

Sweet Porridge



December 2024



Little Yarra Steiner School is situated on Wurundjeri Country. We respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work, learn, and play, and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We are honoured to share in the continued care of this land, with its wetlands and river, its stones that sleep in the depths of the Earth, its plants and trees that reach for the Sun, and all the creatures that know it as home. We respectfully acknowledge the ancient and enduring culture of those who have walked this land in the past, which will continue to enrich the lives of our community into the future.

School Fair and Year's End

What a joyful School Fair and Open Day we had, with so much fun and laughter (and ice cream!)

And now as the end of the school year is drawing to a close, we say goodbye to the class twelves, as well as other students and teachers who are leaving for pastures new.

May those things shine again
On the path through life
That in the time of youth
Were planted in the heart
As the seal of true humanity.

May those things be strong
In the depth of memory
Which the soul discovered
Through the heart
Under the spirit guidance
Of the powers that teach for life.

(Rudolf Steiner's verse for the graduates of the Stuttgart Waldorf School, April 1924)

**Wishing everyone a beautiful Christmas time
and holidays filled with sunshine and fun!**

Blessed Motion

By Annie Zylstra

I believed in solid ground
until I saw the earth in motion,
in the winds of steady change
and in the ever-rolling ocean

All moves on in perfect, perfect motion
All is change and ever-rolling ocean

All is moving, all is change, though I once believed that there
might somehow be something firm beneath my feet, but
All is motion, and all is well for solid ground is just a myth
for those who never swim in it.

All is moving in blessed change, o the world we know.
will come and go and everything will rearrange, so
be the ground beneath that sky,
tumbling round the by and by.

All is change, so am I.
lye lye lye, lye lye lye.

Kangaroo-apple Season

- Changeable, thundery weather.
- Dhuling (Goannas) are active.
- Buliyong (bats) are catching insects in flight.
- Days are long and nights are short.

'Usually when a storm's coming, rain birds, black cockatoos, yellow crested, they come down from the mountains. And you can bet on it within two or three days it rains. Never fails. Two days and it rains. And they make a racket.' Brian Paterson, 1999



Kangaroo Apple (*Solanum aviculare*)

Fruits appear on Kangaroo-apple bushes. Bali (Cherry Ballart) is fruiting. Bundjil (Wedge-tailed Eagles) are breeding. Bunjil, the Creation Being, is also referred to as the 'eaglehawk'.



Bundjil - Wedge-tailed eagle (*Aquila audax*)

**Contributions of articles,
recipes, stories, poems,
music and artwork always
welcomed. Please email to
sweetporridge@lyss.vic.edu.au**

**Advertising deadline for the
next issue of Sweet Porridge
is Friday 14th February 2025**

At The Turning Point of Time



The first Goetheanum

“In this Christmas night there should pour into our hearts the fundamental human feeling of love—the fundamental feeling that says: compared with all other forces and powers and treasures of the world, the treasures and the power and the force of love are the greatest, the most intense, the most powerful.”

Rudolf Steiner

GA 143 24 Dec 1912

The significance of Christmas for Rudolf Steiner

This article is from notes taken at a lecture by Virginia Sease, PhD, at the Waldorf School of Princeton, on December 12, 2010, commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Princeton Group. Dr. Sease (now retired), at that time, was a member of the Executive Council (Vorstand) at the Goetheanum, in Dornach, Switzerland.

Rustic Nativities

Rudolf Steiner received his initial impressions of Christmas from the festive atmosphere of the Austro Hungarian villages in the latter nineteenth century of his childhood. As Christmas approached, these neighborhoods were suffused by a mood he later described as magical breath that filled the homes and streets with joyful, hopeful anticipation. Even the poorest peasant householders would dedicate a corner of their dwelling to a crèche populated by wooden figures they carved themselves to represent the Holy Family and its pastoral or regal visitors, and above the scene always hovered an ingeniously suspended angel protecting the domestic setting of miraculous newborn.

As a boy, Rudolf Steiner enjoyed repeated opportunities to view such humble vignettes when visiting his neighbors. In light of Steiner’s towering cultural innovations, we can easily forget that the rural working-class comprised the social milieu of his upbringing. As an adult, he spoke of his sympathy (which today we might term empathy) with the proletariat as a natural result of having grown up among them.

The villagers of Steiner’s childhood went further than decorating their homes to welcome Christmas, celebrating the Nativity not only in consecrated space but also in dramatic time: The peasants enacted traditional seasonal pageants centered around the two archetypal narratives; every Christmas Eve they re-enacted the biblical stories of the Creation of the World, the Temptation of Adam and Eve, and the Expulsion from Paradise, and on Christmas Day the story of the Shepherds as recounted in the Gospel According to St. Luke.

Serious Play

Despite their homely setting, these productions were in no sense casual, but rather conducted in high solemnity: Preparation began at the end of the harvest season, when, in the age prior to electrical illumination, peasants—in that day men and boys only, including for the roles of Mary and the angel— would rehearse by lantern and candlelight.

Thanks to the insight and diligence of one of Steiner’s most beloved and infant Redeemer as they proceeded through the streets and into homes, where they would be welcomed to approach the prepared crèche. This tradition continues today in parts of Switzerland, whose residents receive children’s dramatic offerings and expectations of reciprocal gifts from their hosts. The ceremony thereby gently inducts everyone’s active participation into the festival that celebrates the Incarnation of good will.



At The Turning Point of Time

Pedagogical Annunciations

On multiple occasions, for example in lectures given in 1915 and 1920, Rudolf Steiner held that Anthroposophy can serve humanity's present task by replenishing our ebbing natural piety through freely undertaken schooling in devotion. Feelings of reverence, once trained through forms of folk religion, can now be suitably directed toward higher knowledge itself, as the first step along the path toward Initiation.

To help prepare children for a lifetime of appreciating worlds higher than their own personalities and material surroundings, soon after its founding in 1919, teachers at the first Waldorf School in Stuttgart presented the Oberufer Christmas plays as a gift to their students. This practice has spread widely, so that today the plays are performed at hundreds of Waldorf Schools worldwide. In their sensitive mixture of joy, humor, and piety, their universal appeal complements and transcends whatever formal religious training the children might receive at home.

Our speaker recalled her own experience with these plays as a teacher at Highland Hall Waldorf School in Los Angeles. In the early 1970s, a new tradition began: Out of their own initiative, twelfth-grade students there produced the Three Kings Play to round out the trilogy in which the teachers performed the Paradise and Shepherds' plays. Staging the latter, the teachers playing the shepherds, bundled in fleece and fur in the balmy southern California climate, needed the school air-conditioners to run at maximum capacity for a three full hours leading up to show-time, in order to conduce them convincingly to shiver in their roles as winter flock-wardens.

Some surviving alumni of the first Waldorf School in Stuttgart have testified that their impressions of the Christmas plays, performed prior to the school's forced closing by the National Socialists in 1938, sustained them through the dark times that immediately followed, and then accompanied the alumni as cultural nourishment into their tenth decade of life. This testifies to the truth of Rudolf Steiner's calling these plays platonic gifts streaming into the Waldorf School movement from the spiritual worlds.

Christmas as a Mantle for Sorrow

Thus hope can be refreshed through devotion inspired by incarnated wisdom. But in Rudolf Steiner's experiences of Christmas, this hope also sustained a bitter amalgam with tragedy, a juxtaposition that reached dramatic culmination on New Year's Eve in 1922, when an arsonist's fire destroyed the First Goetheanum, occasioning incalculable social, spiritual, and aesthetic losses. Products of priceless artistic and artisanal labor, such as

hand-wrought fixtures of carved wood, and giant stained-glass windows etched by Steiner and his coworkers, were irretrievably destroyed in a single night.

But a resourceful individual has capitalized on the surviving records of the forms of the First Goetheanum. The present, second Goetheanum's capable Stage Lighting Supervisor retired some years ago. This essential coworker in eurythmy and drama productions lived at Haus Friedwart, a nearby guest-lodging, and so could use its basement as a studio in which to craft a detailed 1:20 scale-model of the First Goetheanum. When the burgeoning model outgrew its dwelling, a resident of a village thirty minutes' drive away made available to this energetic worker a barn of sufficient size to house the project. The craftsman's remarkable feat replicates the lost structure in fine detail: Each type of wood, originally selected on the basis of its esoteric qualities, is reproduced, species for species; roofing slate imported from Norway, glass brilliantly stained and inscribed with pictures by dentist drill, and all other minutia are represented in the same materials and techniques in miniature. This work progressed until the twin cupolas outgrew even its capacious barn and was transported to the room adjacent to the famous Representative of Mankind sculptural grouping, where it was installed on Michaelmas Day for display and can be now be viewed by the visiting public. We were encouraged not to miss the opportunity.



[Image from here](#)

A Festival of Birth and Rebirth

Although, through the burning of the First Goetheanum on New Year's Eve 1922, tragedy occurred at the end of the Christmas festival, Rudolf Steiner never allowed grief to overcome him. This is evident from his immediate resolve and execution to plan a new Goetheanum to replace the one destroyed by fire. The fruits of this determination are gradually gaining recognition outside anthroposophical circles as well, for example in a recent book, published in France, assessing the past millennium's twelve most significant (western) human achievements: The collection lists the First and Second Goetheanums together with the Cathedral of Chartres and Hagia Sophia, and includes Rudolf Steiner among the twelve individuals considered historically most significant.

Nor was such renewal limited to the material plane. Christmas was the season Steiner chose for the renowned 1923 refounding of the General (or perhaps better termed Universal) Anthroposophical Society. One of its central aspects was the innovative laying of its Foundation Stone, not physically but rather as a powerful mantric verse planted in the hearts of the renewed Society's members present at the festive conference, which stretched from Christmas Day through New Year's Day 1923–1924. The first event on the program in the afternoon of December 24th was in fact the Oberufer Para-

“The task of cognition is to overcome the separating element in the human organization in order to establish the unity of idea and percept as truth”.

At the Turning point of Time

dise Play, by necessity presented in the carpentry workshop in lieu of the theater-building that had been burned, followed by a performance of the Shepherds' Play on Christmas Day and again on December 29th, and the Three Kings' Play on December 27th and December 31st. The day after Christmas, celebrated as the "Second" Christmas Day in Europe, also saw one of the early performances of eurythmy, an art that today we still rightly call young, and therefore then in its very infancy. The production was prefaced by an address in which Steiner emphasized the place of eurythmy at every true celebration.

Christmas Articulated Through Meditative Verse

The Foundation Stone Meditation itself evokes the original Christmas in its concluding Fourth Panel. In recent centuries of recapitulating the biblical narratives of the birth of Jesus, Christendom has remarked on the differences between the Gospels of Luke and Matthew: Luke 2:1-20 relates the story, now long familiar, depicting the Annunciation to the shepherds and their visitation to the child lying in a manger, while Matthew 1:18-2:12 recounts priestly kings who presented their gifts to the occupants of a house. These two depictions, emphasizing the forces of warmth and light respectively, meet in our awareness at every recitation of the Fourth Panel of the Foundation Stone Meditation.

Although today it is common to find these two scenarios conflated into a single tableau, such was not the case prior to the eighteenth century, when the kings and shepherds might be depicted in adjacent settings, but never staged as mingled. This iconological distinction suggests an intuitive, artistic recognition of the veiled historical truth that the diverse stories are indeed distinct and symbiotic, a relation the Fourth Panel of the Foundation Stone Meditation recognizes by juxtaposing their complementary meanings of Christmas for human evolution:

*At the turning-point of time,
The Spirit-Light of the World
Entered the stream of Earthly Evolution.
Darkness of Night had held its sway;
Day-radiant Light poured into the souls of men,
Light that gave warmth to simple shepherds' hearts,
Light that enlightened the wise heads of kings.
O Light Divine! O Sun of Christ!
Warm Thou our hearts,
Enlighten Thou our heads,
That good may become
What from our hearts we would found
And from our heads direct
With single purpose.*

Rudolf Steiner, Christmas, 1923.

Advent of the Future

On the 75th Anniversary of anthroposophical group-work in Princeton, as we contemplate these iterations of Christmas from the founder of anthroposophy, we may wonder: How will it be in another twenty-five years' time, when some present will be participating from "upstairs" (as a friend of the speaker genially terms post-mortem spiritual residency), while others among us will have grown aged,

still others reaching midlife, and perhaps some now yet unborn, will take part? Such imagining carries the hope that we will celebrate the centenary of the work of the Princeton group within a whole life of anthroposophy. For the life of anthroposophy is in fact always a whole whenever people are working together out of its spirit.



Artist unknown



Music Register

Instruments for Sale

Term 4 – 2024



Little Yarra
STEINER SCHOOL

Violin

1/2 size violin. Comes in hard foam case. Very good condition. \$450. Contact Crystal 0416 361 012. Located in Warburton or can bring to school.

1/2 size violin, it is an Enrico brand, with hard carry case, shoulder rest, bow, rosin (more like half a rosin) and new set of strings just replaced. Asking \$120. 0435-798714 Kaku

1/2 VIOLIN, SKYLARK (photos available). Good condition, with 2 bows, no shoulder rest or E string. Case shows wear, but violin is solid. \$150. Luna 0433 337 161

1/2 size student Violin "Skylark" Chinese. 45 years old. Good condition. Comes with bow, shoulder rest, shoulder pad, rosin and good hard case. \$70. Vasudha 0451 944 051.

3/4 size Amore violin from Animato strings in Brisbane. In good condition. Complete with 2 bows, case and shoulder rest. Great quality instrument with a beautiful sound. Paid over \$1000 new, selling for \$400. Meaghan 0427751779

3/4 "Prelude Stradivarius copy" Violin, Chinese handmade instrument. Comes with a hard case, bow & shoulder rest. The violin case has a crack, could be mended, sound very good as is. \$200. Kelly 0414 391 039

Full size 4/4 "Prelude" Violin. Copy of Stradivarius. High quality, very good condition. Comes with bow & case. Valued at \$2500. Selling for \$1500. Aladdin Jones 0490 123 199 or Tessa Priest 0405 390 348.

Viola

1/4 size viola (originally a violin) Comes in hard foam case \$450. Contact Crystal 0416 361 012. Located in Warburton or can bring to school.

12.5 inch VIOLA, CHAMBER STUDENT, MVI (photos available). Good condition with a few marks, 1 bow. Lockable case in excellent condition. \$250. Luna 0433 337 161

13 inch VIOLA, CHAMBER STUDENT (photos available). Good condition with a few marks, 1 bow. Solid case showing some wear. \$150. Luna 0433 337 161

Trumpet

TRUMPET, YAMAHA (photo available). Excellent condition - barely played in last 2 years! \$450. Luna 0433 337 161

Cello

1/4 size cello. Comes in hard foam case in fair condition. Cello has a few nicks and scratches on it as it was bought 2nd hand, but still sounds beautiful. \$450. Contact Crystal 0416 361 012. Located in Warburton or can bring to school.

1/4 size cello "Chamber" Student Model MDC550 with bow and soft case in good condition. \$400 negotiable Cat 0403 334 808

1/4 size cello. Salieri brand. Bought in 2018 through the LYSS music department. Excellent condition. Comes with bow and semi-hard case (case will require replacement). \$550 Call Monique 0401353 698.

1/4 size Cello, Chamber Student Model – Plus, great condition, \$700. Nadine 0423 539 718.

1/4 size Sandner Dynasty Co. Cello and bow in good condition. Comes with a hard/soft case in poor condition (straps need replacing). \$400 ono. Contact Larry 0458 254 828.

1/2 size Cello and Bow. Chamber Student MPC 550. Cello is in good condition. Comes with a soft case in fair condition.. \$450 - \$550. Maxine 0421 650 229. Located in Warburton, can bring to school.

1/2 size Cello Chamber 300 Brand and bow. Excellent condition. Hybrid hard case. \$1000. Victoria 0411 016 299.

3/4 CELLO, SKYLARK (photos available). Decent condition with a few marks, 1 bow. Solid case with broken zip but clasps still close. \$400 neg. Luna 0433 337 161

3/4 size 'Arco' Animato Strings Cello, very good condition. Comes with bow and hard foam case. Probably needs tuning. \$550. Contact Liz on 0401 054 881 or lizmynes3357@gmail.com.

4/4 full size Cello Enrico Student Plus II. This lovely cello is in excellent condition, being near new and having had limited use. Comes with bow and hard foam case. \$800 Liz 0401 054 881 or lizmynes3357@gmail.com.

Schumann Prodigy 4/4 Cello. Full size cello, bow, and hybrid case with wheels. Purchased new from Bows for Strings in February 2023. Very satisfying to play and hear. Price as new: \$1899. Sell for: \$1300 o.n.o.

Please note that music teachers are happy to assess if the instrument is the correct size for your child and advise if there are any repairs required prior to purchase. When discussing this with the seller please explain this may take a week as the teacher will need to fit time in for this around their busy schedule. If you require a valuation, it is best to take the instrument to a valuer for a valuation none of our staff are qualified to value. Please make sure that any instruments are clearly labelled with a contact phone number for collection

Former Waldorf Student Is Making Waves in Classical Music

Samuel Siskind, a 17-year-old composer and former student of Westside Waldorf School in Pacific Palisades, is making waves in the classical music scene with the release of his debut album, *Awake*.

Released in August, the album has garnered critical acclaim ahead of a world premiere performance on November 3 with the Choral Arts Initiative in Newport Beach.

Siskind, a high school senior, is no stranger to the spotlight. He has been involved in music since a young age, attending Westside Waldorf School before continuing his education at Crossroads School for the Arts & Sciences in Santa Monica. His early exposure to music helped shape his passion, and he began studying composition at the age of 11.

The premiere performance of his piece, "Release," will be part of the Choral Arts Initiative's season-opening concert titled *From the Heart*.

This event will feature works by several established composers, but Siskind's inclusion at such a young age stands out. The program, centered on the theme of transformation, will also include pieces by Paul Ayres and Shara Nova, among others.

Siskind's musical journey began with piano performances at Los Angeles farmers' markets at age 8. He later joined the National Children's Chorus and earned roles with the LA Opera by 2017.

"Samuel is emerging as one of the most promising young composers of his generation." Siskind's mentor, UCLA composition professor and former chair Ian Krouse, stated in a release. "His music is original and rigorous yet always accessible and beautiful."

In addition to his debut album, Siskind is a recipient of the 2024 ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Award and has collaborated with prominent artists like Grammy-nominated baritone Johnathan McCullough.

Source: Waldorf Today, 22nd October

[Click here to listen to Samuel Siskind's The Forest from the album Awake.](#)

Samuel wrote and composed *The Forest* when he was 12 years old.

*In a forest far from fear
Lived a tribe with calm and prayer
In this way they lived a life
With joy, happiness, no strife*

*That tribe! That tribe!
Their ways make way
for harmony and light
A joyful congregation full of life.*



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Chia pudding

Creamy, satisfying, and full with protein and fibre, it's the perfect after school snack or tasty breakfast! (eatingbirdfood.com)

Ingredients

- 4 Tablespoons chia seeds
- 1 cup almond milk
- ½ Tablespoon maple syrup or honey
- ¼ teaspoon vanilla extract
- Toppings of choice: fresh berries or other fruit, granola, nut butter, etc

Instructions:

1. Stir together chia seeds, milk, maple syrup and vanilla in a bowl.
2. Once the chia pudding mixture is well combined, let it sit for five minutes, give it another stir/shake to break up any clumps of chia seeds, cover and put the mixture in the fridge to set for 1-2 hours or overnight. The chia pudding should be nice and thick, not too liquid. If not thick enough, add more chia seeds (about 1 Tablespoon), stir and refrigerate for another 30 minutes or so.
3. Chia pudding can be stored for up to 5-7 days in an airtight container in the refrigerator.

Fruity Christmas Tree

Ingredients

- 300g seedless watermelon, cut into star shapes
- 300grams seedless watermelon, cut into star shapes
- 1 firm green apple
- 1 long carrot
- 250g strawberries
- 4 kiwifruit green, cut into halves and quarters, with some flesh pieces cut into star shapes
- 1 cup green grapes

Instructions

1. To create the tree's internal structure, cut slices from apple ends, so it sits flat on a round board.
2. Carve out a 3cm-deep hole in apple wide enough to fit carrot top. Don't carve all the way through.
3. Sit the carrot into the apple and swivel until it sits firmly in the apple.
4. Use a metal skewer to poke holes into the carrot at different heights. Cut wooden skewers into different sized lengths, then stick into holes (longer ones towards the base of the tree, and small ones towered on the top).
5. Stud skewers with fruit, as desired. Note: We used green grapes, kiwifruit (cut into halves and quarters, with some flesh pieces cut into star shapes), hulled strawberries and watermelon (cut into star shapes)



Beans and Bananas

Fruit and Vegetable Co-op

Beans and Bananas is a local organic/ bio-dynamic fruit and vegetable co-op, providing members with an abundant box of mixed organic/ bio-dynamic fruit and vegetables at reduced prices due to our relationships with local suppliers.

Full or half boxes are packed and available fortnightly.

A full box costs around \$80 each fortnight depending on supply and market costs. There are also wonderful opportunities to be involved with the running of the co-op to reduce your box cost as an active member.

The pick-up for boxes is at ECOSS, Old Warburton Rd in Wesburn after 3pm on a Friday.

Boxes are out for collection with no fixed pick-up time to allow for different schedules on the day.



You are welcome to start with a trial of three boxes (three fortnights) at an active member price before deciding to join!

For further information or to arrange a trial contact beansveggiebox@gmail.com

Illustration and Graphic Design: Nightingale Graphics 0450 034923

From:
*Spring and Summer Activities
Come Rain or Shine*



Strawberry Decorations

Make strawberry toggles for your keys, bag or pencil case

You will need

- red fabric with white dots
- red sewing thread
- green felt
- thicker green thread or embroidery thread
- scissors
- compass or round object for pattern
- pen or pencil
- cotton wool
- needle

A fabric strawberry toggle will brighten any accessory. Vary the sizes to make a decorative bunch and hang them together on a door or cupboard.

It is best to sew them by hand.

First, using a compass or a round object, lightly draw a circle onto the reverse of the red fabric. The bigger you make the circle, the bigger your strawberry toggle will be. A 30 cm (12 in) circle will make a strawberry about 10 cm (4 in) across. Using scissors cut out the circle then cut it in half to make a semicircle. Fold one semicircle in half, right sides facing.

Sew the straight side shut using a needle and red sewing thread, leaving a small seam allowance. Turn the cone you have made inside out and fill it with cotton wool.

Sew a running stitch (see p. 42) around the opening and pull the thread to close the top. Secure it with a few stitches and at the same time



attach a piece of green embroidery thread.

Cut a leaf rosette out of green felt and make a small hole in the centre. Pull the green thread through this hole and knot the end tightly.





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'It's incredible to reflect on how much we have learnt during the course so far (term 3). All of the content has been so relevant, both practically and in providing understanding for the reasons behind the practical applications.'
Ryan, current first year online student

The Christmas Mouse

An Advent Story by Michael Seifert

Long ago, in the town of Bethlehem, two weary travelers arrived only to find no lodgings for the evening. With their donkey they at last found a stable where they could stay the evening. In this stable lived the innkeeper's cow and sheep and in the rafters, lived a pair of doves. Many stories have been told about how on this night these creatures witnessed the birth of Jesus. Legend says that on this special night, all the animals could understand each other and talk between themselves. After the family had gone to bed, the donkey brayed very proudly, "I carried Mary, the baby's mother all the way from Nazareth to Bethlehem while Joseph, the baby's father walked beside," and held his head high. The cow, not to be outdone, said, "I have given him my manger for a bed. See how he sleeps in it so peacefully?" and the cow's tail swished meaningfully. The sheep with curly horns, bleated, I will give the baby my wool for a blanket. From the rafters cooed down a dove. "We have brought him the best present of all; my mate and I have sung the baby to sleep. Our songs bring him the sweetest dreams and remind him of heaven from where he comes." All the animals were then silent and marveled how a special brightness surrounded the baby. They wondered at the special star which shone brightly in the sky and whose rays found their way through the cracks in the stable walls as though heaven itself rejoiced at the birth. They marveled that in the presence of the baby, fear fled and only love and wonder remained.

What may not be widely known is that there were other animals in the stable that night; much smaller ones. For you see, in every stable not only the barnyard animals live but also one of God's humblest creatures: the mouse. There was one mouse who lived in the stable and listened attentively to the other creatures this evening. The little mouse was part of a big family. Twelve brothers and sisters they were with many cousins. They made their home in the stable, but were looked down upon by the other residents. They didn't contribute anything to help the master of the inn. They only took what was leftover from the animals' feed and made their bed under the straw in a far away corner. Life was not easy for the mice. Food was scarce. Only the smallest of scraps would fall to them, for the larger and meaner bully rat got the best pickings. There were also many dangers. The stable cat had taken many a relative that was not paying attention. The mouse's mother warned that all good mice minded their own business, lest an owl take away a busy body baby. This frightened the mouse, but this mouse was also different than its siblings. Something stirred in the little mouse's heart when the baby was born and when the words of the stable animals reached the mouse's ears. What can I do? Surely there must be a way I can help. In its heart, a wish was born - a wish to be able to give a great gift to the baby like the other animals had.

But after the birth, it seemed that life went back to normal. The mouse could no longer understand the chatter of the donkey or the doves. But each evening, the mouse began to have dreams. These were no ordinary dreams of large pieces of cheese and a warm bed. No, it seemed as though each night the mouse heard a voice speak. "Even the least of God's creatures can give the greatest of gifts. Have courage." Each morning when the mouse awoke, it marveled and wondered what this could mean. What gift of value could a small mouse give?

One evening, the little mouse got up its courage. After its evening meal, when all the brothers and sisters had gone to bed, the little mouse crept along the outside wall of the stable to the donkey's stall. It was a bright lit evening as the moon shone through the cracks in the stable walls. When the little mouse was near to the donkey, it stopped to gaze at the great beast when suddenly the donkey turned its head around and they came nose to nose. The mouse was afraid, but the donkey's eyes looked at the mouse with kindness. It



seemed as though the donkey was saying, "Isn't it a wonderful thing that God has brought this human child into the world." From this point on, the mouse went every evening to visit the donkey. The mouse kept its distance, for still the words of warning spoken by its mother rang in its ears. The donkey saved a bit of grain for the mouse each night and the mouse gave thanks in its little heart.

The baby Jesus was growing older and its mother now was stronger. Soon a very special event took place. Just as dusk had settled on the land, there was again the golden shine from that special star which appeared on the night the baby was born. The star seemed to hang over the very stable itself. And soon there was a knock at the door. Three noble travelers appeared and came into the stable. Each was dressed in richly colored robes and offered presents to the baby. Soon they departed and on their fine camels, they rode away. The lanterns of the stable shone late into the evening as the baby's parents talked in whispers. The mouse dared not visit the donkey. Instead it seemed to hear a voice which told it to follow the star's golden rays. The little mouse did something which it had never done; it crept through a hole in the stable wall and went outside. In fear and trembling, the little mouse looked around at all the unfamiliar sights and sounds. At first, all the mouse could think of was that a great big owl would swoop down and gobble it up. Then the mouse remembered stories its father told of the "street mice:" rough fellows that one best avoid, lest they tempt the mouse into mischief. It was these street mice that our little stable mouse noticed scurrying along the street. Before the mouse could slip back through the stable wall, one of the street mice came up to it and urged it along to where a group of mice were gathered. It was a rough group and the little stable mouse was both afraid but curious. Then one of the mice began to speak and tell of great goings on in the town. Human soldiers had entered the town and were going door to door, taking little human babies with them when they left. They could hear great weeping from within the human houses.

The little mouse didn't wait to hear more. It silently snuck away back to where it had come. Through the crack in the stable wall it went. Something in the mouse stirred. There was danger for little human babies. The baby Jesus might be next. But what could a little mouse do? It remembered the voice from the dream and it went closer to peer at the baby. Just then

a great light seem to shine in the stable. But it did not come from a lamp and none of the other animals seemed to notice. A great being kneeled beside the sleeping Joseph as though it were whispering something into his ear. The mouse's little heart was filled with warmth at the appearance of this heavenly being. All of a sudden the light was gone, and all was silent. Joseph did not stir, but then the mouse remembered, "Danger!" Was the great being trying to wake Joseph up so that he could protect the baby? What could the little mouse do? Again, the mouse heard the words, "Even the least of God's creatures can give the greatest of gifts. Have courage." The mouse knew what it must do. It ran over to the sleeping donkey crouched and jumped to reach its tail. Right up the tail it climbed, over its back and down the donkey's nose. From the tip of the nose it leapt right off onto a pile of straw on the ground. This happened so quickly that the surprised donkey could only bray loudly, "He haw!" It looked at the mouse in surprise, but saw concern in the mouse's eyes. "Danger!" they seemed to say. The donkey brayed loudly a second time. Joseph stirred and then sat up. He said aloud to Mary who had also wakened, "What a dream I had! An angel came to me and told us to escape to Egypt. There is danger!"

That evening, there was much ado. Soon all the belongings of the couple were packed on the donkey. Mary held the baby Jesus under a shawl and with Joseph they prepared to leave. For a second they paused. The donkey turned his head to find the little mouse who had done such a great service. It brayed a great, "Thank you!"

The little mouse understood and with thankfulness, it knew that its wish had come true. It had given a gift of great value to the baby Jesus.





We have some great markets to enjoy in the Upper Yarra. Pop on down, support locals and connect with your community. Please check market websites for updates as market schedules may change due to weather.

ECOSS Valley Market

Every Friday 3.30-6pm.
711 Old Warburton Rd, Wesburn
FREE Family Fun on the 3rd Friday of the month with free kids activities.
Purchase fresh local produce direct from the farmer, by locally made wine and chocolate and grab a delicious traditional Mexican Taco for dinner!

Millgrove Community Market

Third Saturday and Fifth Sunday of every month
7am – 3pm
Memorial Park Reserve near CFA, Millgrove
Millgrove Market has over 30 stalls featuring arts, crafts, clothes, plants, bric a brac, hardware, toiletries, toys and fruit and veg.

Upper Yarra Community Market

2nd and 4th Sunday
8.30am-2pm
Yarra Junction Football Oval, Warburton Hwy, Yarra Junction
Discover a diverse selection of products such as fresh produce, nuts, dried berries, plants, handmade crafts, cozy knits, greeting cards, and unique gifts. Additionally, you can explore the market's "trash and treasure" section, brimming with second-hand treasures like books, clothing, tools, toys, and kitchenware.

The Valley Market Warburton

First Sunday of the month
11am-3pm
Thomas Avenue, Warburton
You will find a huge range of handcrafted goods here designed and made by locals. There are also food items here including locally grown fruit and vegetables, fresh free-range eggs, jams, preserves, chutneys, plants and flowers.

Powelly Market Day

Third Sunday
9am-2pm
Powelltown Hall, 4 Blake St Powelltown
Join us for a fun-filled day at Powelly Market! Enjoy a variety of stalls, sausage sizzle, cake stall, and raffle. Powelly Market Day is a day for a lovely drive to a great little destination. A really special small town feel.... time to wind down, enjoy a wander and breathe in our bush air.

Seville Community Market

First Sunday
10am-2pm
Seville Community Hall, 590 Warburton Highway, Seville
Relaxed market, food and drinks for sale. Come support local stall holders with awesome stuff for sale.



PACIFICA COLLEGE OF
eurythmy

NEW INTAKE

February

2025

The future of
eurythmy is not
yet written.

If anything moves
you to study this
evolving art, seize the
moment and contact
us at Pacifica College,
Samford Valley, QLD.
NOW!

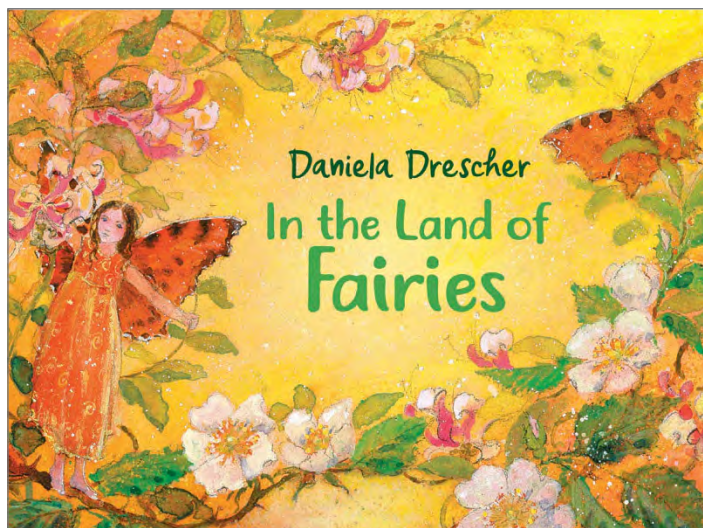
The course format allows you to
work alongside studying.

Member of the International Association of Eurythmy Trainings

For course information, text Jan on 0403 171 651

or email pacificacollege@gmail.com

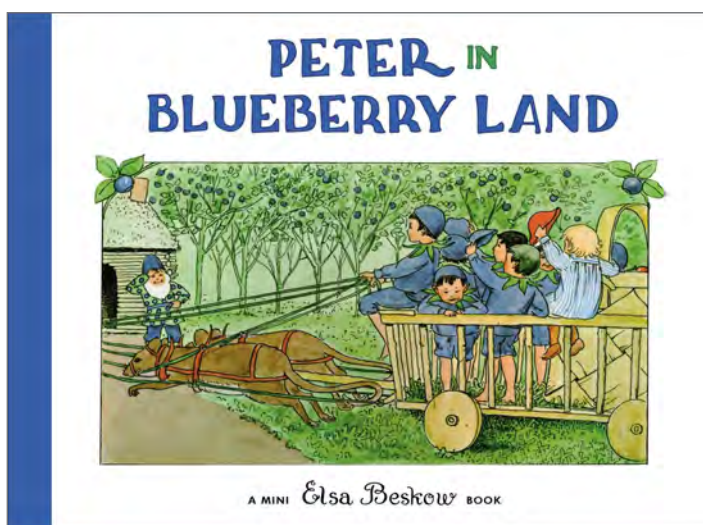
<https://www.pacificaeurythmy.com.au/thecollege>



In the Land of Fairies by Daniela Drescher

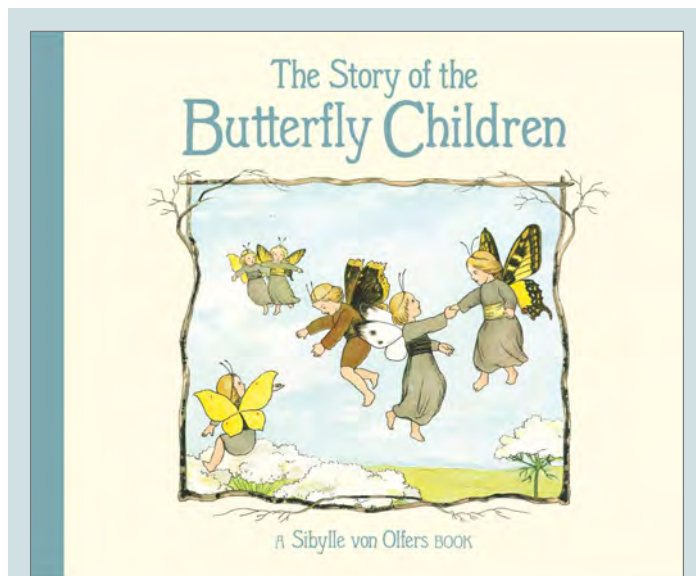
Welcome to the Land of Fairies, a hidden magical world where you'll meet kind and joyful fairies and their animal friends. Each fairy is special -- you'll find them greeting springtime flowers, dancing on midsummer's night, watching over the night creatures and sharing berries with chirping birds.

The lyrical story gently moves through the seasons with luminous illustrations capturing the character of each fairy. This vibrant picture book from bestselling international illustrator Daniela Drescher will captivate young readers who will want to return to the land of the fairies time and time again.



Peter in Blueberry Land by Elsa Beskow

Peter is looking for blueberries for his mother's birthday but he can't find a single one. Suddenly he feels a light tap on his shoe, and a strange and magical adventure begins.

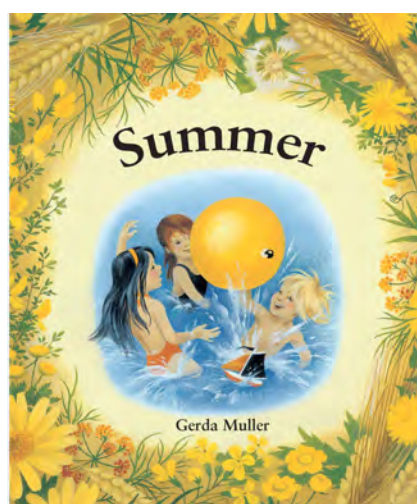


The Story of the Butterfly Children By Sibylle von Olfers

Far, far away from here in the magical Butterfly Kingdom live the brilliant and joyful butterfly folk. The little butterfly children are called chrysalids."

The butterfly children love dancing among the flowers and visiting their little brothers and sisters the caterpillars. Then, on the first day of spring, they finally get their wings! The sky is full of peacock, swallowtail, cabbage and red admiral butterflies excitedly waiting to begin the torchlight procession.

Young children will love meeting the cheeky baby caterpillars and the adventurous chrysalids and will come to understand about the life cycle of a butterfly in a unique and charming way.



Summer by Gerda Muller

This is one of a series of four books without text, which lead the young child through the seasons of the year.

Full of fun, active illustrations, this chunky board book shows the joys of

fishing for tadpoles, playing at the beach, eating ice-cream, and enjoying evening picnics.



DANCE IN THE WILD

FEB 28TH - MARCH 2ND 2025

After the success of DITW 2023 & '24 we are excited to invite you to our very special family friendly event!

Together we will gather on Wurundjeri bush-land to celebrate our local community and the special inter-connectedness we share. Consider this an opportunity to immerse yourself in the grounding medicine of good music, nourishing food, camping, morning yoga, nature play, rewilding, and of course a weekend of DANCING!

We warmly invite you, your friends & family to share in the richness of embodiment, the heartbeat of the land, and the vibrant spirit of a community of like-minded humxns.

WHERE: Gilwell Park Scout Camp - Gembrook

TICKETS: Early Bird: \$220 (LIMITED) / Conc: \$250 / Full: \$290
Kids/Teens (5-17yo): \$30 / Kids under 5yo: FREE

BOOKINGS & MORE INFO: www.ditw.com.au



Gardening

Weeds – Deep, Wild, Wise Nutrition and Medicine, For Free

By *Kate Martignier*



Dandelion Flowers

Tens of thousands of years before we began to domesticate the plants found in supermarkets today, our wise and resourceful fore-mothers were using wild edibles -weeds – for food and medicine.

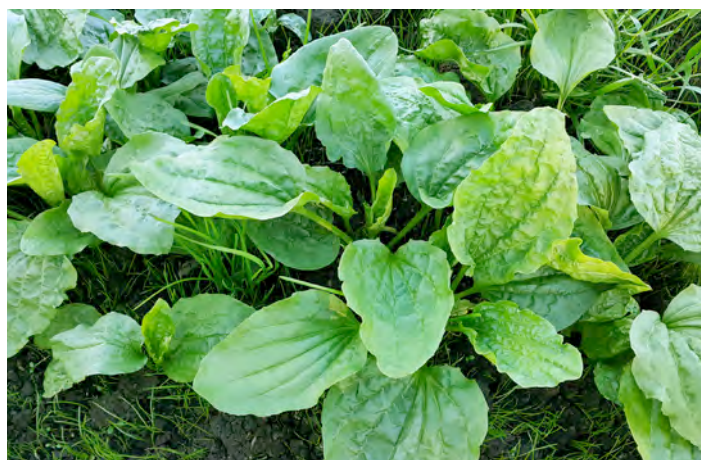
We've developed domesticated plants for sweetness, volume, and storing ability, and in the process we've bred all the vigour and tenacity out of them. Wild edibles, in contrast, are a rich, complex source of real nutrition – vitamins, minerals, and healing compounds that our bodies can easily absorb. Wild edibles help us build deep health and resilience over time.

Walking over chickweed and plantain in your lawn or dodging around cobblers pegs on your way to the grocery store and pharmacy means passing up on a depth and spectrum of nutrition that no supermarket shelf or bottle of pills can ever provide – and weeds are free!

This article lists some weeds that you're likely very familiar with, and some of their uses as food and medicine. It's intended as a prompt to get to know the weeds around you, but not as advice or instruction. Please take full responsibility for being certain about the identity and uses of any plant you forage.

Look at images of weeds on the internet (check the scientific name – the long name usually in brackets and italics), read herbal books, find guides who can teach you in person, and help yourself to the wild abundance that is all around us when we know how to recognise it.

When you harvest, remember to pause for a moment and silently or out loud give thanks to the wild plants



Plantain

and to the land, air, and water that nourishes them so that they in turn can nourish you.

Dandelions (*Taraxacum officinale*) have probably been used by humans for food and medicine since before humans were a thing (fossil records indicate that they're around 30 million years old!). In recorded history, dandelions are known to have been used by ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans, in traditional Chinese medicine, and by Native Americans. Every part of the dandelion plant is edible and safely medicinal, incredibly rich in a wide range of minerals, vitamins, and health supporting constituents.

Eat young dandelion leaves and flowers in salads; add older leaves to any cooked dish that calls for leafy greens. They're less bitter before the plant flowers. Prepare the roots like any root vegetable.

Cover a handful of dandelion flowers with boiling water, add honey (optional) and enjoy. Regular use may help with headaches, menstrual cramps, backaches, stomach aches, and feelings of depression.

On your way home from work, collect a handful of dandelion leaves. Chop and cover them with your choice of wine or boiling water. Drink before your evening meal, for digestion and liver support and lots of other health benefits.

Purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*) is native to Australasia, North Africa, the Middle East, India, and has now spread around the world. Early Australian settlers learned from the First Australians to use the juicy leaves of purslane, which some called “munyeroo,” in salads and as a cooked green. The seeds are also edible.

Purslane is high in Vitamins A and C, iron, calcium, potassium, and magnesium. It's also high in omega-3s, important essential fatty acids that are relatively lacking in modern diets.

Plantains (many species, but the most commonly used are broad leafed plantain – *Plantago major* and narrow leafed plantain – *Plantago lanceolata*) are a common weed of lawns, driveways, parks, and playgrounds around the world. Eat the leaves in salads, steamed, in dips, soups, quiche, or pesto. The immature flower stalks are also edible, either raw or steamed, and so are the small seeds.

Fresh plantain leaves can be crushed and applied to wounds, sores, insect bites, stings, eczema, and sunburn to stop bleeding and relieve pain or itching. To make a fresh plantain spit poultice: pick a leaf, chew it well and apply as needed. Softening the leaves in boiling water works too, but is much less convenient.

Chickweed (*Stellaria media*) has been used by people as an edible and medicinal plant since at least the Middle Ages. You can eat the leaves, stems, and flowers of chickweed, but not the roots. It makes lovely salads — just harvest, chop, and add salad dressing.

Chickweed is high in chlorophyll, calcium, magnesium, manganese, zinc, iron, phosphorus, potassium, vitamins C and A, folic acid, riboflavin, niacin, and thiamine. It stimulates digestion and metabolism and has a strengthening, anti-inflammatory, diuretic, and detoxifying effect.

Chickweed also contains something called saponins, which increase the permeability of cell membranes — meaning that it can increase our ability to absorb nutrients, especially minerals, from whatever we're eating.

Cobbler's pegs (*Bindens pilosa*) — a pain in the butt, right, to have to pick them out of your clothes? Perhaps the more a plant persists in following us around, the more likely it has something to offer us. The leaves of cobbler's pegs are edible — eat them raw in small quantities, add them freely to cooked dishes, dry them and make tea. They're a good source of chlorophyll, vitamin C, calcium, iron, potassium, and magnesium. They're also high in tannins, which may be helpful for digestive and respiratory upset.

Research has turned up a long list of ailments that cobbler's pegs can help us with, including toothache, allergies, fevers, food poisoning, and many others.

Amaranths (Genus: *Amaranthus*; the scientific name will be “*Amaranthus something* or *Amaranthum something*”) are native to tropical regions, but because their abundant seeds can survive cold winters and sprout in the spring they have spread to many other parts of world. Amaranths are common weeds in gardens, along roadsides, and in gateways. You may have decorative ones growing in your garden. Search the internet for images of amaranth to see the great variety there are. All are edible, but watch out for the spiky ones!

Young amaranth seedlings may come up thickly enough to harvest by the handful — chop and then lightly steam or stir-fry. Add leaves from bigger plants to any cooked dish calling for leafy greens. Chop the tender tops of stems and the flower clusters and use as vegetables. Do cook your amaranth — it's high in oxalic acid which you don't want to be ingesting lots of; cooking reduces it substantially.

The amaranth “grain” — it's actually a seed — in fancy packets in the health food store comes from these same plants. Amaranth seeds are very small, very nutritious, but easy to harvest — shake the dry seed head over something to catch the seeds. They can be cooked whole, but you'll digest them better if you either crush, pop, soak, or sprout them first.

Sources

Tips and suggestions in this article were largely sourced from *Healing Wise – Wise Woman Herbal* by Wise Woman Herbalist Susun Weed, *How Can I Be Prepared With Self-Sufficiency And Survival Foods?* by Queensland Herbalist Isabell Shipard, and from *European-turned-Australian Wild Food Forager* Diego Bonetto.



Regular Community Events



Koha Cafe

Warburton Community Space

Koha Community Cafe, Warburton offers many opportunities for people to connect, give and receive!

Join our amazing team of volunteers shaping a vibrant community! Whether you're a chef, green thumb, or have unique talents, we'd love your help! Flexible hours available for food prep, cleaning, gardening, and more. Contact us at contactkohacomcommunitycafe@gmail.com or drop by for details.

Open Pantry

Mondays 10am-4pm

We are pleased to announce we will be road testing an OPEN PANTRY on Mondays. Food items and produce and maybe some pantry items will be available. Drop in if you need to access food.

Koha Cafe Community Dinner

Thursdays 6pm

Koha Community Cafe is a volunteer run cafe. Based on the Lentil As Anything concept. Dinner starts at 6pm, donations not required but they are what helps us stay open to serve you. Other goodies will also be available in our free pantry. Hope to see you then!

Create @ Space

Fridays 10am-4pm

We are open Fridays, come for a cuppa and a chat., choose a book from our library and meet other locals.

Hall/Room For Hire

Koha has spaces to hire from \$10 per hour. Spaces include small rooms, commercial kitchen and for big events the whole venue. Contact Koha for more details.

Koha Cafe, 25A Dammans Road, Warburton.
0403 185 580, contactkohacomcommunitycafe@gmail.com



ADRA Redwood Community Centre

Discover the warmth of Redwood Community Centre! We're here for mental health, housing, food, family support, and connections. Come visit our caring space and let's grow together!

Brushy's Play Space

Monday 10am-2pm, Tuesday 12:30pm-2pm, Thursday 10am--2pm

Brushy's Play Space is an open community space where you can bring your kids and meet other parents in a relaxing family friendly environment. Bring some snacks and while the kids enjoy the dress ups and cubby house enjoy a much needed cuppa and chat.

The room is also available for bookings for community activities such as play groups or for private functions such as birthday parties

Community Lunch

First Monday of the Month, 11am-1pm

Join us for a free community lunch on the first Monday of each month. Grab some good tucker, take a seat or share a meal and chat with some of the friendliest folk you will ever meet.

Chewsday Bite program

Tuesday 11:30am-12:30pm

Each week our Chewsday Bite program provides food relief for local families and individuals. Register on Monday between 10am and 2pm 59662320.

Scrapbooking

2nd & 4th Wednesday 2pm-4pm

Scrapbooking Fun! Join us and come get crafty with our friendly group over a cuppa. Relax and create beautiful memories together!

YARRA VALLEY

ecoss Presents:

ECOSS VALLEY MARKET

EVERY FRIDAY ~ 3.30PM-6PM

Last market for '24 - 20th December

Re-open 17th January '25



Produce ~ Tacos ~ Chocolate ~ Wine



**YARRA VALLEY ECOSS
711 OLD WARBURTON RD
WESBURN**

WWW.ECOSS.ORG.AU



Wecan 2024-2025 Parent And Caregiver Events

The registration fee for each event is \$10 USD, You can register online through the WECAN bookstore.

We want everyone to be able to participate in these events. If you require financial support, please contact Heather Church at hchurch@waldorfearlychildhood.org.

These events are all live, so please note the date and time of the events you sign up for. All who register will receive access to the event recording except for the Practice Sessions which will not be recorded.

Please remember which email address you use to sign up, as a Zoom link will be sent to you the day of the event. Please do not opt out of receiving emails from us, so we can send you the Zoom link.

Registration for all events closes 24 hours before the event.

We look forward to you joining us!

Heather Church
WECAN Co-Coordinator

A Zoom Parent/Caregiver Event
with Anjum Mir

Creating Your Family Culture

January 8, 2025
at 3:30 pm HT, 5:30 pm PT, 6:30 pm MT,
7:30 pm CT, 8:30 pm ET.

For more information contact
hchurch@waldorfearlychildhood.org



In our time, a child's self-perception and relationship with others is increasingly impacted by the influences, messages, and pressures of the world outside of home. Sometimes, without knowing it, we relinquish the tender task of parenting to these other forces and spend our time trying to bring our children back to themselves. A strong family culture can be a valuable partner in our parenting task. It can be a beacon for a child's growing moral compass, a secure container for their growing sense of self and their burgeoning emotional life, and a fertile foundation that nurtures their sense of purpose. Explore ways to consciously build and nurture a family culture that can be a wellspring for your growing child.

For over 20 years, Anjum Mir has supported parents in establishing healthy home rhythms as a parent and child teacher and educational consultant. Her teaching experience has taken her from public and private schools to Waldorf Education, which she discovered while looking for an educational system that honored the development and spiritual well-being of her first child. A mother of four, she is currently School Co-coordinator at Westside Waldorf School in Los Angeles. She is on the board of WECAN and several other education-focused organizations and is involved in teacher education and training.





A Zoom Parent/Caregiver Event
with Keelah Helwig

Part I: Love the Skin They are In Fostering Healthy Racial Identity Development in the Young Child

January 29, 2025 at 3:30 pm HT, 5:30 pm PT, 6:30 pm MT, 7:30 pm CT, 8:30 pm ET

Part II: Practice Session with Alma Partners

with Aiyana Masla and Masumi Hayashi-Smith

February 5, 2025 at 3:30 pm HT, 5:30 pm PT, 6:30 pm MT, 7:30 pm CT, 8:30 pm ET

For more information contact hchurch@waldorfearlychildhood.org

Part 1

In this follow-up session to our April 2024 presentation on the same topic, Early Childhood teacher and Waldorf alum Keelah Helwig will help parents and caregivers understand and support healthy, age-appropriate racial identity development in young children. Drawing on research and decades of her own experience as a Waldorf student and teacher, Keelah will offer a framework to help adults reflect on racial identity and share practical exercises that help all students love the skin they are in. This two-part event includes a practice/skill-building session.

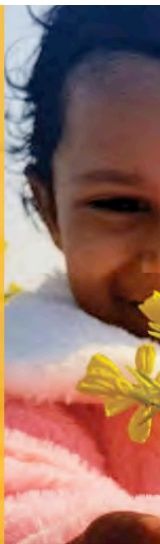
Part II

In the week following the presentation, Aiyana Masla and Masumi Hayashi-Smith of Alma Partners will lead practice sessions for participants to integrate what they have learned with Keelah. In these sessions, participants will have opportunities to connect in small groups, engage in reflective exercises, and collaboratively delve into problems of practice associated with Racial Identity Development and Anti-Bias Education. (not recorded).

A Zoom Parent/Caregiver Event
with Adam Blanning MD

An Unfolding Flower: The Spiritual Growth and Development of Children

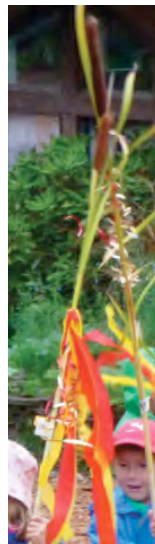
March 5, 2025
at 3:30 pm HT, 5:30 pm PT, 6:30 pm MT,
7:30 pm CT, 8:30 pm ET.



A Zoom Parent/Caregiver Event
with Ruth Ker

Please Can We Play Games?

April 16, 2025
at 2:30 pm HT, 5:30 pm PT, 6:30 pm MT,
7:30 pm CT, 8:30 pm ET.



Exercise Classes

Beginner Pilates, Thursday 9am

We understand that exercise and group activities can be daunting for many. These classes are specifically designed to ease you into movement through low-impact exercises in a friendly environment. For more information and bookings call Rhiannon on 0400 324 207.

Community Dinner

Fridays 6pm

Join us for a wholesome meal and great company at Friday Night Dinner! Enjoy delicious food and wonderful conversations.

Sunday Circle, Mend, Make, Bake

3rd Sunday, 10am-2pm

Come join us every 3rd Sunday of the month for a cozy gathering! Let's share stories over a cup of tea and indulge in some crafting, cooking, and camaraderie. And bring a little something to eat and share!

ADRA Redwood Community Centre

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10am-2:30pm

3505 Warburton Hwy, Warburton

(03) 5966 2320, katebarratt@adra.org.au

Edible Warburton Community Gardens

Every Thursday Morning, 9:30am-11:30am

Edible Garden Buddies

Connect with like-minded folks each week in the heart of Warburton as we garden and practise permaculture skills. Learn, share wisdom, and get hands-on with the earth. Meet new friends, pick up new skills, and enjoy some laughs with us in our beautiful community garden!



Got a community event to promote?
Let us know and we'll add it in!

Advertising deadline for the
next issue of Sweet Porridge
is Friday 26th November

SAY
YES TO
SECOND
HAND

Op Shops in the Upper Yarra

The Upper Yarra has plenty on offer at your local Op Shops!

AdCare Op Shop,

3490 Warburton Hwy, Warburton

Tuesday and Wednesday from 9am to 3pm

Benwerren Boutique

2455 B380 Warburton Highway, Yarra Junction

Monday- Friday 9am-4pm, Saturday 10am-2pm

Vinnies Warburton

3381 Warburton Hwy, Warburton

Monday - Sunday 10am-4pm

Yarra Ranges Recycling Services

689 Old Warburton Rd, Wesburn

Wesburn: 9am – 3:30pm Mon/Fri/Sat,

9:30am – 3:30pm Sun & PH

Cnr Ingram Rd & Leonard Rd, Coldstream

Coldstream: 10am – 3pm Thurs through Mon
(Closed Tues and Wed)

First Impressions Clothing Exchange (FICE),

Yarra Junction Community Hub

2463 Warburton Hwy, Yarra Junction 3797

Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm

Community Opp Shop

Tuesday - Friday 9am-3:30pm, Saturday 10am-2pm

2455 B380 Warburton Highway, Yarra Junction

Golden Opportunity Shop

362 Warburton Highway Wandin North

Monday to Friday 10am- 4pm, Saturday 10am-1pm

CHRISTMAS FOOD APPEAL

Join us this Christmas to help families in need!



Christmas Hamper donations of the following will be greatly appreciated:

- Non perishable food items
- Christmas decorations
- Personal hygiene products

Donations can be dropped at the Professionals Yarra Junction office until **Saturday 14th December**.



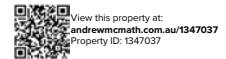
FOR SALE

5 Beds 2 Baths 1 Car 3.6 Acres

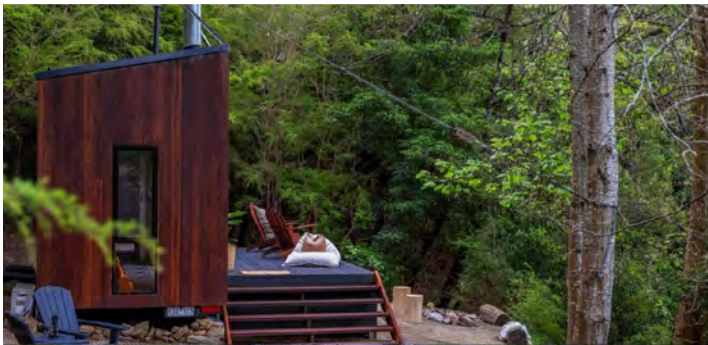
OFF-GRID LIVING IMMERSSED IN NATURE

- * Peaceful, off-grid property offering breathtaking mountain and farmland views
- * A large family room perfect for relaxation
- * A well-equipped kitchen with an adjoining dining area
- * A separate rumpus room or studio space for creative projects or extra living space
- * Powered by solar energy, with a backup diesel generator and tank water

PRICE
\$790,000 - \$850,000
ADDRESS
22 Victoria Street, Yarra Junction, VIC 3797



View this property at:
andrewcmcmath.com.au/1347037
Property ID: 1347037



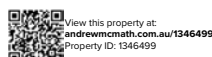
FOR SALE

1 Bed 1 Bath 5569.0m2

WELCOME TO MOUNTAIN TINY HOUSE- A UNIQUE RETREAT IN

- Yarra River: Just 3 minutes by car for scenic walks and water activities.
- Redwood Forest: A 14-minute drive to explore towering Californian Redwoods.
- Warburton Town Centre: A quick 5-minute drive to cafes, shops, and local amenities.
- Warburton Mountain Bike Destination: A world-class network of trails under development, attracting outdoor enthusiasts and boosting the region's appeal.

PRICE
\$550,000 - \$600,000
ADDRESS
24 Ferntree Avenue, Warburton, VIC 3799



View this property at:
andrewcmcmath.com.au/1346499
Property ID: 1346499

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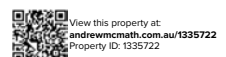
FOR SALE

2 Beds 1 Bath 358.0m2

STYLISH LIVING IN A PEACEFUL SETTING

- * High ceilings, luxurious hardwood floors, and light-filled spaces.
- * Open-plan kitchen, living, and dining area.
- * Five-star energy rating.
- * Double-glazed windows, double insulation in the roof.
- * Fenced backyard is ideal for pets with sunny deck to relax on.
- * Walking distance of the local library, shops, services, sporting facilities, and the Yarra River.

PRICE
\$690,000 - \$750,000
ADDRESS
1/18 Herbert Street, Yarra Junction, VIC 3797



View this property at:
andrewcmcmath.com.au/1335722
Property ID: 1335722

Events Calendar

DECEMBER

Annual Christmas Market

Friday, December 6th, 4pm-8pm

Warburton Waterwheel

Join us for our annual holiday market! Discover stalls with local crafts, artwork, food, and more to kick-start your holiday shopping! Stall spaces available, and buskers welcome—contact Michele at wwcoordinator@upperyarra.net.au to get involved!



Upper Yarra Landcare Xmas Picnic & Spotlight

Friday 13th Decemeber 7:30pm

Yarra Junction Recreation Reserve

Join Landcare members for an evening picnic and spotlight walk along the Little Yarra River! Bring your own food, drink, chair, and torch.

Yarra Valley Horse Show

Sunday 15th December, 5:30pm

Wesburn Park Equestrian Area. Exciting Horse Show for all ages—from tiny tots to adults! Don't miss the prestigious Turnout Event, a Yarra Valley first!



Twilight Market

Friday 20th December, 3:30pm-9pm

ECOSS

Celebrate the year's end with us! Enjoy an afternoon of local food, a live cooking demo using ingredients from Artisan Agriculture farmers, and a chance to meet your farmers! Explore a vibrant market with art, crafts, produce stalls, live music, kids' activities, and even a special book launch by Costa!

UpCycles at Yarra Valley ECOSS



Looking for a bike this Christmas? Check out UpCycles, a bike maintenance hub and youth space where discarded bikes and parts are refurbished for charity and sale. With proceeds reinvested into tools and parts, UpCycles keeps sustainable biking rolling while reducing landfill!

UpCycles offers pathways into the bike industry, fosters connection, and promotes fitness and positive mental health. Become a member to use the space for your own projects or pop on down on a Saturdays say hi and see what's on offer.

Opening Hours: Saturdays 10am-2pm

ECOSS 711 Old Warburton rd Wesburn

 **Professionals**
Yarra Valley



**LIVE LOCAL,
LOVE LOCAL**

YOUR LOCAL PROPERTY EXPERTS

Phone our team on
5967 1800 for your
FREE market appraisal
or pop into our office!

YARRA VALLEY

ecoss Presents

TWILIGHT MARKET

Artisan Ag. Food Extravaganza



FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER

3.30-9PM

ECOSS-711 OLD WARBURTON RD WESBURN



Music | Kids activities | Cooking demo | Market

WWW.ECOSS.ORG.AU

Supported by



Community Bank
Warburton and Yarra Junction

B Bendigo Bank



Upper Yarra Community
Enterprise Ltd YOUTH
Scholarship Program



Annual scholarship program for first year uni or tafe students

Applications for UYCE / Community Bank Warburton and Yarra Junction 2025 scholarship program are now open, and close midnight Monday 27 January 2025 (AEST)

Financial Help for students undertaking studies in 2025. Open to those who live, work or studied in the Upper Yarra in 2024. Upper Yarra is defined as towns with postcodes of 3799 or 3797

Open to local Upper Yarra students who are embarking on first year tertiary studies at University or TAFE this program offers financial support to our Youth to follow their academic dream.

Since its inception in 2014 it has provided a very impressive \$48,000 of financial support in Scholarships to 31 Upper Yarra students.

Supporting students towards tertiary study is part of Community Bank Warburton and Yarra Junctions' commitment to provide opportunities for our Youth and ultimately building a stronger Upper Yarra community.

It's just another part of the UYCE Community Investment program that we are very proud of.

To apply visit <https://upperyarra.net.au/youth/>

Enquiries to admin@upperyarra.net.au

+Tory Fergusson



Looking for Your Tree Change?

Discover this renovated beauty in Millgrove—a stunning 3 bed, 2 bath home that's perfect for a fresh start!

Features include:

- Bright and airy open floor plan with soaring raked ceilings
- Covered outdoor entertaining area with privacy blinds and amazing views of Mt Donna Buang
- Energy-efficient 6.5kW solar system and battery, significantly reducing power bills
- Single carport, double garage, and plenty of off-street parking for caravans and trailers
- Located at the base of Mt Little Joe, ideal for bushwalking and motorbike riding
- \$770,000-\$830,000

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity! Message me for more details or to schedule a private inspection.

0436 433 093
tory.fergusson@agentsplus.au

Now
Selling...



PACIFICA COLLEGE OF
eurythmy

Member of the International Association of Eurythmy Trainings

POP-UP WEEK # 3!

Yes, we're doing it again...

When: Monday, 3rd to Friday, 7th February 2025

Where: Narrawa Rd, Wights Mt, Samford Valley,
Qld.

Times: 8.30 - 2.30 daily, (earlier finish Friday)

Cost: \$550 incl GST

Drop everything for a week!

Join Jan Baker-Finch and the Pacifica students for five days of speech, tone, community eurythmy, singing, speech work, and painting.

Simple dorm accommodation available within walking distance for \$15/ night

Register by January 31st, 2025

pacificacollege@gmail.com

or text Jan on 0403 171 651



PROPERTY PARTNERS
— IN REAL ESTATE —

UNDER CONTRACT



Rarely available strawbale home on over an acre



40 Fisherman Drive, Reefton

3 1 4

- This rarely available strawbale home combines modern architecture with a classic touch.
- Unique design features graceful curves and clean lines.
- North-facing windows fill the home with natural light creating an inviting atmosphere.
- Relax on the deck overlooking your own fern gully.



*Merry
Christmas*

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.
Embrace your family and friends and enjoy this festive time.
Cheers to loving where you live!
From the team at Property Partners.

Suite 1/668-670 Warburton Hwy, Seville | 0493 021 407
www.propertypartnersre.com.au



Country bliss - Australian homestead on an acre



**28 Reefton Drive,
McMahons Creek**

3 2 4

- Charming Australian homestead
- Perched on a magical and cleared acre nestled in a calming bush setting
- Cosy and immaculately maintained
- Three generously sized bedrooms are each enriched with BIR's



Charming family home in serene garden setting



**3 Carroll Street,
Launching Place**

5 2 2

- Positioned in the heart of picturesque Launching Place
- Delightful 5-bedroom, 2-bathroom A-frame home is perfect for larger families
- Modern Country Kitchen
- Located in a family-friendly neighbourhood
- Light-filled lounge room with cozy, ambient wood fire

