



**THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR RUDOLF STEINER
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION INC.**

ABN 16 702 580 046

NURTURING CHILDHOOD THROUGH THE
DEEPENING & RENEWING
OF STEINER - WALDORF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



STAR WEAVINGS

E-Newsletter for the
Australian Association for
Rudolf Steiner Early Childhood Education



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**STAR WEAVINGS: E-Newsletter for the
Australian Association for Rudolf Steiner Early Childhood Education**

Dear Members, Colleagues and Friends,

The published newsletter Star Weavings has been suspended as postal rates in Australia have increased dramatically since the last printed issue and a new direction is being sought. At Vital Years 2016 subscribers were given a final opportunity to receive refunds for undelivered issues.

We have all experienced the loss of connection and communication in the absence of Star Weavings which has made us aware of the important role it played. In the interim, an e-newsletter will help to keep members informed of developments in Steiner/Waldorf early childhood education at home and overseas.

This e-newsletter will have a modest role in communicating:

- some of the work and highlights in the regions around Australia,
- the achievements and plans of the committee (formerly known as the core group) on behalf of AARSECE members,
- work of the international association IASWECE,
- notice of various professional learning events in Australia and abroad,
- recent research, publications and links
- suitable contributions of members and friends.

This first issue will be widely distributed and freely available. All subsequent issues- the second one appearing in March- will be sent only to financial members of AARSECE (individual and institutional members). The e-newsletter will be included as part of the AARSECE membership annual fee. It is therefore vital that the Regional Representative has your current email address in order for you to receive your e-newsletter in future. Please, ensure that you contact your representative to update your contact information, if needed.

Contributions may be sent to conniegrawert@optusnet.com.au as a Word document.

Connie Grawert



Regional Membership

The Committee members hope that the Association continues to grow and develop, to reflect the commitment we share to deepen our understanding of Steiner/Waldorf education, as it applies to the years from birth to seven. It is through the active participation of the members that this work will be done. We would like to encourage all those who enjoy the opportunities that regional meetings and the Vital Years offer, to become members of the Association.

The membership fees collected from individuals and from member schools enable the committee to organize the Vital Years. World-renowned speakers and experienced practitioners, are invited to bring their expertise to our biennial conference, at a cost that is affordable for most people in paid work. There are also funds allocated to each region to provide financial support to members to attend conferences and other professional development workshops, both nationally and internationally, who could not otherwise attend. Membership fees also support the Australian Association to be represented in the international forums. The intention is to make information, guidance and professional development in Steiner early childhood available, current, and accessible to all who want to have access to it.

Being a member means that we actively support a strong and vibrant Australian Association in partnership with the International Association for Steiner Waldorf Early Childhood Education (IASWECE), that we appreciate and support the ongoing professional development needed to engender deeper understanding of the early years, and want to foster an inclusive professional community of Steiner teachers and educators in our regions.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Northern NSW/Queensland Meeting Report 19th March 2016

For the large Region that stretches from Coffs Harbour, (Mid north coast NSW) to Armidale (North western NSW) to Cairns (North Queensland), hosted by the Cape Byron Steiner School, Byron Bay NSW.

There were 34 enthusiastic participants, and the day was a wonderful opportunity for meeting to discuss pertinent issues, enjoy an engaging and active workshop presented by Sandra Frain, and to renew our relationships with our colleagues. There were many familiar faces, and some very welcome new faces, representing kindergartens, preschools, playgroups, family day care, parents and students.

We began the day with a meeting for members of the association to hear, discuss, and give feedback to, the proposed changes to the constitution of the Association for Rudolf Steiner Early Childhood Education (AARSECE). These changes have been carefully developed and worked on by the committee (the representatives for each region of the association in Australia) over the last two years.

At the Special General Meeting of the Association, prior to the Annual General meeting held at the Vital Years Conference in Tasmania in July, these changes were voted on and accepted by the members of the Association.

Marilou Araullo
Julie McVeigh

Regional Meeting report by Simon McLean- member of North Coast Region

Dynamism: 1. Great energy, force or power; vigour. 2. Any of various theories or philosophical systems that seek to explain phenomena of nature by the action of force. (Retrieved from Dictionary.com)

Everyone gathered for the main presentation and workshop which was ‘outdoor work and play’ by Sandra Frain. Before the hands-on work we were treated to an inspiring talk by Sandra on the benefits of creating and utilising bio-dynamic composting with children in our outdoor environments. Sandra’s dynamism will have you running back to your gardens and outdoor playgrounds at great speed to eagerly dive head-first into the mud and muck!

The roles played by the four elemental realms of earth, air, water and fire when entering into this partnership with mother nature to create compost were vividly brought to life by Sandra, and this word (and feeling of) dynamism became the central theme of the day. The changing of the season into autumn and the mood of decay experienced through natural cycles seemed the perfect time to be considering the importance of enabling young children to connect with the forces of nature. For children who have not had a lot of opportunity to get their hands into the earth, experience the potent smells of decomposing matter, or witness first-hand, natural processes occurring in the garden, composting is a wonderful way of engaging children with the outdoors.

The all-important nurturing of the senses is so beneficial for young children. There is nothing intellectual about getting dirt under fingernail’s, it is a soul experience that can be nourishing, satisfying and even healing for children (and adults) on a deep level. With these thoughts in mind we enthusiastically made our way to the kindergarten playground where we participated in making two preparations – “physics in a bucket” as described by Sandra.

In one copper pot we stirred horn silica into water (501) for the air, and in the other, horn manure (500) for the earth. After this we began “organising” a large compost pile, alternating wet and dry materials beginning with sticks and branches, then layering decomposing plant and vegetable matter (kindly contributed by the kindergarten families), leaves, a variety of animal manures, lime and plenty of water. The pile was completed by covering the “body” of it with hay, making several deep holes in places which represented various organs and depositing golf-ball sized measures into them of yarrow (502), chamomile (503), nettle (504), oakbark (505), and dandelion (506).

The following week the kindergarten children stirred a valerian (507) preparation in a bucket and added it to the pile. As a parent of a child currently attending the school, to witness approximately 30 colleagues performing this task with such a gesture of love and care was moving in a powerful way that is hard to describe.

The outdoor workshop concluded by everyone taking a cup and choosing either the 500 or 501 liquid preparation to spread about the school’s air, gardens and grounds.

After lunch we gathered again for the final session of the day providing an opportunity to share examples of working outside with children that had made a significant impact. The afternoon surprisingly turned into an impromptu day-spa whereby foot baths and hand massages with essential oils were offered and received willingly by all attending.

I am sure that most would agree that catching up with friends and former colleagues, and the opportunity to meet new like-minded allies at these regional meetings is just as enjoyable and beneficial to our work as the workshops themselves. The regional meetings are vital in the way that they connect us all, sometimes from out-of-the-way-places in our

states, to remind each other that we are not alone in the ways we work with young children. There is much knowledge, experience and wisdom to share, and we always have a wonderful time when we do get together. So, thank you to Sandra and the kindergarten staff from Cape Byron for hosting such an enjoyable, nourishing and inspiring day.

Western Australia

Our Region is very small. We currently have three schools and eight individual members. All the schools, Denmark and Perth Waldorf School (PWS) are growing well. PWS has a high school which is the only one in Western Australia.

Silver Tree has primary school classes and mixed-aged kindergartens with children four to six years old. In the afternoon they run an afternoon care program just for the children attending kindergarten.

West Coast Steiner School early childhood is very healthy in numbers and has a similar operation to Silver Tree.

All of WA schools run playgroups and kindergartens, which helps to grow a primary school.

There is a little group hoping to become a school located in Midland at the foot of the hills not too far from Silver Tree towards the east of Perth. Midland is central and could have a very big area of people to draw on. The train is not far and busses are possible, but it is a long way to get there.

Our regional meeting this year was a very interesting one. We had Lakshmi Prasanna speaking one day together with the group of early childhood training. On that day we also had a clay workshop with Lesley Cotter. The next day Titus F. Witsenburg spoke about the child up to seven. Titus is a retired class-teacher from Perth Waldorf School. He used to play the lyre with his class right up to class 8. They played in four parts - soprano, alto, tenor and bass - as well as canons. The talks worked very well together. We had a lyre work shop on both days with Titus and eurythmy with Kristina Hamilton.

Ute ten Hompel

Victoria

The Victorian region continues to be a vibrant, social, hard-working region that meets every term at a different school or kindergarten. We have on average 30 to 40 educators who attend. There is also a regular playgroup leaders' meeting. Both groups have ongoing studies together, as well as artistic endeavours. Each meeting the teachers have been studying a section of the book "Working with Anxious, Nervous and Depressed Children" by Henning Kohler, and this has been immensely supportive of our understanding of the text, and of our work.

Last spring the Victorian region sponsored Judith Klingen to facilitate a workshop on the "Mood of the Fifth". We spent a Saturday together singing and creating our own simple songs. Rigorous music theory was tussled about and we had to be alert all day. For many of us it was challenging, but we went home with an experience of the mood of the fifth: what it sounds like and how we can be encouraged to use it within our work and create our own compositions. At Fresh Water Creek Steiner School earlier this year we experienced a session of eurythmy.

Our meetings are not only enriching professionally, but give emotional support and friendship across the state. In Victoria the state government has enforced legislation upon all early childhood facilities: " No Jab No Play ", that means children who are not fully vaccinated are unable to enrol in three or four-year-old kindergarten. For our Steiner kindergartens this has impacted greatly on our future intake.

The play group association also meet regularly and have good attendance at their Saturday meetings. They have guest speakers, do artistic and craft activities and support each other.

At our regional meeting in term one, Jane Evans was chosen as the supporting Victorian Representative to assist me with the coordination of our regional work. Jane has been actively involved with our region for more than 25 years. We shall share the role and plan to financially support another full day of professional development in 2017.

Leanne Moraes

Sydney Region

This report covers the time from October 2014 to July 2016. For a few years the Sydney region embraced the Canberra region in their communications and invitations to meetings. However, it turned out to be extremely difficult for members from Canberra to make the long trip to Sydney for meetings. In 2015 the committee of AARSECE offered the Canberra region the opportunity to become an independent region again, which ended the unworkable situation of the Canberra and Sydney

The regional group is well consolidated and stable with between 15-20 participants in each meeting. The number of members stands at 20, but there are always colleagues who join the meetings, but are not members. This has brought up the question among the members of how open we are. Do we encourage friends of the association enough so that they consider joining? Within the group of members the need arose – also specifically in preparing for the AGM 2016 and the proposed constitutional changes- to have the afternoons of our regional meetings for members only, to discuss matters of the Association and thoughts and issues which are brought up by members with respect to the work of the Association. Such a separate afternoon meeting was held in March 2016 for the first time, in order to discuss the constitutional changes and other matters which members brought up.

Regional meetings were held in October 2014, March 2015, October 2015, March 2016 and May 2016. This most recent meeting in May was organised by our new Regional Representative Catherine Pilko, who had been elected in the meeting in March 2016. This change of Regional Representative is most welcome and already now there are some new initiatives taken by her with respect to working together more frequently, sharing resources and experiences of the work with the children. This will be a beneficial addition to the study part which took place in each meeting, either with presenters or prepared texts for reading by all.

Themes and study topics of meetings in the last two years:

October 2014: Presentation by Renate on the theme of laying the foundations for social-emotional capacities in early childhood. Feedback and discussion on the visit by Helle Heckmann.

March 2015: Presentation and lyre workshop led by Renate on the theme of working with the mood of the fifth; we also discussed in small groups the topic of mentoring.

October 2015: Heather van Zyl presented a workshop on hand gesture games. Mentoring and an invitation to Louise de Forest were discussed. Burning Issues: The new legal requirements around immunisation of young children in preschools and kindergartens, and its implications regarding parents taking children out of kindergartens.

March 2016: Theme: Creating a winter circle to be performed at Vital Years. This time we worked in two groups to create a circle, using original texts and songs created by teachers. The planned topic of a conversation on cultural diversity based on a paper by IASWECE could not happen because of time constraints and was postponed. In this meeting the new regional representative, Catherine Pilko, was elected.

May 2016: Working together on the winter circle for Vital Years. Members only meeting in the afternoon: presentation and discussion on constitutional changes. Heather van Zyl reported on the IASWECE International Council Meeting that she recently attended in Poland.

Information from member-schools:

Glenaeon School: Three mixed-age kindergartens with 140 children overall, 10 of whom are younger children who will have another year in kindergarten in 2017. (In the years prior to 2016 another model was tried out: Two kindergarten groups with children turning six, one part-time kindergarten with children turning five. There are advantages and disadvantages to both ways of working). The cooperation with the Glenaeon extended hours Preschool in Willoughby has intensified with more shared meetings being held.

Kamaroi School: Two kindergarten classes of up to 18 children. 28-30 children will go to class one, six to eight children will spend two years in kindergarten because of their younger age. This model may change to 20 children per class in 2017 with 15 older and five younger children in each class. Prior to this change an early childhood teacher and management committee had been formed in 2015 to explore how the early childhood program could be expanded. At this stage it is premature to envisage the opening of a preschool. However, there will be a playgroup at Kamaroi starting in 2017: two mornings a week, and also run a parent craft group.

Central Coast Steiner School: There are two groups. The Early Kindy group is a three-day BOSTES programme for children who are four. They must turn five by the end of the year. The group of fourteen will feed into kindergarten the following year. The present kindergarten group is 24 and all these children will go on to Class One next year. An on-site playgroup with two groups runs once a week in the Early Kindy room. There is one offsite Steiner-inspired group that runs once a week and one family day care group that operates from a home on the other side of the Peninsula. These are also a feeder for the school.

Play-groups in the Sydney area:

There are play groups associated with all Steiner Schools in the Sydney area: Blue Mountains Steiner School, Central Coast Steiner School, Lorien Novalis, Glenaeon School and Kamaroi. There are three preschools and eight home-based childcare services, of which three are closely connected with the regional work.

The work and vast experience of Ebba Bodame in running several play groups including extensive work in parent education and workshops in storytelling and celebrating the

seasonal festivals in the Glenaeon Steiner School community has been a great service to early childhood education in Sydney for more than 30 years.

The Inner West Steiner Playgroup, an independent non-profit community organisation, is now in its 13th year of operation with three playgroup sessions per week: two enrolment-based groups for children older than two years, and one open session for casual attendance by families with children younger than two years. 36 families attend the programs each week.

Renate Long-Breipohl and Catherine Pilko

South Australia

Regional Meetings ceased after 2013 for a couple of years as there was no Regional Representative. Our meetings began again in Spring 2015 when Brioni Pridham returned to the role.

October 2015

For our first gathering we met at Mt Barker Waldorf School and reconnected with our colleagues and heard of the work that had been happening in our region over the last couple of years. We visited the 'bush kindy' site and heard about the work with children during the more wintery months, including children's incidental discoveries and explorations with dyeing with natural products found at bush kindy.

May 2016

We met at Sheidow Park Primary School in their Steiner-stream Kindergarten, and visited class one and Bush Playgroup. This new stream has a good connection with the school and community with strong numbers and enthusiastic support from the principal.

We continued with the re-connecting theme hearing about the work in our region from each person present. Now that we have reconnected and have listened and developed a picture of our work we are ready to expand our work together.

Our next meeting in September 2016 will be at the kindergarten of Trinity Gardens Primary School, Steiner stream, and our theme will be 'Supporting Parents through Community Building from Birth'.

In September 2014 Helle Heckmann visited South Australia. Helle met with the leadership groups and early childhood staff from Mt Barker Waldorf School and Willunga Waldorf School to discuss 'The Vision behind Mixed-age Kindergartens'.

She spent a morning observing in Mt Barker Waldorf School's playgroup and kindergartens, and gave feedback to staff in the afternoons. We found this to be a very valuable experience that focused specifically on what and why we do what we do and provided us with real substance for our reflections.

Over the weekend Helle gave two talks to the community; 'Five Golden Rules' and 'What Does it Mean to be a Modern Parent Today?' and one talk for educators, 'Working with Modern Families in an Early Childhood Setting'. Each was well attended and received and brought together a wide community of families and colleagues.

Brioni Pridham

Minutes of Committee Meeting
Sydney, Rudolf Steiner House
Friday – Sunday, September 2-4, 2016

Present: Marilou Araullo, Heather van Zyl, Julie McVeigh, Connie Grawert, Stephanie Gotlieb, Catherine Pilko, Brioni Pridham, Ute ten Hompel, Chantal De Brauwere
Apologies: Leanne Moraes and Jane Evans

- The Committee considered the possibility of an individual to be employed to carry out work on behalf of AARSECE. Due to the increased size of the Committee, tasks were able to be shared amongst the members and it was deemed not necessary at this time to employ a person. However, it was agreed that from time to time some tasks will be outsourced and paid for by the Association. An example of this would be paying for the services of an ICT specialist or web designer.
- SEA Website: Membership forms and information were taken off the website, updated and have been re-posted. These are located in the section under Associate Members.
- Membership: The Committee is currently developing criteria, process, procedures and resources in order to include as full members, groups/ educators working with children three years and under. These are based on standards set by the International Assoc. for Steiner Waldorf Early Childhood Education (IASWECE), as well as standards from the US and New Zealand. Regional Representatives will bring this information to discuss with members at their local meetings.
- A working group from the Committee is drafting clearer criteria and process for members who wish to apply for financial assistance to attend Steiner/ Waldorf conferences, seminars and professional learning events. Regional Representatives will share this with members at their local meetings and further information will be available in the March e-newsletter of Star Weavings.
- The organisers of Vital Years 2016 gave feedback and review to the Committee. From an administrative perspective there were pros and cons to having the accommodation at a separate venue from the conference. For participants this was an additional cost, however, the conference fee was correspondingly less. Food was excellent. The keynote speakers, workshops and general content were rich and uplifting. There were over 180 full participants – the largest Vital Years to date. The Conference costs were covered with a small profit for AARSECE. We give a huge THANK YOU to the organisers and hosts at Tarremah.
- Vital Years 2018: Louise De Forest and Lisa Romero will be key-note speakers with a focus on the inner development of the teacher and child observation. Canberra has offered to host and is currently investigating venue and catering options.
- Mentoring and Evaluation: July 3-6, 2017 Louise De Forest will come to Brisbane to offer a seminar to assist us to develop mentors for educators working in Steiner / Waldorf early childhood settings. There is a working group from the Committee who is currently discussing with Louise guidelines for people who are eligible to attend, such as number of

years teaching in a Steiner/Waldorf early childhood setting, availability to mentor and so on.

After the seminar in Brisbane, Louise will continue on to Perth July 8-14 and then to Canberra, July 16-22 before departing Australia. Regional representatives are preparing local programmes and schedules.

- Induction and succession plan for Committee members is being researched and drafted by a working group of the committee. Regional Representatives will share this with members at their local meetings once a draft has been completed. Role description and tasks are being reviewed and documented.
- Chantal and Connie are translating a short German publication on work with children birth to three. This will be made available by AARSECE in Australia and possibly other English-speaking countries in future.
- The newly appointed Registrar, Julie McVeigh, has created a new data base format for the Regional Representatives that is both user-friendly and effective in keeping records of members up-to-date. Julie is also reviewing and refining the procedure for recording new members, welcoming and providing receipts.
- Brioni Pridham is creating a Facebook page for AARSECE. Please, keep your eyes open – we are finally coming of age!
- The printed brochure with general information about AARSECE is being reviewed and updated for reprinting. Heather van Zyl has had banners and signs made with the new logo to be used at conferences, seminars and other official events.
- The constitutional changes have been lodged and registered with the NSW Office of Fair Trading. The consulting lawyer donated most of his professional fees, so the costs to the Association were minimal (less than \$1000) – a fraction of the total cost. A card with a message of thanks and appreciation was sent on behalf of AARSECE.

The next Committee meeting will be held Friday-Sunday 3-5 March, 2017. The venue is to be confirmed.

The above is a brief summary of the fuller minutes recorded by Connie Grawert, Secretary of AARSECE.

Committee Contacts as of September 2016:

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Chairperson

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Membership Registrar

Heather van Zyl: heathervanzyl7@gmail.com

Treasurer, Public
Officer and IASWECE
Representative

Connie Grawert: conniegrawert@optusnet.com.au

Secretary, SEA
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AARSECE is a member of the

- International Association for Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education - IASWECE
- Associate Member of Steiner Education Australia (SEA)
- Partner of the Alliance for Childhood Network



www.steinereducation.edu.au

*IASWECE INTERNATIONAL REPORT
COUNCIL MEETING, KRAKOW POLAND - APRIL 2016*

By Heather van Zyl, Representative for AARSECE

September 2016

During the Easter break earlier this year, I travelled to Poland to attend the international IASWECE council meeting. These meetings take place twice a year, however Australia only attends once. There are approximately 36 countries that are members and at this meeting, 24 countries were present. As it was holidays, I offered to give a hand gesture workshop at the Warsaw early childhood conference that took place the weekend before the meeting started. IASWECE members are always invited to offer workshops, if they can, as an international gesture to the country where the meeting is held.



Hand gesture workshop: Warsaw Poland

Our membership gives us an opportunity to be part of the world picture of Rudolf Steiner early childhood education. It is at these meetings that the council listens and hears from each country about regional work, the differences in teaching practices, professional development, birth to three, burning issues and so on.

And in turn, the council carries the world picture of global changes and demands that are meeting the world of the young child today. For example, the asylum seekers in Europe, the ongoing process of the criteria for the Steiner/Waldorf trademark and the development of the birth to three work. There are the reports from the mandated groups that work voluntarily as mentors in third world countries and discussions about future programmes, requests and conferences. A financial report is also tabled.



Warsaw Waldorf kindergarten in Spring:

The study and work of Rudolf Steiner is at the centre of all pedagogical decisions. Each council member offers a contribution to the study no matter how small. Each day a verse is read in at least three languages.

The main matters that IASWECE are asking countries to participate in are:

- Establishing a worldwide research and network for birth to three. This work has already begun in Australia.
- Gathering kindergarten membership criteria information from countries. Our committee is already working with this.
- Teacher training and mentoring
- Ways to improve worldwide communication e.g. IASWECE's website and their newsletter.

Next Council Meeting: October 2016.

Tartu in Estonia followed by an Early Childhood Trainers Seminar

2017: April 2-8: Cape Town, South Africa Council Meeting

April 8-13: Johannesburg. Pan African Teachers Conference, where I will offer a Hand Gestures workshop.

For further information about IASWECE and to subscribe to their newsletter please go to their website at www.iaswece.org

Heather van Zyl

Australian IASWECE council representative

VITAL YEARS 2016 – TARREMAH STEINER SCHOOL HOBART, TASMANIA



After an interval of three years, our Vital Years conference was held in Hobart, Tasmania.

On behalf of all the members and friends of AARSECE I give our thanks and appreciation to the organising team, volunteers, workshop leaders and speakers for an enriching and inspiring conference at Tarremah Steiner School. Thanks also to all who were able to make the trip to Hobart – over 180 registered participants and many more local attendees.

I will not give a review or summary of the conference now rather I ask those who attended to do it. Please, send your contributions, comments and experiences from the conference to Connie at the address below by February 1, 2017 to be included in the next issue of Star Weavings in March 2017.

In addition to the enriching and inspiring lectures by Leanne Moraes, Lakshmi Prasana and Renate Long-Breipohl, there was a wide range of workshops and discussion groups. Artistic workshops and those based in classroom practise were offered. Please, include these in your contributions for the next issue of Star Weavings.

It has now become a tradition at Vital Years for the members to run a raffle of handmade dolls from each region to benefit children in other countries. This year the proceeds of the raffle were donated to Lakshmi to take to India for the children whom she spoke about with such love in her lectures. Thank you to everyone who participated by making and donating dolls and buying raffle tickets.

Most early childhood educators in Australia know or are familiar with Renate Long-Breipohl as teacher, trainer, lecturer and mentor. She had announced that she is stepping down from the Committee and from most of her work. After Renate delivered the final lecture of the conference, we expressed our deep appreciation for the work she has done around Australia. In addition to teaching, lecturing and training, she served for many years on the Committee of AARSECE representing Australia on the council of IASWECE. A painting commissioned from Sally Martin was given to Renate with much love and gratitude for the huge role she has played in furthering and deepening Steiner/Waldorf education in Australia.

The next Vital Years conference is planned for early July 2018 in Canberra with Lisa Romero and Louise De Forest as key-note speakers focusing on the inner development of the teacher and child observation.

Connie Grawert

In order to make this newsletter a resource that enables members to share their work, information and research, your contributions are warmly welcomed and will be gratefully received. Please, send original stories, morning circles, songs, verses, recipes and ideas to:

conniegrawert@optusnet.com.au

Text contributions should be sent without special formatting in order to enable ease of design in digital form.

New Publications:

A Spoonful of Stories

An A - Z Collection of Behaviour Tales for Children

By Susan Perrow

From *Cranky Cockatoo* to *Fussy Foo Foo*, *Messy Mermaid* to *Obnoxious Octopus*, *Quibbling Queen* to *Zestless Zebra*, this alphabetical collection of behaviour tales encourages the use of *story medicine* as a creative strategy in parenting and teaching. All 42 tales in 'A Spoonful of Stories' begin with an undesirable or out-of-balance situation and, through the use of metaphor and an imaginative story journey, lead to a more desirable resolution. In this way, the stories also have the potential for nurturing positive values.

Stories may not be magic pills that have powers to fix or heal all difficulties, but they can be a wonderful, and a more pleasant, alternative to nagging and lecturing. And sometimes 'magic' does happen and a story does make a difference!

Covering a range of universal behaviour, the stories are suitable for two to eight years. Following the alphabet from A to Z, each behaviour is identified in the story title, anxious, bossy, cranky, demanding ... greedy ... jealous ... lazy ... teary... uncooperative ... whingeing ... and more. The stories can be worked with directly, adapted, turned into home-made picture books and puppet shows, or used as springboards for the creation of one's own tales. It is Susan's third collection of therapeutic stories, her first e-collection, and her first in 'The Spoonful Series'.

Available on Amazon Kindle: \$7.99 (to be published late 2017 in print form by Hawthorn Press)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

*DEEPENING THE WORK OF EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHERS:
A STEINER / WALDORF INTENSIVE*

Monday 16th January – Friday 20th January 2017
Samford Valley Steiner School, QLD

For all enquiries please contact Joan Weir, Marketing & Communications, Samford Valley Steiner School jweir@samfordsteiner.qld.edu.au or 07 3430 9600.

Date- Claimer 2017:

Mentoring and Evaluation Seminar:
Brisbane- **July 3-6, 2017**

Louise De Forest will offer a seminar to help prepare mentors for educators working in Steiner/ Waldorf early childhood settings. A working group from the AARSECE Committee is currently discussing with Louise guidelines for attendance, such as number of years teaching in a Steiner/Waldorf early childhood setting, availability to mentor and so on.

Regional Programmes with Louise

Perth- **July 8-14**

Canberra- **July 16-22**

Regional representatives are preparing local programmes and schedules.

Further information will be provided in the near future.

The next issue of Star Weavings is scheduled for distribution in March 2017. Please, send contributions by February 1, 2017 to conniegawert@optusnet.com.au Articles may be edited and formatted, as required.