



PACIFICA COLLEGE OF
eurythmy

NEWSLETTER

Spring is in the air, term three will soon be over and before we know it Pacifica will be six years old. Here are some highlights from 2024 thus far:

New graduates

In June we celebrated the graduation of two more students, Blossom Rübsamen and Delphi Read, while an earlier graduate, Alexander Heap, completed his fifth year with Pacifica. Blossom is now living in Germany for a year with her family, while Delphi and Alexander are quietly forging their own eurythmy paths back home.



Graduates' Tour

From April these three students worked hard with tutors to shape a program we called *Towards a New Song*. The core of the show was *The Secret of Dreaming*, an Australian Creation narrative written down by Jim Poulter. The text was written with the input and permission of elders and is fully open source - so available to anyone to use.

Josefin and Jan toured with the group for a week, along with narrator Katrina Stowe, and pianist Tyler Parrika. Travelling from Samford to Noosa, Bellingen, Coffs Harbour, Mullumbimby, and Cape Byron they gave 19 performances in all, mostly in schools, with versions to suit all age groups. Probably the highlight was the evening show to a big crowd in the magnificently refurbished Bellingen Community Hall.

Touring is intense and tiring work: travelling, setting up stages, ironing costumes, rehearsing (and remembering!) the changing versions of the show, giving back to back performances in very diverse venues, sleeping in strange beds - or even on kindergarten floors... but it is also a valuable learning experience and very fulfilling when audiences respond with warmth as they did everywhere.

The performance tonight was extraordinary. I am so excited that you are taking the dreaming story to Dornach. Sonny my husband came tonight. It is the first Eurythmy performance he has ever seen. His mob are Gumbanguirr, the country you just performed on and Nyoongar (Perth WA). He really loved it and is so proud you are taking this story to Dornach. Thank you from all of us. (Deborah parent, teacher)

Boy, it was so very good; we all loved every minute of it, and the children and I talked about parts we enjoyed following it. (Lynn, class one teacher)



International Graduates Meeting

Then, at the end of June, only days after the tour finished, came the biggest highlight of the year. For the first time Pacifica students and tutors flew to Switzerland to participate in the annual international gathering of graduates from eurythmy trainings. Together we chose excerpts from their tour program to present in their allotted 20 minute performance time at the Goetheanum, keeping the essence of the Creation story, sharing tone eurythmy and a touch of Australian humour as well.

Here are some impressions from the week:



Patries Orange, tutor: From around the world the newest graduates from Eurythmy trainings flock to Dornach, Switzerland each year to meet each other, celebrate Eurythmy and share their work in performance. This year 17 trainings from 15 countries contributed, with 120 graduating students in total. For the first time 'Pacifica', was represented by graduates Delphi Read and Blossom Rübsamen with alumnus Alexander Heap. Australia, now visible and not just a dot on a world map, was there! ... and with a few wonderful surprises: Speech artist Katrina Stowe, enabled by a generous last minute gift, instantly grew wings... and landed in Dornach in time to speak for our students with genuine Aussie twang and panache, lifting the

performance to a true down-under experience; former graduate Brianna Harris appeared, offering invaluable support backstage, ensuring everyone ended up with the right costumes, the right way up, with insides in and outsides out; and our Brisbane pianist Kerry Beaumont, who happened to be in Europe was also able to join us and mastered the grand piano beautifully.

The event coincided to the day with the centenary of the Lecture course 'Eurythmy as Visible Speech' given by Rudolf Steiner in Dornach on 24th June, St John's Day, 1924. What a superb moment to finally bring Pacifica to Dornach with our third graduating group.

The roll call of participating countries: Switzerland, Germany, Sweden, Norway, England, Netherlands, Romania, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Egypt, Japan, India, Israel, Mexico, USA, Australia.



Josefin Porteous, tutor: We travelled separately, and all met up in a new environment namely backstage at the Goetheanum in beautiful eurythmy rooms, each with a grand piano. Katrina, our speaker, was able to come at the last minute arriving just ready for our second rehearsal day. Kerry Beaumont our pianist, oh what a joy, arrived - not from Australia but from Holland - and overcame endless difficulties with bus and train to eventually join us for a rather chaotic dress rehearsal: there were difficulties with costume changes; slippery shoes; Kerry could not see the performers from the piano so could not play without being cued, but somehow that all proved to be a good luck omen for what was a great performance on the following day. We were well received, and people appreciated that we were the only group who did a complete story for our program.

Stefan Hasler, Maren Stott and Dorothea Miers gave masterclasses. It was a delight, moving together with 150 people in the 'Schreinerei' (Woodworking Hall). We explored the Goetheanum and walked through the very pleasant gardens and streets of Dornach. We had lovely meals in the Speisehaus gifted by wonderful Australians who supported us financially. The whole experience was adventurous and inspiring.

NB- Josefin also performed a beautiful solo at the final presentation by (over 30) tutors from all the trainings, and Patries led one of the workshop sessions for trainers exploring the methodological approach to working with sound, syllable, word, and sentence.



Alexander Heap, 5th year graduate: I really enjoyed the week at the Goetheanum. It was a rare opportunity to see so many different aspects and performances of eurythmy in a short period of time. Each eurythmy school brought a unique style to their eurythmy and it was interesting to see the cultural influences come out in their performances. It was good to get the opportunity to talk to other eurythmists and hear about their experiences with eurythmy. I heard from an Israeli group about how hard it has been to study eurythmy during a conflict situation.

I was surprised by how many people and different schools from all over the world participated in the conference. I got the sense that the eurythmy community is larger than I previously thought. It was good to see that age was no barrier to students completing the 4 year eurythmy training, as I saw many mature age students performing onstage.

Performing at the Goetheanum was a rewarding experience. Even though I was nervous onstage, I did feel a sense of achievement after our performances were finished. It was wonderful to receive positive feedback from other students. I also enjoyed watching and moving with so many eurythmists onstage during the Calendar of Soul performance.

During the conference everyone was so supportive and encouraging of each other. It felt like even though we all come from different parts of the globe, we were all part of one big family with a common interest. I would recommend to anyone, even if they are not in their 4th year to come and take part in the eurythmy conference.



Blossom Rübsamen, graduate: So good ... to see so many different groups and sooooo many ways eurythmy can be brought in to being.

Students of all year levels are welcome to attend. Being from a country that is an island for eurythmy I encourage anyone training in Australia to take any chance they can to visit Dornach in their 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year!!

It is so helpful to see all these different aspects of eurythmy and to potentially borrow things from other trainings that might have different focuses. Seeing each training build such a flavour (such livingness in veils, quickness of movement or the ability to hold a stillness in the eurythmy). Also to see how each training has such strong mannerisms, [and as a result, become] more awake to where one maybe moving similarly to one's teachers or finding one's own self in the movement.

It was wonderful to hear all the speech artists from different countries and experience how this living speech works hand in hand with Eurythmy. We are so grateful to the generous friends who enabled our wonderful speech artist, Katrina to join us from Australia.... a celebration of all the different colours of eurythmy in the world.



Meanwhile back at home...

In celebration of the Visible Speech centenary Blossom and earlier Pacifica graduate Brianna ran a series of gatherings in Newcastle, near Mullumbimby, and in Samford. They wrote:

On the 24th of June 1924, the first lecture on 'Eurythmy as Visible Speech' was given.

In celebration of hearing the echo of the centenary of this lecture cycle by Rudolf Steiner we gathered together with community, to share together in the experience of Eurythmy and food around a fire.

We came together over three weekends in three different communities and are so grateful to have met and moved with all who joined us from all different walks and interests of life.

We look forward to future gatherings where Eurythmy can become the 'helper' to create community wellsprings for social impulses of good.

Blossom and Brianna

A brief report from across the Tasman!

Eurythmy Aotearoa, a part-time eurythmy training in New Zealand was born from a spontaneous workshop in January 2022. The core group of six women are committed to completing their training mid 2026. A presentation of their work in June this year confirmed that their progress towards completion of a training is on target. A part-time training requires additional commitment from the students to be self-motivated without the daily presence of their tutors. We are nomads, without a permanent home. That means each workshop sees tutors and students on the road for our lively sessions. We tutors find it a privilege to work with this mature group of students.

Sue Simpson



The Shed

On the property which hosts Pacifica work on a delightful new 9m x 6m second studio is well underway. This is a shed make-over with style! The roof of the former double garage has been raised, new high-set windows inserted all round, walls and ceiling fully insulated and lined, and a new floor laid. Wide glass doors and a semi-enclosed porch will be added to finish it off. The students already call it the temple as it is such a luminous and beautiful place. BIG thank you to the owners!

Pop-up week

After considering various ways to open Pacifica up to the community, we decided to start with a 'Pop-up week'. The first one took place in July. For our 2nd /3rd year students (who were missing their recently graduated colleagues) it was so nice to start the term working in a bigger group.

Several QLD alumni leapt at the chance for some PD before heading back to the classroom and other visitors came from NSW. We had a great time, and the consensus was to do it again. **We'll now offer a Pop-up at the start of each new term going forward.** Come and join us!



The students were also lucky to have **Martin Porteous** to work with them on a selection of poetry for a few days. Martin is a very experienced speaker, performer, teacher, storyteller.



The Builders, Tim and John



New Intake

The next possible time to join the training will now be at the beginning of 2025. We need a minimum of six students to start another course. If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact us:

pacificacollege@gmail.com

Dates to note

* September 5th 5.30pm, SVSS eurythmy room: Term three student presentation

* September 30th - October 4th, (venue tbc): Pop-up week #2

* November 22nd End of term four.

* January 30th 2025, Start of term one, and Pop-up week #3