



Pabulum

Perth Waldorf School

14 Gwilliam Drive,

Bibra Lake WA 6163

Telephone: 9417 3638

Email: adminpws@pws.wa.edu.au

Website: www.pws.wa.edu.au

TERM 4 CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Tue 3	Class 12 Graduation.
Wed 4	Class 7 2020 Orientation Day - 8:35am start.
Tue 10	Class 7 Graduation Assembly - 8:45am.
Thur 12 - Fri 13	High School Art Exhibition.
Mon 16	Christmas Picnic and Tableau. Details to follow. Kindergarten Crowning - 9:15am in the Hall (K6 Parents Invited).
Tue 17	LAST DAY OF TERM 4 (half day).

NEXT WEEK

HIGH SCHOOL ART EXHIBITION
Thursday, 12th December and
Friday, 13th December
 Details inside.



STUDENT ABSENCES:

Please let the office know by 8:30am.
 Text: 0429 680 969, Phone: 9417 3638,
 Email: absence@pws.wa.edu.au.

PABULUM INFORMATION:

- Pabulum contributions need to be emailed to pabulum@pws.wa.edu.au by 2:15pm Thursdays.
- To view Pabulum as a PDF, go to www.pws.wa.edu.au
- To receive the link via email, please send a request to adminpws@pws.wa.edu.au

Term 4, Week 8

Tuesday, 3rd December, 2019

Graduation Day

Congratulations to the Class 12 Graduates. Today they will be held and enveloped in love by the school for the final time before they move into a new phase of their unfolding lives. At the assembly they are being individually honoured by staff members and they will individually have a chance to speak before they walk away with a gift and the School Certificate.

Many of the children have only known the nurturance of a Steiner School and all will have a range of FIRST experiences in the near future including further study, work, travel and incredible freedom and a lack of structure. We hope they have gained enough wisdom and love-of-self to do good and to be well. When we remember what we wished just before they were born – “to be healthy” - maybe we should focus only on that and let the rest take care of itself rather than worry and fret, all to no avail! They’ve got this!

We were blessed to have had you within our midst and we bless you as you depart.

Shakespeare

Thank you to Donna and all involved in the Class 12 Play at the Subiaco Arts Centre. It was a triumph and delighted everyone.

Class 5 Play

Thank you to David and all involved for leading your class in a delightful Greek Myth play. We were all enthralled.

School Council and Fees

The school council held its final meeting of the year last week. As the governing body it has responsibility for approving the school budget. Last week’s meeting was mainly dedicated to that. The school fees for 2020 were ratified. In this budget, the council has worked hard to ensure fee increases were minimized and in most cases there has only been a 2% increase. For some Early Childhood years the school is playing catch-up with funding the increased hours provided for K5 and the lunch programme for K5 and K6 so the increases have been higher than 2%.

Overall, the fees at Perth Waldorf are very competitive and we are proud to offer a comprehensive and holistic curriculum with good resources and high student to staff ratios.

Staff News

In the Pabulum today there is an advertisement for a High School Craft/Textiles teacher. This recruitment is due to the resignation of Cathy Dale who has been with the school for almost 9 years. Cathy has guided with care and energy the Craft programme and we are pleased that it is a commonly chosen subject in Class 11 and 12. The textiles student’s work will delight you at the ART Exhibition next week.

We are also grateful for Cathy’s work as a Class Guardian for 5 years until 2016 and as a Learning Support teacher and coordinator. Thank you.

Bruce Lee
School Administrator

IN THE LIGHT OF A CHILD

The waves of warmth

That strongly through the land are radiating, spreading,

Proclaim that we

To glorious, golden days of summer-sun are heading.

“Be filled with light!”

My spirit understands these words which Nature everywhere is showing.

“Let thoughts take flight!”

My heart is told; “Be never earthbound but be always changing, growing!”

Michael Hedley Burton

FROM FINANCE

SCHOOL FEES ARE NOW OVER DUE - Term 4 Due Date: Friday, 25th October, 2019.

CREDIT CARD/ONLINE PAYMENT	ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER	CHEQUE AND CASH
Payments by Credit Card can be made by visiting the Bpoint website: https://www.bpoint.com.au Biller Code: 147 2133 Reference: Family Code Phone payments can also be made by calling Reception on 9417 3638 during Office Hours. We accept VISA and MASTERCARD.	Payments by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) can be made to the school's banking details as follows: Account Name: Perth Waldorf School BSB: 066 000 Account Number: 1205 1015 Commonwealth Bank Perth Reference: Family Code	Payments by cheque can be made payable to Perth Waldorf School. Please have a copy of your statement attached when mailing your cheque. Postal Address: PO Box 1247, Bibra Lake WA 6965 Cheques and Cash Payments can also be made during office hours at the School Reception. EFTPOS terminal also available.

A late payment fee will apply to all accounts not paid by the due date. This does not apply if you have a payment plan arrangement in place.

UNREFERENCED PAYMENT

Our Finance Dept. has received an unknown payment for school fees with the following details:
24th October, 2019 - \$1855

If you think this transaction was made by you please contact the Finance Department on **9417 3638** or by emailing **account@pws.wa.edu.au**.

TERM 4 FEES

Term 4 fees are now over due. Fees were due to be paid on **Friday, 25th October, 2019.**

A late payment fee will apply to all accounts not paid by the due date. This does not apply if you have a payment plan arrangement in place.

Please contact Leisa Clarke in the finance department if you have any issues or inquiries - **9417 3638** or **account@pws.wa.edu.au**.

2020 SCHOOL FEES

School fee information for 2020 is now available on our website: **www.pws.wa.edu.au**

GENERAL NEWS

HEAD LICE NOTICE

Dear PWS parents, there has been a case of Head Lice in our school.

Please check your child's hair frequently and keep long hair tied back.

Symptoms include, excessive itching and tiny insects (resembling sesame seeds) and eggs (resembling grains of sand) throughout the head/hair.

Head Lice can be treated with shampooing with a head lice shampoo and combing with a special nit comb that will remove lice and eggs from the hair (see your local pharmacy for these products). Be sure to follow the instructions on the treatment that you use and repeat the treatment after 7-10 days.

For more information please go to:

http://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/F_I/Head-lice/



(Not to scale)

CHRISTMAS CAROL NATIVITY PICNIC NEXT WEEK - Monday 16th December

We are very grateful to be able to present the Christmas Tableau for the School Community this year.

Our wish is to offer a gift for all - teachers, admin, canteen, grounds, maintenance, community support staff, class carers and parents (all the people in our community who are very responsible and often in charge!) – the chance to relax, reflect and hopefully enjoy this Christmas gift.

We would ask that children stay with their families and reverence and peace be the ambience of choice so that we can all carry the mood of Christmas home with us.

This year we will have food trucks on site until **6:00pm**. They will be selling paella and sushi.

5:30pm - bring a picnic to the Small Oval

6:30pm - bring reverence - especially for children - and beautiful singing voices to the Carols and Christmas story!

After the Advent performance has finished can we please request that no children or adults enter the roped off area where the performance was held.

VOLUNTEER MORNING TEA

On Tuesday, 26th November, we hosted a morning tea to give thanks to all the volunteers who tirelessly help our school and the community. We certainly appreciate all the work everyone does with the school, and this was a small way to show our appreciation. Below are some pictures of our delicious morning tea spread, including a photo of Matt Blackwell who we caught in the staff room stealing a slice of cake before the morning tea started!



STORAGE NEEDED FOR OUR CHARIOTS

We are looking for a member of our community who has shed or garage space available to house our beloved Chariots (pictured to the right). An area of approx 2m x 2m should suffice (the drawbars can be removed and the chariots stored standing upright).

A commitment of this significance would be greatly appreciated and would satisfy your Family Participation commitment for the year. If you can help please contact reception.



ADVENT



The second day of Advent - the third Sunday before Christmas - is on **Sunday, 8th December**, a continuation of a wonderful time for everyone, young and old, to give attention and gratitude to our world.

This year we print stories from the book *The Light in the Lantern*, written by Georg Drißig, a book full of little stories for Advent. In last week's Pabulum you can read the preface of his book as well as week one's and week two's story of Advent. This week features week three's and week four's story.

*See near the back of this *Pabulum* for the second week's story of Advent.



Connect Learning WA Before and After School Care

****The service is available for children aged from 6-12****

Casual bookings are available all year round if you ever need last minute care. Feel free to pop in for a chat or contact Nicola (in the Extra Lesson Room before and after school).

Before School Care	6:30am to 8:25am
After School Care	2:00pm to 6:00pm
Vacation Care	6:30am to 6:00pm
Early Finish Thursdays	2:30pm to 6:00pm
Pupil Free Days	6:30am to 6:00pm

If you are interested in your child attending please contact Nicola.



NICOLA TODD
Coordinator

0420 667 904

Perthwaldorf@connectlearningafterschool.com.au



POSITIONS VACANT

"At Perth Waldorf School we are committed to promoting the safety, health and wellbeing of children and young people and expect all school staff, parents, students, volunteers and visitors to the school to share that commitment"

Perth Waldorf School invites applications for...



High School Craft / Textiles Teacher

Part-time (approx. 0.45 FTE)
To commence in Term 1, 2020.

We are seeking an enthusiastic teacher to join our wonderful team of teachers and commence with our High School students in 2020.

The successful applicant will have a passion for working with young adults as well as for handcrafts. The craft program is compulsory for students from Class 1 through to Class 9, with a textiles program being optional from Class 10 to Class 12. A willingness to engage with the Steiner pedagogy and philosophy is also required.

Applicants must be teachers who are registered (or eligible for registration) with the Teacher Registration Board and can meet West Australian child protection requirements.

Written applications, including a CV and three referees, should be marked 'Private and Confidential' and forwarded to:

The Administrator, Perth Waldorf School, PO Box 1247, BIBRA LAKE WA 6965, AUSTRALIA

Or Email: employment@pws.wa.edu.au

For a conversation about this position, please phone Annabelle Kellenberger at the school (+618) 9417 3638.

Applications close 12:00pm on Monday, 16th December, 2019

Crosswalk Attendant

1 year contract (with possibility of permanency)

Approx 7.10am - 8.40am, school days.

To commence February, 2020.

About the role:

- Great opportunity to work outdoors and give back to the community.
- Ensure the safety of children and pedestrians crossing the road and be the friendly face who kids remember and trust.
- Full training and uniform provided.

What you'll need to succeed:

- Good communication skills.
- Experience working with children OR the general public.
- Currently hold or be willing to obtain a Working With Children Check.
- Promote a welcoming and supportive culture and engage with the ethos and philosophy of our Steiner school.

How to apply:

Mail: Written applications, marked 'Private & Confidential' and forwarded to:

School Administrator, Perth Waldorf School, PO Box 1247, BIBRA LAKE WA 6965, AUSTRALIA

Email: employment@pws.wa.edu.au

Phone: Call Fay Davidson at the school on **08 9417 3638** to register your interest in the position.

Applications close Friday 20th December 2019

PRIMARY SCHOOL

INTERNATIONAL TOUR KICKS OFF

Class 7s International Tour of Perth kicked off last Friday. After a day of set-up by our road crew (myself and Peter Grayling) the 7s performed to a not-quite-sell-out but well-attended audience in Williams Hall. Now we are ready to hit the road in our 2 buses this Friday.

First stop Nollamara for our concert at West Coast at 10:45am (northerners welcome to attend), then a quick pack up and up to the hills for our second concert at the Silver Tree at 1:45pm (hills folk please come and support us). We have a varied repertoire including Gustav Holst, American composer Edward McDowell, Beatles and our very own local songwriters Gina Williams and Guy Ghouse (who we hope will attend our Silver Tree concert). Class sevens are focused, enthusiastic and sounding simply symphonic! Well done to our young musicians!



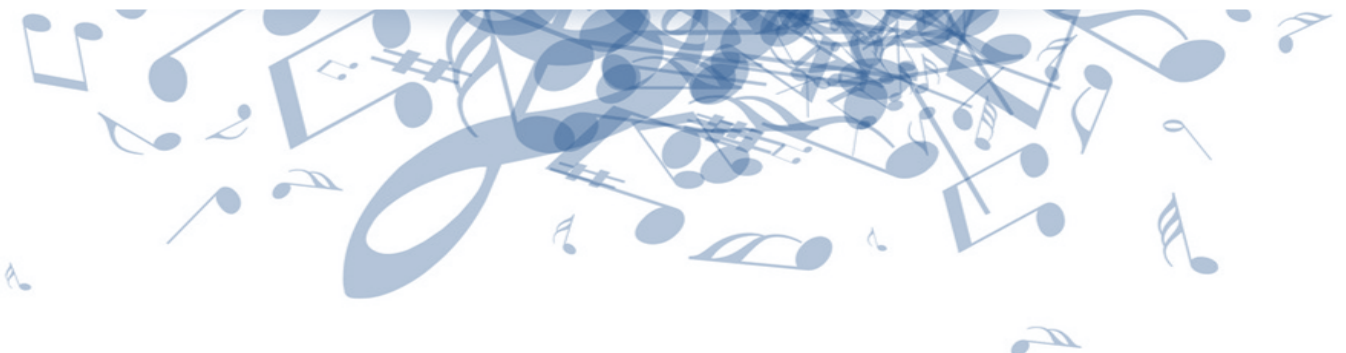
Concert Season

Perth Waldorf School invites everyone to attend the following end-of-year concerts:

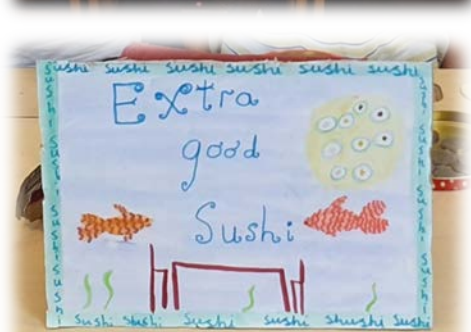
Friday, 6th December: Class 7 on tour, 10:45am at West Coast Steiner School, 1:45pm at Silver Tree Steiner School.

Saturday, 7th December: Class 6 Concert (same night as their Class 6 Graduation)

**Wednesday 11th December: Instrument Concerts - solos and small groups
10:00am Class 4; 11:15am Class 5; 12:00 noon Class 6; 1:30pm and 2:15pm Class 7.**



CLASS 3 MONEY MAIN LESSON PHOTOS



PRIMARY CRAFT



HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS 12 PLAY - 'AS YOU LIKE IT'

Last weekend our Class 12 students presented their final class play together: 'As You Like It' at the Subiaco Arts Centre. Such beautiful, joyous performances - a wonderful showcasing of their individual gifts and talents and a precious gift to our community.

It has been such a privilege to share this final journey with the class and to experience the transformative power of our curriculum. I thank each and every student for all they brought to the production process. I continue to be uplifted by their beautiful striving, friendship, creativity, acting and beautiful music and singing.



(continued over the next two pages...)

There are of course many wonderful people who supported these young people along the way and I encourage both students and parents to seek them out and express their gratitude to them - for what they gave to these young people goes way beyond what they are paid to do - and it would not be possible for our young people to reach such heights of growth and achievement without them.

To the wonderful Glenis who supported the production process in so many ways and who of course created such beautiful costumes. To Matt who brought so many gifts to our students as he created and built our stunning set with the students, and to David who assisted him with this process. To Anna whose quiet strength and industry knowledge and connections brought professionalism to our production. To Kevin, our lighting technician, who with Anna, worked many hours, often without adequate breaks, to create the beautiful lighting plot. To Claire and Shanelle who worked with the musicians, guiding their choices and compositions, inspiring and mentoring them to play such beautiful, joyful music. To Sharon who spent many hours working with students helping them with lines, direction and meltdowns. She brings joy, sensitivity and earnest striving to her work with the students. I also thank her for the love and support she gave me, which helped to sustain me during challenging times. Thank you to Paul Dennis for our play photos. Paul is no longer a parent of the school and so we feel incredibly blessed by his support and so grateful to once again have him take such beautiful photos. Last, but certainly not least, thank you to Karen and Kelly for their constant support, love and help.

Thank you also to our wonderful community of staff, students and parents who came to see the production and supported us in so many ways. The joy, love and beauty I experienced whilst working with the students continues to live in me and I thank Class 12 students for all that they brought to the journey. I wish them love and heartfelt congratulations.





Donna Kerr - High School Drama Teacher



2019 High School Art Exhibition

OFFICIAL OPENING 3:00PM

Thursday 12th December

2:30pm-6:00pm

Friday 13th December

8:30am-4:00pm

FEATURING CLASS 8-12

CREATIVE PIECES

This exhibition will include sculptures,
paintings, textiles, photographs,
drawings, prints, architectural models
and wood creations.



'THE CARRIAGE' SCHOOL SHOP

NEW CHRISTMAS STOCK NOW AVAILABLE!

OPENING TIMES: Tuesday and Thursday from 8:15am-9:15am.

We stock all your school stationery supplies, uniforms and bags.

We also have a large range of craft supplies, jewellery, knitted items, cleaning products, salt lamps, essential oil holders, amber teething necklaces, wooden toys and books.

COMMUNITY CLASSES

Groups/Classes

Participating in any of these activities goes towards Family Participation Hours.

These groups for parents are run or led by teachers or parents. Members of the school community are encouraged to join any of the groups and enjoy the experience of personal growth and learning in this beautiful environment - a great inspiration for our children!

Mondays, 9:00am-10:15am	Parents and Friends Study Group with Anne Williams (in the Library, no children please) 0424 771 217.
Mondays, 10:30am-12:00pm (fortnightly)	Biodynamic Group with Heidi Halter.
Tuesdays, 9:00am	Craft Group with Pixie Stott (outside the Canteen).
Wednesdays 9:00am	Adult Singing join Claire Williamson and discover your inner voice (in the Music Office)
Thursdays, 9:00am-9:45am	Listening Circle with Bruce Lee - the Administrator (in the Library). Come in for a conversation, concern, query or just to listen.
Saturdays, 1:00pm-4:00pm	Waldorf Wood Workers with Christian Geyer (meet in Plaza) 0409 267 178.

EURYTHMY NOTICE

Dear parents and friends,

Unfortunately Tuesday Eurythmy classes with Kristina Hamilton have been cancelled for the rest of the term, due to Kristina being unwell. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

We wish Kristina all the love and strength during this time and hope that she will be well again soon.

SCHOOL NOTICES

School notices are strictly for members of the school only and may consist of: lost and found items, items for sale (student/school related), and classes/lessons within the school, etc. Please try to restrict your notice to three lines (this is free of charge). School notices will appear in this section for two weeks. If you would like the ad to appear for longer, please contact the Pabulum on 9417 3638 each week. Thank you.

RENTAL NEEDED - Hi! My son is starting at PWS next year and we are looking for a 2 bedroom place to rent around South Fremantle or Bibra Lake. If you have any great ideas or possibilities to help us we would be sooo grateful! Please contact me on **0423 522 161** - Merry! Finn.

SEEKING HOUSE SITTING OPPORTUNITY - Responsible Steiner Family (Yallingup Steiner School) seek house sitting opportunity near PWS to bridge our move up while we wait for the next available Class 7 space (we will be home schooling in the meantime). For my 2 girls (12 and 17) and me. My daughter loves looking after all pets! Please contact Sharon (**0478 600 450**).

LOST ITEM

The item pictured below was handed into the Front Office some time ago and have not yet been claimed.
If this belong to you please talk to one of the ladies at the Front Office.



Rudolf Steiner College Perth

A Journey of Becoming

Dr. Lakshmi Prasanna and Patries Orange

Modules One, Two and Three
January 23rd-26th, 2020.

This course is for all those who are working as teachers, who are already part of a teacher training course, and anyone who is looking to deepen their understanding of anthroposophy through education.

The course includes:

- eurythmy to discover ourselves, each other and the child anew.
- nature observation, practicing our ability to observe the other and ourselves.
- working deeply in an explorative way with the first lecture of the lecture cycle 'Study of Man' to discover some of the treasures in this unique approach to education.
- conversation, artistic work.
- lectures at the end of our afternoon program bringing human physiology and embryology to help us understand the relationship between the development of the child and the curriculum Rudolf Steiner developed out of spiritual science.

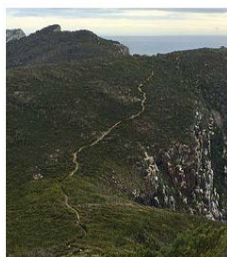
The process relies on the individual and group work we develop between us.

*"Teacher Professional Development with Lakshmi and Patries is just extraordinary!
All our fires burn brightly after each Module." Amy Berridge*

For more information or to book contact Jenny Hill
jennyhill@iinet.net.au / 0432 735 744

RUDOLF STEINER COLLEGE PERTH

A glimpse of what is coming in 2020
www.rudolfsteinercollege.com.au



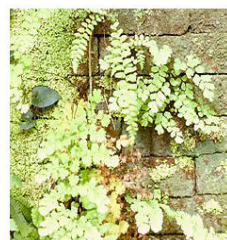
A Journey of Becoming
 Lakshmi Prassana and Patries Orange
 January 23rd - 26th



Eurythmy
 with Patries Orange
 January 23rd TBC



Creative Discipline
 with Lou Harvey-Zara
 March 28th and 29th



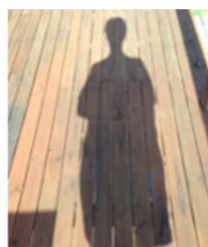
Introducing Anthroposophy
 with Paul Lawrence
 3 Saturday Mornings Term One



Biodynamic Day
 with Heidi Halter
 Easter Stirring



Make a spoon
 with Judy Gray



Biography Work
 with Dale Irving



Creative Speech
 with Renate Millionig - April



Play
 with Renate Breipohl



Bothmer Gymnastics
 with Gosia Winter

Who we are and what we do...

Rudolf Steiner College Perth has, for several decades now, offered adult courses in the magnificent themes of Anthroposophy. You might have wondered who's involved. By way of introduction, the coordination group is (pictured left to right, standing): Titus Witsenburg, Jill Whitfield, Dale Irving, and Peter Payne, Ann Reeves and Jenny Hill, all of whom have long been involved with Anthroposophy. You've likely seen us around.

The College is a source of learning that doesn't require prior knowledge, doesn't cost the earth, and is open to all. Our courses are friendly and welcoming, and offer material that we hope is stimulating, heartening and digestible. In creating our courses we work with those wonderful locals who are sources of profound Anthroposophical wisdom and experience, and with guests from interstate and overseas. Our aim is to make the work of Rudolf Steiner available to all those whose interest levels range from the vaguely curious to the definitely interested.

Over the past two years we have run courses on *Introducing Anthroposophy*, *the Four Temperaments*, *Lyre-making*, *Biography*, *The Young Child*, and *A Journey of Becoming*. Responses have been enthusiastic.

Next year too we have an outstanding programme. Courses will include *Biodynamics*, *Bothmer Gymnastics*, *The Young Child*, *Creative Speech*, *basic Anthroposophy*, *Creative Child Discipline*, *Eurythmy*, *Biography*, *Woodwork*, and *Child's Play*. These modules will go towards a full Foundation Course in Anthroposophy.



*Titus Witsenburg, Jill Whitfield, Dale Irving,
 Peter Payne, Ann Reeves & Jenny Hill.*

In that light, we would like to hear from you. We're keen to know of any fields of Anthroposophy you'd like to deepen your knowledge of, so please contact us with your ideas and thoughts.

By the same token, we encourage people who think they have something to offer. So if you've been working with Anthroposophy for some time and feel you've reached a level of understanding and experience that you would like to share, please talk to us. We'd like to hear from you.

Please contact Ann Reeves, annreeves@iinet.net.au, or Jenny Hill, jennyhill@iinet.net.au
 See more at rudolfsteinercollege.com.au.



COMMUNITY NOTICES



Community Notices are for members of the school's community only and may consist of; business adverts, producers, services, items for sale (non-school related), etc. keeping in mind that they need to be consistent within our schools' ethos. Please try to restrict your notice to three lines (this is free of charge). All Community Notices will appear in this section for two weeks only. If you would like a ¼ page advert, a \$10 fee is required and will only appear in Week 2 and Week 8.

HOUSE FOR SALE - Bibra Lake - 2.2kms from school. 4 bed, 2 bath, locked garage. Needs some TLC. \$450,000 - any offer considered. To view the property, please contact Catherine on **0412 921 196**.

SHARON D CLIFFORD STUDIOS - has 40% off original artworks and 30% off all remaining prints. Go to <https://sharondclifford.com.au/for-sale/> to browse current stock - the perfect special gift for yourself or someone you love. "I hope you find something you just can't live without!" Payment plans welcome, warmly Sharon **0447 267 450**.

RENTAL AVAILABLE - Christmas Holiday rental in Dunsborough (private home) available 18th-31st Dec, from \$600 p/w phone **0411 795 589** for my details.



Touch Alchemy
Esalen® Massage and Bodywork

Need a gift for someone special?

Working from the 12 Senses paradigm, a Touch Alchemy session is an integrated bodywork experience
~ flowing, fluid, bespoke, spontaneous and healing ~

For appointments, gift vouchers or information, please contact Agnes
M: 0405095088 ✉ touch.alchemy@outlook.com f @touch.alchemy.with.heart

Touch interweaves all our Senses and directly corresponds to our sense of Self, our 'Ego'. Get in Touch with your sense of Self!



Sohum Natural Skin Care Studio

Biodynamic Facials and Wellness Massage after end of Term 4:

- Are you working until 13 December and then would like to **pamper yourself**?
- Would you like to **relax deeply with a body massage** using pure botanical organic Dr Hauschka and WALA oils?

Pabulum Special :

"Natural Skin" Facial

Enjoy aroma compress, skin cleanse, hydrating masks, shoulder massage, hand cream, foot tonic
1 ¼ hrs, now \$110 (save \$10)

"The Journey" Body Massage

Relax and revitalise with Swedish and sports massage using pure organic Dr Hauschka & WALA plant oils
1 ¼ hrs, now \$110 (save \$10)



Available 1 – 24 December, Kardinya or home visit
Sohum Studio, Moore Gardens Kardinya, call 0450 819 116

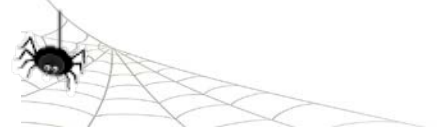
ADVENT STORY

(Week One and Two of Advent)

WEEK THREE

What the Spider did for Mary

Written by Georg Drißig



One evening Mary and Joseph sought quarters for the night in a cave. As they stepped in, a spider was just crawling across their path. Joseph was just about to drive it quickly away with his stick when Mary said gently: "Oh Joseph, leave the poor beastie alone. I am not afraid of God's creatures and there is room for all of us in here." And they settled down to sleep.

But a strong wind was blowing that night. It was in a hurry to blow the dust off all the stars in the sky before the Christ Child was born, so that at Christmas time they would all be as bright as bright. It blew into the cave, too, and made Mother Mary so cold and exhausted that she would not sleep a wink, however much she cuddled up in her cloak of stars. Joseph has been asleep for a long while and was quite unaware how freezing cold Mother Mary was.

But there **was** a creature there who noticed how Mary was feeling, and that was the spider. It had taken Mother Mary into its heart the moment Mary had spoken about it with such kindness. So the spider now set to work to weave a wonderfully delicate web across the entrance to the cave, the best one she could possibly make. You may think that a spider's web cannot keep the wind out. This one, however, even though it was a very dainty one, worked as well as a really thick curtain to hold back the force of the wind. So Mary could sleep well after all.

When, in the morning, she saw the delicate cobweb in the entrance to the cave she knew at once who had helped her, and the thanks in her heart went straight to the little creature now hidden in a crevice in the rocks and made it very happy.



WEEK FOUR

The Poor Woman's Warm Soup

Written by Georg Drißig



Rebecca was the poorest woman in the village. The only clothes she had where those she was wearing, and that was little enough, for her blouse and skirt were torn and her shoes and stockings had lots of holes in them. Everybody in the district knew her. Rebecca knew everybody, and she also knew where she could knock when she was hungry and also where she could find shelter to sleep when the Winter's cold drove her indoors. She led a wretched life, but she was so used to it that she could not imagine anything else. One day, when a farmer pitied her poor state she replied: "There is at least one thing that troubles everybody else except me." When he stared at her in amazement she went on, "You all have to put up with me begging, but nobody has ever begged from me." And with a sly laugh she stuck the loaf of bread he had given her under her arm and made off.

In the particular Winter of which our story tells there was great hunger in all the land, so that the people had hardly enough to satisfy their own hunger and grudged the very little they gave Rebecca. She had to knock at many doors until she had collected enough for her frugal meal. One day Rebecca was given some warm soup which filled exactly half her jug. As she sat down by the roadside to eat it she saw, all of a sudden, a man, a woman and a little donkey coming along. You have guessed who it was: Mary and Joseph on their way to Bethlehem. The man looked gloomy and the woman's white face looked so pinched that even Rebecca felt sorry for her. "Hey, you people," she called to Mary and Joseph, "why are you looking so gloomy and sad? Whatever is the matter?" Joseph looked at her silently, and his eye fell on her jug of soup. Mary, however, answered softly, "We have nothing to eat, therefore it is difficult to keep going." "Then why don't you buy something?" asked the beggarwoman. "We have no money to buy food," was the answer. "So why don't you beg?" Rebecca asked. "We did try," Mary confessed with embarrassment, "but nobody would give us anything." "Yes indeed," the beggarwoman agreed, "these are hard times. The people themselves have nothing. Look how stingy they were to me." And she showed them the jug with its little bit of soup. Then suddenly a most unusual thought flashed through her mind, one she had never had before. "Tell me," she asked slowly, "do you have a vessel with you?" – Yes, Mary and Joseph had a jug with them. "Then let us share," said the beggarwoman, "my soup and your need." Joseph unpacked the jug, and Rebecca poured into it what she thought she could just manage to spare, and then that much again. By that time her own jug was empty, but she succeeded in holding it so neither Mary nor Joseph should notice. As the beggarwoman watched the two hungry people eating her soup she felt a joy she had never experienced before. For a moment she even forgot her own hunger.

It took only a very few minutes to eat the soup and Mary and Joseph were off again on their way. For a long while Rebecca watched them going. For those travellers had taught her about the one trouble she had never known before, and this had brought her such joy. When at last she bent down to pick up the empty jug she found that it was full to the brim with a beautifully warm soup that tasted so good it took all her hunger away.