

## ~ Early Childhood Teacher Intensives 2026 ~

Monday 12 January to Friday 16 January

**The Pedagogical Section in Australia**  
**Hosted by the Samford Vally Steiner School,**  
**Brisbane Qld**



*“To educate the soul life of the child means to educate them for their whole earthly life”*

*Rudolf Steiner*

### **AN OVERVIEW OF COURSE CONTENT**

The Early Childhood Intensives are an annual Professional Development, offered prior to the start of the school year, for Kindergarten Educators new to Steiner Education. Experienced EC teachers are very welcome. The course offers ~

- ❖ Opportunity to meet face-to-face to gain understandings of the anthroposophical child developmental picture partnered with the *practical application* of these pedagogical truths.
- ❖ Foundational early childhood pedagogical principles of imitation, imagination, rhythm, the relationship of will to the senses and movement, and the attitude and gesture of the adult to create through self-awareness an atmosphere of joyful work.
- ❖ Keynote Presentations and Workshops delivered by experienced Steiner/ Waldorf early childhood educators.
- ❖ Focused time to critically reflect on what we do in the classroom - the ‘why and the how’ in relation to our own contexts.
- ❖ Collegial relationships of openness, trust and learning within an environment of understanding the essential needs of the young child of today
- ❖ A practical component that is meaningful preparation for a Steiner early childhood classroom and ways to integrate this learning and practice of new material into the coming year’s work.
- ❖ Hands-on workshops in Morning Circle, Storytelling, Handwork, Music and Singing in the Mood of the Fifth, Movement, Puppetry, Painting and what lies behind creating a Rhythmical daily, weekly and yearly program.
- ❖ Opportunity to share questions, concerns, experiences and talk through ideas with others to adapt theory into practice.
- ❖ Encouragement for early childhood teachers to feel empowered, so that out of themselves they can develop inspiring and creative educational practices.
- ❖ Early childhood educators the connection to other Steiner early childhood educational organisations with whom we work in partnerships with for continued learning, training and ongoing guidance.

## TIMETABLE

	Monday 12 Jan	Tuesday 13 Jan	Wednesday 14 Jan	Thursday 15 Jan	Friday 16 Jan
7.30am-8.25am	Registration				
8.30-8.40am	First Nations Acknowledgement of Country ~ Our Daily Verse				
8:40-8.55am <i>Artistic Experiences</i>	Storytelling	Puppet show	Mood of Fifth	Morning Circle	Morning Circle
9-10am	<b>Keynote Presentations</b>	<b>Keynote Presentations</b>			<b>Keynote Presentations</b>
10-10.20am		Discussion of the morning's keynote lectures			
10:25-11.00am	<i>Morning Tea</i>				
11:05-12.45pm <i>Workshops (1.45hrs)</i>	Group A			Group B	
12.50-2.00pm	<i>Lunch Break</i>				
2.05-3.35pm <i>Workshops (1.30hrs)</i>	Group A			Group B	
3.40-4.10pm	<i>Afternoon Tea</i>				
4:15-5.45pm <i>Workshops (1.30hrs)</i>	Group A			Group B	
					Travel home

## KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS, PRESENTERS AND WORKSHOP TUTORS

### Keynote Presenter Day 1 - Leanne Moraes: Monday 12 January

*'How can we support the child during the early years to build this body to carry them throughout life'*



**Leanne Moraes** has been a kindergarten teacher for more than 40 years teaching in mixed-age classes of four, five and six-year-old children at the Melbourne Rudolf Steiner School. She remains an enthusiastic kindergarten teacher, extending her experience to encompassing parent education and teacher mentoring. She enjoys encouraging people to love this very special work with young children, where every day amazing things can happen. Leanne is also a very happy and committed grandmother.

### Leanne's Workshop: Creative Free Play

In this workshop we explore together the essential nature of Creative Free Play as the young child's world. What is needed in terms of play spaces, resources, toys? We discuss how teachers can observe, support and encourage the playful learning of children's imaginative and cooperative play as they transform open-ended resources or natural materials in the different forms of play (e.g. socio-dramatic play, building small worlds or inhabiting large structures and more).

## **Keynote Presenter Day 2 - Brioni Pridham: Tuesday 13 January**

*'Building foundations for life through the gifts of Will, Senses and Imitation.'*



Brioni has been working with young children, from birth to 7 years old, and families for over 30 years, in school, kindergarten, playgroup and home settings. A fascination about the nature of play in the young child's life led her to Waldorf Education early in her teaching life. She is passionate about the essential nature of the young child, and the foundations for life that are cultivated during this time. The constant questions are "how do we best u and serve the children and families in our care, and how do we develop our environments and programs to meet them?"

### **Brioni's Workshop: Shining a Light: Why do we do What we do? (working alongside Julie McVeigh)**

In this workshop we will explore the Essentials of Steiner/Waldorf early childhood pedagogy and deepen our understanding of the relationship between child development and curriculum.

## **Keynote Presenter Day 3 – Marilou Araullo: Wednesday 1 January**

*'Dreaming the World Awake: The Role of Imagination in Early Childhood'*



**Marilou Araullo** is a Steiner/Waldorf early childhood educator, teacher-trainer and parent-educator of more than 30 years' experience. Her journey with Steiner/Waldorf education began in 1981 when working at Warrah Village - a curative community. She has worked at the Samford Valley Steiner School since 1998, first as an EC assistant, then as teacher and currently leads the EC Faculty as their director. She has presented extensively both here and overseas, sharing her understandings and experience of this special education that she passionately advocates for, because the wonders and joys behind teaching the very young child never ceases to inspire us.

### **Marilou's Workshops:**

#### **Storytelling ~ Puppetry:**

The understanding and practice of storytelling is a vital pedagogical tool in all Steiner/Waldorf kindergartens. This workshop meets both new and experienced educators seeking inspiration, renewal, and practical tools for their classroom storytelling practice. Rooted in the principles of anthroposophy, the workshop explores how oral storytelling and puppetry nurtures imagination, language development, and the inner life in the young child with *pictures*. Emphasis is placed on why memory-based storytelling, repetition, and inner preparation are key, as well as learning how to select age-appropriate fairy tales, nature stories, and seasonal tales

#### **Establishing the Rhythm of the Day:**

The rhythm of the day, the week, the term the year (all captured in a Steiner early childhood program) serves as the *second teacher*. How the day breathes for the children and the teacher can successfully bring all the elements of the curriculum into harmony. What are the important aspects that underpin setting-up a classroom? All these considerations are fundamental to the inner and outer well-being of the class.

## Keynote Presenter Day 4 – Julie McVeigh: Thursday 15 January

*‘Know Thyself: Responsibility, Relationship, Reverence’*



Julie has been a teacher of young children in Steiner education for 17 years, following many years working in a variety of roles in early childhood settings including kindergarten, preschool, adult education, and advocacy. The experience of being a parent, a teacher, and then being new to teaching in a Steiner school, led to an ongoing commitment to understanding Rudolf Steiner’s pedagogical indications, and the completion of a M.Ed in Philosophy of Education. Julie is passionate about the protection of childhood as a unique time in the unfolding of a human life, and the vital importance of responsible and loving adults in the life of a child. Since retiring from full time work, Julie enjoys the time to work as a mentor and support the work of beginning teachers, and to be an active grandmother to her 11 grandchildren.

### Julie’s Workshop: Shining a Light: Why do we do What we do? (working alongside Brioni Pridham)

In this workshop we will explore the Essentials of Steiner/Waldorf early childhood pedagogy and deepen our understanding of the relationship between child development and curriculum.

## Keynote Presentation Day 5 - Friday 16 January

*‘Weaving the Magic: How our understandings and practical work form the life of kindergarten’*

**Leanne Moreas, Brioni Pridham, Julie McVeigh and Marilou Araullo**

### Workshop Tutor - Sally Anne Davison



Sally Anne is an experienced teacher who has worked in Steiner Education for over 30 years. She has held positions as a kindergarten teacher and early childhood director, a class teacher and a high school guardian and specialist. Most recently having completed a full-time training at Pacifica College of Eurythmy, Sally teaches eurythmy from grades 3-12 at Samford Valley Steiner School. Sally has been actively involved in teacher training modules and mentoring in Steiner Schools in Australia and abroad. When she’s not doing Eurythmy, she loves to paint, draw, read go hiking.

### Sally’s Workshop - Watercolour Painting

Liquid water-colour on heavy pre-soaked paper creates an effect where the colours run across the page and blend into one another. In the early childhood education this style of painting encourages the child to have an inner experience of the colours and supports the child in their ‘dream consciousness’. It has lasting effects imprinting and nourishing the child’s morality. According to Steiner these early experiences in colour are also important when the child later learns to read:

*‘If you prevent children from having an intensive experience of colour perspective, they will not develop the necessary incentive while learning to read... These colour experiences will stimulate mobility in the child’s mental imagery, suppleness in feelings, and flexibility in the will activities.’*

## Workshop Tutor – Katrina Ross



Katrina is currently working as kindergarten teacher at Cape Byron Steiner school having worked previously at Rainbow Ridge Steiner School in Northern NSW for 21 years. Her passion for Steiner early childhood education and music led her to research music in the mood of the fifth and she has written several books of songs and morning circles that find inspiration from the natural environment in which she lives and works. Katrina is an early childhood tutor for Sydney Steiner College and Melbourne Steiner Seminars running courses on music in the Mood of the Fifth and Morning Circles and is very keen to support new teachers to be able to create their own.

### Katrina's Workshops:

#### Morning Circles

The workshop will explore the structure of morning circles, the meanings of different movements and gestures, and how to draw upon the natural environment to create seasonal morning circles relevant to the children in your care.

#### Music in the Mood of the Fifth

In this series of workshops participants will gain an understanding of music in the mood-of-the-fifth whilst singing and learning together new songs and finger plays for the year ahead.

## Workshop Tutor: Simone Ponsford



I have been working in early childhood education for over 23 years, and once I experienced the reverence and beauty of a Steiner kindergarten and watched how the children were held, I knew this would be my educational path. I was fortunate to work with passionate mentors first at Noosa Pengari SS from 2005 and now as part of the EC faculty at the Samford Valley SS since 2021. In Steiner education we work with the whole child, as soul, spirit and body and see them explore, experience and imitate the wonders of the world around them. It is such a time of growth and there is a gentle unfolding as this curriculum meets the children at each developmental stage as a whole group and as an individual. It is not only an education for our children but also an education for us as adults to meet the world consciously.

#### Simone's Workshop: Handcraft – Guiding the Will of the Child

This practical workshop supports Steiner/Waldorf early childhood educators to deepen their understanding of the role that Handwork plays as an element of the kindergarten day. How does it foster will forces, creativity, and a sense of care—both in the children and in the educator's own inner work? Rooted in the principles of child-development, the workshop explores the sensory, and soul-nurturing aspects of working with natural materials. Participants will also reflect on the pedagogical value of imitation, rhythm, and beauty in the environment.

## **INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS**

**Workshop places are limited to 50 Participants.**

### **Cost and Registration**

Includes 5 lectures; 12 Workshop Sessions; Morning Teas for 5 days; Afternoon Teas and Lunch for 4 days.

**Early Bird Registration: \$590** until 16 November 2026

Registration after 16th November will be **\$680**

**To Book please use this ticketing link:** <https://www.trybooking.com/DFR1Y>

- A confirmation Letter will go to the booking person to confirm your successful registration.
- A letter to Individual attendees will follow with a detailed Timetable, Map and What-to-Bring for any workshop requirements.
- Any updates or changes to this Event will be regularly posted on the Pedagogical Section Website <https://www.pedagogicalsectionaus.org>

### **Background Study Text**

Study of Man (GA 293):

Opening Address - <https://rsarchive.org/Lectures/GA293/English/Singles/19190820p01.html>

Lecture One - <https://rsarchive.org/Lectures/GA293/English/RSP1966/19190821a01.html>

### **Enquiries**

For all enquiries please contact Marilou Araullo (Early Childhood Director)

[maraullo@samfordsteiner.qld.edu.au](mailto:maraullo@samfordsteiner.qld.edu.au) Mobile: 0438 745 292

### **Venue**

Address is 5 Narrawa Drive, Wights Mountain, QLD 4520.

The Samford Valley Steiner School is situated on 20 acres of forested land in the beautiful, rural setting of Samford Valley, only 35 mins from the Brisbane CBD.

### **Transport**

Participants will need to arrange their own transport to and from SVSS.

Brisbane Airport is approximately 45-60 minutes from Samford Valley Steiner school dependent on traffic.

Trains run from Brisbane Airport to Ferny Grove Station which is the closest station to Samford Valley Steiner School.

<https://translink.com.au/plan-your-journey>

Car hire is recommended if there is a group from one school.

### **Accommodation**

Accommodation is the responsibility of the participants, unfortunately **no** on-site accommodation can be offered due to building works. However, there is a range of accommodation available in Samford Valley and the surrounding areas.

<https://visit.brisbane.qld.au/accommodation/western-suburbs/self-contained/samford-lakes-accommodation-9269>

### **Meals**

As per the programme, Morning and Afternoon Teas and Lunch are included in the course fee. Participants are responsible for their own breakfasts and dinners.

### **Cafes and Restaurants**

<https://fishlipscafe.com.au>

<https://www.samfordhotel.com.au>

***Supporting teachers to be inwardly attuned and awake to the opportunities each day  
to lead the children towards the future that the world awaits.***