informed well in advance of the Annual General Meeting. All modalities still need to be analysed and then compiled into a proposal. We want to move on from all the battles and coercion. The two-chamber system could be a good solution: on the one hand the membership and on the other the delegates such as the country representatives. In any case, everyone who wants to vote should be able to do so.

We have passed the centenary of the 1923/24 Christmas Conference.

This significant event for all present and future members.

At the Christmas Conference Rudolf Steiner inaugurated the form of the Anthroposophical Society (G.A.S.) and that has endured for 100 years and in which we continue to work together today.

There have been many challenges and still we continue with courage and fortitude.

The Foundation Stone Meditation in the hearts of the members forms the place of our social building. The Statutes form a completely new quality of a community, and compare to the body of the

building. The School of Spiritual Science with the First Class and the Sections form the soul of the Society built in this way.

One way of relating to the-

Spirit remembrance allow us to recognise again the entire composition of these elements as they entered the world 100 years ago and from whence they came.

Spirit contemplation may awake and feel in us how we live today in the World Society.

The School of Spiritual Science is involved in many different ways in current world events through the section fields.

Spirit-seeing may give us an awareness and clarity that 100 years is only the beginning and that many further aspects of the Christmas Conference impulse will be developed by us and by other generations.

As Country Representatives, we are involved in various committed processes in our circle and in cooperation with the Goetheanum Leadership. Such as the review of the ‘World Conference’ and in the forums and conferences with interested members. This encourages the shaping of the future in the sense of ‘Wanting Society’ in this historic moment. The historical past of the Society has been assessed and appraised. (More information is available through the website or on request.)

At the Goetheanum and all around the world, at more than 50 locations the Christmas Conference event has been celebrated.

Goetheanum request for funds

<https://anthroposophie.org/en/news/greetings-on-the-centenary-of-the-christmas-conference-and-call-for-support>

<https://allgemeine-sektion.goetheanum.ch/en/news/rudolf-steiners-commitment-for-an-anthroposophical-society-for-the-future>

Dornach visit

I will be visiting Dornach 22-29th April, for the Country Representative meetings and G.A.S. AGM, please speak to me if you have special questions or comments to take to the Vorstand.

Contact Jane Bradshaw:

generalsecretary.asina@gmail.com

0483 442 906

Arts Grants applications

There were five applications for the Arts Grants in December 2023. So, starting with the Word Sisters, I will share the details in the coming newsletters.

ASinA Arts' Grants 2024: Word Sisters' Gratitude.

The Anthroposophical Society in Australia has granted \$1000 towards assisting **Word Sisters** to continue their creative exploration.

Word Sisters have been creating as a collaborative community since 2017. They are four creative arts practitioners (performers, storytellers, workshop facilitators, poets, and writers) who have a common background in Anthroposophy. **Word Sisters** initially met over 20 years ago exploring Steiner's Speech and Drama methods through workshops in Western Australia. By combining Steiner's Speech and Drama indications, eurythmy, creative writing and biography work, they devise performances and related workshops. A playful curiosity and phenomenological research approach has enabled them to craft and share two performance/workshop projects: **Dancing Backwards** (2018) and **12 Portals** (2022). They will perform **12 Portals** in Mittagong and Sydney in mid-January 2024.

Word Sisters each contributes unique artistic strengths and for over five years have met regularly on Zoom. As three members live in Perth and one in Yamba, NSW, they manage their schedules to work physically together, usually in Perth, to develop works through embodied processes. Jenny Hill, Dale Irving, Renate Millonig and Rosemary Stevens are the four Word Sisters.

New Work

In their two extant works **Word Sisters** have drawn from Steiner's indications regarding the

planets and vowels, the zodiac and consonants, and writing and biography work, to nurture the soul life of the creators and audience. In their new work they are exploring the divine feminine that lives within nature and as potential within each virgin soul. The divine feminine being, Isis Sophia, speaks within Anthroposophical practice and literature hidden within the Foundation Stone Meditation, behind the Representative of Humanity sculpture, and as the being of the Revelations with the Moon under her feet, the Sun illuminating her body, and her head crowned with twelve stars. What does it mean for mortals to lift the veil of Isis?

Proposed celebration

A Speech and Drama Centenary Celebration event is proposed for September 2024 which presents an opportunity to bring together in Australia artists, colleagues, and experienced practitioners with an abiding connection to Rudolf Steiner and Marie Steiner-von Sivers' Speech and Drama lectures legacy.

Word Sisters will perform their completed works; share the fruits of their latest creative development (directly encompassing indications from the Speech and Drama Lectures); and provide masterclasses and workshops over the week of artistic exchanges and discussions. They are thankful to the ASinA for granting financial support towards this venture.

'Spiritual Science Revealed in Goethe's Faust,' Sydney, March 2025

By Allison Pitt

For months I had held the thought — how on earth would we, as a Society, mark the centenary of the crossing of the threshold of our founder and teacher Rudolf Steiner, in March 2025?

How to look to the future of Anthroposophy and what it might offer to the wider community, while acknowledging our gratitude for the remarkable contribution Rudolf Steiner had made in many members' individual lives and to the evolution of human consciousness.

I woke one morning with the thought that Steiner had held Goethe's 'Faust' in almost reverential esteem as a picture of the strivings, concerns and experiences of the modern human being. The thought was a daunting one. To stage 'Faust' usually takes 15-22 hours to perform. Even Goethe himself said it was unstageable. Would it be possible to capture its essence without compromising the spirit or gravitas of its theme?

Two new plays — Part one, the microcosmic 'Dr Faust and the Black Pog', and Part two, the macrocosmic 'Dr Faust, Heaven, Earth and Everything in Between' are a modern revisiting of the 17th century genius play by Goethe, 'Faust'.

A new character of 'Teacher' has been introduced who uses Steiner's own words in talks he gave on Goethe's play 'Faust'. 'Teacher' counsels or explains to Faust what is happening in his sometimes inexplicable and strange experiences, through the light of Anthroposophy.

Steiner said it was early in the Consciousness Soul development that Goethe wrote the play. He had therefore consolidated Ahriman and Lucifer

into the character of Mephistopheles. In this production the Black Dog will continue throughout the two plays, to appear whenever Ahriman has been active. He will be played by the actress Venessa Crane, who will make sinister entrances wearing a giant mask of the head of a black dog that completely covers her, and her electric wheelchair.

Whatever Steiner spoke of as having significance for the esoteric understanding in the play 'Faust' is explored. All quotes Steiner directly referred to have been retained in the new plays. If Steiner did not refer to a scene, then it probably won't appear.



Jolyon Bromley (actor, dancer and retired drama teacher) at one of the artistic evenings in November 2022 during the three-month event of "The Burning" at Sydney's Rudolf Steiner House. (Which was also supported by funding from ASinA and St John Branch.) Jolyon will be our Mephistopheles.

For example, the Faust and Margaret/Gretchen tragedy subplot, that most productions centre upon, has been reduced to a monologue Faust tells his Teacher. The challenge to present Goethe's 'Faust' is immense. How do you stage the scene where a giant talking turtle takes the form of a human and then turns into a dolphin who swims away with a tiny glowing human in a test-tube on his back? I was inspired to think to use the traditional form of shadow puppetry — but also in new and innovative ways using projections. Whenever there is a crossing of the threshold — and there are a lot of crossings — characters will also become coloured shadows and puppets as different realms and levels of consciousness are un-

veiled.

We are most grateful for the seed funding granted to the 'Dr Faust plays' team recently from the ASinA. We have therefore been able to commission Charles Kruppay (who has been blitzing it studying composition at the Sydney Conservatorium in music), to compose the music for both plays. We are most fortunate to have as our choreographer Josefin Porteous, who as an artistic Eurythmist

international performer, lecturer and co-founder of Pacifica College of Eurythmy, will be collaborating with Charles for our music.

We are in pre-production this year, creating all the realms and puppetry in the liminal world of projected colour and shadow. After the music has manifested there will be rehearsals with musicians and the 'Transient Choir', who will play a group of homeless people who act as a kind of Greek chorus throughout the first play. We will start rehearsing over the summer holidays, in 2025.

The plan is to stage in Sydney, over each of the first four Saturdays in March 2025, a matinee for 'Dr Faust and the Black Dog', a dinner break and then a 'Dr Faust, Heaven, Earth and Everything in Between' for evening performance.

If you would like more information, or perhaps you felt a quickening in your blood as you read this and would like to explore the possibility of being part of the '*Spiritual Science Revealed in Goethe's Faust*' project, feel free to contact Allison Pitt Allisonjpitt@protonmail.com

Directory of anthroposophical initiatives: Listings now open

A contemporary directory of anthroposophical initiatives in Australia has been developed as a result of an ASinA member's generous impulse.

The Society is pleased to announce that this is now becoming operational and members are invited to submit initiatives they would like included for listing.

Listings on the new online directory service – accessible on the Society's website – will be free to members for its first year of operation, after which they will cost a nominal \$20 a year (to help ensure listings remain operational and relevant).

The directory is a service to ASinA members and your involvement will shape its character and utility. It is envisaged that members may wish to make other members and visitors to the website aware of a range of initiatives, including:

- Anthroposophy oriented ventures or businesses, eg biodynamic supplies
 - ethical enterprises useful to individuals and branches
- anthroposophical initiatives, including workshops, courses, cooperatives
 - study groups
 - projects seeking participants
 - conferences and festivals

Intended listings can only be submitted using the form available on the ASinA website www.anthroposophyau.org.au

Listing submissions will be vetted before inclusion to ensure they are appropriate and relevant to ASinA members and friends.



Heart Fire Centre For Speech And Drama Presents

The Creative Life of Language Workshop



Artist: Katherine Rudolph

About Workshop

Through movement and Speech we will explore the creative forces of language; vowels as gateway to the soul, consonants as gateway to the world. Our work is based on the integration of Rudolf Steiner's approach to speech and Michael Chekhov's acting technique.

Facilitators

Dawn Langman

Katrina Stowe

Nicole Ostini

Where

Samford Valley Steiner School Hall
5 Narrawa Crt
Wights Mountain 4520 QLD

When

6pm-8pm 15 March 2024

9am - 4pm 16 March 2024

9am - 11am 17 March 2024

Cost

Cost for the 3 day workshop
\$250. (Self Catering)

Contact: Katrina Stowe: katrina_stowe@yahoo.com.au

Registration close on Sunday 10th March 2024