



Pacifica College
of Eurythmy

Pacifica News

January 2022

Perhaps the most astonishing news is that we completed the year with only one single week of interruption! That said, we did have to adjust our plans at different times while two tutors waited to be granted quarantine places: Josefin so that she could finally come up from Sydney for term four and Sue, so that she could at last return home to NZ in October.

The year finished well, and, hard though it is to believe, all students are now looking forward to starting their third and fourth years respectively at the end of January.





Teachers' Movement workshop:



There was a lot of interest in the September workshop from teachers all around the country, however with closed borders and lockdowns everywhere, attendance was unfortunately limited, so it was great to have thirteen participants from Queensland and NT.

Sue Simpson led the eurythmy component and gave child development talks; Sally Davison shared ideas for morning circles, Blossom Rubsamen brought games and Karen McDonald led singing. The focus was on movement for lower school classes. The participants were very appreciative and we plan to continue with such workshops as they are clearly needed and wanted.



Music Theory

Having completed Grade three music theory with flying colours last year, the Alpha students have been working with solfege this year and singing together a lot to develop their hearing of intervals, harmonies, modulations. This practice has further deepened their personal experience of music as well as their confidence in analysing and understanding pieces they are preparing in tone eurythmy. Kerry, their teacher, was so proud that she even created special badges the likes of which are rarely to be seen in ANY music school!



Buddy work

Over the course of the year the Alpha students worked fifteen minutes per week in the classroom with children in classes 1, 2, 3 and 4. This buddy work was really successful. Not only did the children and teachers enjoy and look forward to it, but it also led to the development of beautiful relationships between the children and the eurythmy students. It was such a treat to see them at the end of each term watching the student presentations engrossed and genuinely in awe of what they were seeing.



A new student

Who would try to come to live in Australia bringing a family of five children, in the middle of a pandemic in order to study eurythmy? It took him nearly two years to get here, but finally our newest student, Ron, joined the Beta course in July after completing a year in England.

He has fitted in very well and we are very pleased to now have four male students in our training.



End of term presentations

As the hall was in use and we couldn't accommodate a big audience in the studio for the end of term presentation, only the two class two cohorts and class three were our guests. The children were a delightful and engaged audience and called out for more at the end of the half hour show. A second performance for adults included the speech eurythmy solo pieces to choreographies by Rudolf Steiner, that the Alpha students had worked on. The feedback from audience members who come every term has been very encouraging. They can see the students' emerging fluency and artistry, and their growing capacity to engage the children, as well as their confidence and cohesiveness as a group.





Leonard Cohen Show



In recent months Jonathan Anstock, a former Steiner teacher and Cohen devotee, has performed his tribute to Leonard Cohen "The Spirit of Leonard Cohen" all over the Sunshine Coast and brought it to Twelfth Night Theatre in the city in December. For his Brisbane show he wanted eurythmy to be included for several of the songs. The students were all keen to participate and an additional week of intense rehearsals with Josefin followed the end of term. The almost sold-out show was a great experience for them all, both in preparing to integrate their work into a totally different context, and in fronting an audience who had no experience of eurythmy. They were warmly received and we are very grateful to Jonathan for this wonderful opportunity!



Spraying 500

As an end of year gift to SVSS, the students, along with several teachers from the school, gathered in the studio garden to stir a bio-dynamic preparation known as 500, which renews the vitality of the soil. They then each took a bucket of the solution and used small branches to sprinkle it across the gardens of the school. It was a fitting final gesture of gratitude for all we have received during the year.

