

## Report from The Pedagogical Section, Australia, 2020

By Peggy Day

This year has of course been a very unusual one!

The **Pedagogical Class Intensive** of tutors and friends was able to go ahead one weekend in January focussing on Lesson 19 prior to the six days of class teachers' deepening through lectures and tutorials at this year's Class Teachers' Intensive at Glenaeon, This week marked a turning point, as by Australia Day our focus was on China and the developing health concerns there and the growing travel restrictions.

In March I contacted the **Pedagogical Section coordinators at the Goetheanum** and in the US, New Zealand and South Africa to encourage collaboration internationally. This communication helped establish a forum on the Goetheanum website and some sharing of resources with Valentin Wember, Elan Leibner and Bernadette White.

From March until May I sent out, as Pedagogical Section coordinator, in collaboration with Bernadette White in New Zealand, **three letters of support to Initiative Circle members with meditative suggestions from Valentin Wember**, for them to distribute to those interested. On one occasion this also went directly to all teachers.

The **Pedagogical Section/Glenaeon Intensive tutors** then worked with 7 separate Zoom sessions in April to support the Australian class teachers of each year level in finding their way in the remote home learning world. Bernadette White and Andrew Hill were a support in this. In May a few follow up sessions were held to reflect on the lockdown experience for teachers.

In June we had a Zoom conference – this time for Victorian teachers and linked with Robert Martin, Lisa Devine and Terri McMillan. I invited Marilou Aurallo, to have one also for Early Childhood teachers in Victoria.

The Goetheanum asked us to distribute the publication, ***The Inner Work of the Waldorf Teacher***, which arrived in September and already 180 copies have been sold to schools and teachers, with the Steiner bookshop in Sydney mailing out.

The November meeting of the Pedagogical Section at the Goetheanum, even if it goes ahead, will of course not be easily accessible to those of us in Australia.

We will have a **Pedagogical Section meeting via Zoom on October 25th** rather than our usual weekend meeting. We will be looking at national cooperation among members of the School of Spiritual Science working in education including joining in new projects, considering steps to further support the work on the 'Core Principles', the website we are developing and the journal team.

### **Pedagogical Section Coordinator's Current Tasks**

1. Editor and publisher of the **Australia/NZ Pedagogical Journal**, moving back now to a biannual publication.
2. Attendance and presentation at **International Pedagogical Section Meetings** at the Goetheanum annually.
3. The organisation of the **Annual Pedagogical Section Initiative Circle Meeting** in Sydney each October.

4. Founding member and on the organising group of the **Australian Teacher Educator's Forum** in conjunction with the Melbourne Rudolf Steiner Seminar, who have been welcoming hosts of these meetings after the first few years.
5. Co-convener of **special conferences on deeper themes** of the educational background [e.g. the administration of and the contribution to the organising group of the Dawning Mysteries Conference (2018) Group].
6. Bringing the mediative class work of the **First Class of the School of Spiritual Science** to the teachers' community through conference presentations (or upon schools' request).
7. Supporting the **Steiner Educational Curriculum in schools, its implementation and the indications** from which it arises. This was previously as Lead Writer of the Curriculum under contract to SEA and continues in the role of Education Officer, cooperation for which we are very grateful. Liaison with international curriculum contacts: e.g. Goetheanum, Van James, Valentin Wember and Michael Merle.
8. **Teacher professional development:** The annual January 6-day class teacher intensives, a cooperation between Glenaeon School and the Pedagogical Section, preceded by a weekend class intensive for the 10-12 lecturers and tutors.
9. **Liaison** with the **Early Childhood movement**.
10. Contribution to the **Core Principles** by the Initiative Circle in 2019 at the invitation of SEA, a welcome collaboration; including a sharing of the *Inner Essence of Steiner Education*.
11. Distribution of **The Inner Work of the Waldorf Teacher** in cooperation with the Steiner bookshop.

#### **Co-workers**

Around our country, there are more than 60 initiative circle members, involved in writing resources, teacher education and mentoring, leading initiatives and teaching. I am most grateful for the collegueship of the full circle members and particularly for the co-working and support of the following Initiative Circle Members, in their various connections to the Pedagogical Section this year.

**Helen Cock:** liaison with the Teacher Educators' Forum.

**Bernadette White:** Coordinator of the Pedagogical Section in New Zealand, support of specialist conferences, co-working between countries on letters to members.

**Jennifer West:** previously responsible for the distribution of books translated and/or published by the section; now focussed on school leadership and governance.

**Rod Tomlinson:** Support with the Pedagogical Section Journal and editing of compilations of Rudolf Steiner's indications on educational questions and school leadership.

**Neil Carter:** previous coordinator of the Pedagogical Section in New Zealand; co-editor of the journal for many years, science teaching; astronomy.

**Robert Martin and Lisa Devine:** Support for Victorian Teachers during the lockdown. **Robert Martin and Paul Martin** for their journal contributions to support all teachers.

**Tim Dunn:** preparation of a journal each year which highlights teacher's innovative practice based on indications adapted to the world today; high school development; science curriculum and teaching.

**Jeremy Board:** Science teaching.

**Marilou Arullo:** liaison with the Early Childhood Movement.

**Barbara Baldwin:** supporting teachers with children with additional needs.

**Gerry Josephson:** preparation of specialist conferences, anthroposophical background to education.

**Pauline Lucas:** Support of class teacher curriculum implementation.

**Narelle Savage:** providing a connection with knowledge arising from the work of the medical section at our meetings.

**Sophia Montefiore:** school leadership, pedagogy and curriculum.

**Gilbert von Kerchoven:** Archetypal stories from many lands

**Diane Tatum:** Supporting publishing and marketing

Warm wishes to all,

**Peggy Day,**

**Coordinator of the Pedagogical Section, Australia**

