



NEWSLETTER | January 2026



And the year begins...

We ended 2025 on a high note on December 5th when a happy crowd of families, friends and former students gathered to celebrate our newest group of graduates Beatriz Brandao, Sky Anderson and Ronja Schneller. It was a night of laughter and joyfulness, with some hilarious sendups of graduates and teachers alike, along with quieter moments of reflection on the students' journeys, and the many stages Pacifica has traversed leading to the completion of our seventh year of training.

The three students are heading out confidently to work with eurythmy: two have positions in schools and the third is considering various options.

The Tour



Poetry at Perth Waldorf school



Scenes from the Golden Goose

Another significant highlight of the year was the ambitious tour we undertook in September with our 4th and 3rd year students, and two former students who joined us for the third term. We prepared four programs: a 20 minute show featuring “The Golden Goose” for young children; a longer show including the story, more music and some humorous pieces for middle primary; a Human Rights themed program titled ‘Passport to Everywhere’ for high school and the public shows.

The tour took us to four states (Qld, NSW, SA, WA) and 11 schools. We gave 33 performances to over 2800 school students and more than 500 members of the public. Funding came from school bookings and ticket sales; a contribution from SEA towards travel expenses; a gift from the Dombroski Foundation; and several generous donations from private individuals. Our budget was about \$23,000 all up, and we are pleased to report that we came out ‘in the black’ once all bills were paid.

The students excelled themselves both on and off stage, and the 9 month effort it took to organise the tour was amply rewarded by truly amazing feedback which indicated audiences of all ages engaged enthusiastically with the balance of contemporary and more classical content presented and felt ‘met’ through the delivery approach.



The Pacifica 'Passport' Tour highlighted the diversity possible with Eurythmy – there were serious, sublime and hilarious pieces. They moved a range of classical, romantic and modern music and poetry, and played out the Grimm's fairytale of The Golden Goose, to the children's utter delight. There were funny and poignant pieces full of playfulness and contrasts, from the things we could worry about to Aunty Jean getting back at the car who gave her a whack. It was a particularly delightful surprise for many students to learn that Eurythmy can also be humorous.

Perth Waldorf School

The students I've had the chance to hear feedback from have raved enthusiastically about the experience. From Kindy: "They so loved it they returned to their rooms to make their own performances", and from Primary Students: "I loved the Aunty Jean and car!" "You could really see the Golden Goose; they didn't need a prop at all for it" "You could see how they were stuck together; it was so real and alive!" (referring to a shared imagination), "I loved the patterns", "it was like they were flying" "it was just SO beautiful!".

Perth Waldorf School

Watching today's Pacifica performance to the high school, was like water for a parched soul. There were many elements that were noteworthy. However, the two that stood out were:

1. The careful and deliberate choice of material to present and reflect elements of our human experiences. Each piece breathed both recognition and inspiration to embrace our true nature.

2. The sensitivity and artistry that Jan drew upon to engage the students by giving context, history and personal reflections about the stories behind the words and music presented. It gave us a connection to what was living behind the pieces that defrosted the adolescent soul.

*PWS High School teacher
It was a delight to take in such a stirring and soulful experience. I can't begin to tell you what an impact your performance has had on our school. It was such a gift and one that keeps on giving.*

Silver Tree Steiner School

I've never enjoyed a eurythmy performance so much! It was quite brilliant and most compelling to watch. I loved all of the verses that were chosen and the link between the words and the movements was so much stronger than I ever recall experiencing previously.

Willunga Waldorf School

(a newcomer to eurythmy who whooped and whistled at the end) Matty... the loud one, said he so enjoyed the performance and could see our theme reflected throughout the night. And that when each of us moved, our individuality showed through in the sounds/tones while being together and that our hand movements brought to life what was being spoken/played...

Samford Valley Steiner School



Corina as a French Cook

Term Four

Meanwhile, all students had a final term of rich and profound work on Foundations of Therapy with Patries, followed by 4 weeks with Sue Simpson engaging deeply with all aspects of Pedagogical work including classroom observations and creating content themselves. The three students who have now completed their 3rd year are ready to enter their final year of training.



Tutors at the graduation

Looking back and ahead...

Over the course of its seven year life, **Pacifica** has been significantly carried by generous donors who trusted-or have grown to trust-our impulse. In fact, half our funding has come this way. Mid 2025, we had to acknowledge that we did not have the means to continue to offer full-time training in the immediate future. We shared this news widely. Many people thought we were stopping altogether.

Then the magic began. Around August, an anonymous donor deposited \$50,000 in our Gift Fund account. Between then and now, further gifts totalling \$80,000 have come our way. This extraordinary generosity gives us the confidence to forge ahead.

2026 will look different. **Pacifica** will not operate full-time, but the students (and others) will participate in a range of trainings that we have not been able to offer before. Two will dive further into the therapy work, joining the Eurythmy Therapy Training run by Patries, Michelle Nicholls and Sue Gould over the next 2.5 years. All students will attend the Social and Workplace Eurythmy

training to be run by Teresa Mazzei, an exceptional exponent of that work, from mid-January to mid-February; they will work in intensive blocks with Josefina and Jan towards another tour (likely to be in early September); they will attend shorter courses led by Liz Nevieve and later, Diane Tatum further deepening and broadening their eurythmy experience leading up to their graduation at the end of the year.

The possibility for others to join the courses outlined above has and will be offered.

Over the coming months we will shape and scope the courses to be offered in 2027.

Life supports us

Our impulse has always been a collaborative one, but since launching **Pacifica, we, the tutors, have rarely been able to come together in more than twos or threes: Covid restrictions and our individual work scattering us as widely as China, NZ, Vietnam -all kept us apart.**

It is therefore remarkable that at this joyful moment of change and growth, four tutors- Josefina, Sue, Patries and Jan could be joined by Diane Tatum and our loyal, wonderful finance manager, Wendy Butler, over the weekend

following the graduation. First, we met with the owners of the beautiful property **Pacifica** is allowed to call home. Over coffee and croissants, we renewed the Memorandum of Understanding between **Pacifica** and the land owners. We offer our heartfelt thanks to owners Joan Weir, Marilou Araullo and Tim Dunn for their ongoing support and investment in the **Pacifica** vision. Their commitment to **Pacifica** continues to make it possible for the initiative to flourish.

Afterwards, sitting in the studio

which has witnessed so much of our story, we cherished having the time to review and share highs and lows from the seven years, and begin to build our vision for the future.

We don't know what lies ahead, but we are certain that there are others working with us to continue creating the **Pacifica** future.

We send our best wishes for the festive season and for the new year.

Thank you all for being our witnesses and supporters.