Tarremah Steiner School

JUNE 21 | ISSUE 9 , 2024

Tarremah Times

Our highest endeavor must be to develop free human beings who are able of themselves to impart purpose and direction to their lives. The need for imagination, a sense of truth, and a feeling of responsibility—these three forces are the very nerve of education. *Rudolf Steiner*

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Diary Dates:

Fri 21 June
Winter Spiral

Wed 26 June
'Our Highest Endeavour' Talk

Thurs 27 June
Class 10 Drama Performance

Fri 28 June
Last Day of Term

Tues 9 - Sun 14July
Vital Years Conference

Mon 22 July
Student Free Day

Tues 23 July
First Day of Term 3

Thurs 25 July
Class 7 Birthing Presentations

Wed 7 August
School Tour

Wed 7 August
Heartwarmers Café

Thurs 15 August
Class 7 Medieval Banquet

Spiralling into the Winter holidays

As Term Two draws to a close at Tarremah, we still have some greatly anticipated events to share with the community, after another full term. Parent/teacher conversations have filled the 'extra hours' in these last weeks, providing an invaluable opportunity for sharing insights and supporting the growth of our students. Thank you very much to teachers for all their hard work in bringing these together, and to parents for enthusiastically engaging in these conversations (even on these very chilly, dark nights).

This week Class Five have performed their spectacular play 'the Ramayana', demonstrating their growth and development over the last year – the music, speech, dancing and teamwork (all of the children, Shawn, Luci and supporting parents) paid off with a highly engaging performance.

Further in the world of drama, the anticipation builds with Class Ten, James and Marie, working hard in the Hall, to bring together their intriguing production for you next week, on Tuesday and Thursday evening.

We have had several community talks this term, starting off with Melanie Deefholt's exploring how to support our children's developmental demands. We had several online sharings (screens, art history and health). All of these will culminate in a visit from Andrew Hill (CEO of Steiner Education Australia and highly experienced Class Teacher and Teacher trainer), who will be at Tarremah *next week. Please take this (rare) opportunity next Wednesday to hear from Andrew, on the importance topic of how Steiner education builds meaningful lives (details in the flyer within).*

The Biodynamic Centenary was an important experience, bringing us together to reflect on the relevance and importance of Biodynamics in our context here at Tarremah. Many joyful and informative meetings and talks were held, and have since continued, pathing the way for continued collaboration. It is crucial that we develop our understanding of holistic practices that support the earth, and I am grateful for this focus.

Amidst all of this, four of our classes have hosted student teachers this term! Obviously, this is a vital part of supporting teacher education, great exposure for Steiner Education and a chance for our students to see other people striving. Thank you to Class Seven and Brett for hosting Ripley from the Melbourne Steiner Seminar, Class Four and Seth for hosting Fran, Class Three and Bel for hosting Nina, and Class Two and Sarah for hosting Maddi (all from UTAS). This is important work, and another area that requires care, effort and support from all involved.

This evening will see the community come together to walk and observe our beautiful spiral. The gentle music and singing, will support the children, as they take the hand of their buddy, and seek the gentle candlelight, amidst these long, dark, cold days. The spiral is a reflective yet fortifying experience, supporting our inward journey through the demands and delights of winter. Thank you to our Winter Spiral team for bringing it all together so beautifully.

Continued on page 5...

Learning through Human 'Books': Tarremah's 'Live Library Project'

Have you ever sat next to someone and wondered what their story was?

Over the last four weeks, our Year 10 English class had the chance to participate in, what we called, 'The Live Library Project'. This project gave us the opportunity to hear personal stories from people we might not normally meet or get the chance to talk with.

Our Live Library Project was based on the concept of The Human Library which started in Copenhagen back in 2000. The idea behind the Human Library is for people to volunteer to be 'open books' sharing their experiences and stories with 'readers.' The project is intended to foster awareness and empathy and dispel narrow preconceptions and stereotypes.

With this concept in mind, twelve people in our community were invited to come to Tarremah to tell their unique stories to our class. The topics the "books" shared with us spanned identity, religion, LGBTQ+, mental health, advocacy, living simply and travel adventures.

We listened to a man who spoke with great emotion about adopting two boys from India. We heard from a woman who had been held at gunpoint and from a paramedic with groundbreaking experiences raising awareness about the healthcare system. As one student from the Year 10 class said, "His story enforced the idea of wanting to bring good to the world through (his) work."

The impacts of our Live Library Project have been profound and extended far beyond the classroom. It has instilled a feeling of civic responsibility in us to become more involved in addressing social issues that came up in the stories. It has helped us appreciate the complexities of each person's life, encouraging a more inclusive and compassionate view of the world. One student said, "When I listened to those stories it made

me realise that we have so much in common despite our different backgrounds."

The project also proved the value of face-to-face interaction at a time when so much learning is carried out online, and the importance of understanding and respecting the experiences of others. Our English teacher, Sharon Clarke said "At a time when students can get lost within the lure of technology, it's so important to engage them in tasks that help them fully immerse in humanity...in its diversity, in its absurdity, in its incredible beauty, so they can grow into human beings with the capacity and curiosity to see and hear others who may have different views to their own".

We are deeply grateful to all those who volunteered to be part of our Live Library Project. You may be interested to know that Hobart Library has a Human Library programme where you can volunteer to be a "book" or go along to "read" one.

Sadie
Class 10 Student

Vital Years Conference at Tarremah in the 2nd week of school holidays this July!

The Vital Years conference is a national conference for Early Childhood educators, people working with young children and all who are interested in child development.

This conference has been held for 37 years biennially in different locations all around Australia, hosted and organised by volunteers from the respective state and SECA (Steiner Early Childhood Association Australia). SECA is volunteer-run by educators who are committed to protecting childhood.

Since COVID and two on-line conferences, we are delighted to offer an in-person conference again, here in Hobart for the second time (2016 was very popular)!

International speakers and national Australian workshop leaders are offering a combination of lectures, small group workshops, panel discussions, group eurythmy and daily singing. Opportunities to connect with those who have similar needs and interests abound.

A very special atmosphere is built up over the duration of the conference, with long days together, nourishing food, many practical and artistic activities which are all planned to leave participants inspired, restored and with new friends.

If you are involved in education, are a parent, a grandparent, are thinking about becoming a parent or starting a new initiative, please look at the programme here on the Australian Association for Steiner Early Childhood Education (SECA) website.

Full week or weekend only options are available. Many workshops are fully subscribed but you could attend lectures for only $10 each.

Please contact Chantal on chantaldebk@gmail.com if you have further queries.

Chantal De Brauwere
Vital Years Contact

Strings at Tarremah

"Music is worth teaching for its own sake. It is worth teaching because it is good. It is worth teaching because it is unique. It is worth teaching because it empowers children spectacularly." Richard Gill, 2011.

I started working at Tarremah in 2015. I worked alongside Marjorie Gadd who helped me gain confidence and skills in teaching before she retired. The best thing I enjoy about teaching strings is showing students the joy and feeling of accomplishment when they can play a piece of music and feel that sense of achievement and connection to their instrument (violin & cello).

The Primary and Secondary concerts are events that I particularly cherish. The students put in a lot of effort, rehearsing their pieces and encouraging each other. The Hall is consistently packed with parents, friends, and teachers, all excited to witness the performances. As the students take the stage, they always do an exceptional performance. For most, it will be the first time they are playing in front of an audience, and observing their expressions light up with pride and joy is incredibly fulfilling.

It is because of moments like these that remind me why I chose to become a music teacher. Not only do I get to share my passion for music, but I also have the privilege of watching my students grow, both musically and personally. Each class, each note, and each melody is a step toward helping

them discover their potential and express themselves in ways they never thought possible.

Emily Lygin-Wolfe
Strings Teacher

Lessons from Bhutan

I recently returned from a trip to the exotic Jewel of the Himalayas; the Kingdom of Bhutan. My learnings and experiences there had a profound effect on me, and I would like to share with you some of what I learned. In particular, I would like to highlight how Bhutan's philosophy of Gross National Happiness (GNH) aligns with the values and aspirations that we have for our students at Tarremah.

Bhutan is often dubbed 'the happiest country in the world' due to her commitment to the philosophy of GNH: a holistic, integrated and balanced approach to development. But, despite her reputation, Bhutan is not immune to the increasing and potentially harmful influence of globalization. Her leaders recognise the pressure to conform to international expectations, and the resultant problems associated with this.

So, in today's modern world, how does Bhutan manage to resist this pressure, and maintain her commitment to traditional standards and practices? The answer is 'GNH'. In the words of Bhutanese former Prime Minister Thinley: *"Bhutan is not a country that has attained GNH... What separates us, however, from most others is that we have made happiness - the most fundamental of human needs - as the goal of societal change."*

But what does it actually mean, to make happiness the goal of societal change? Is this something that we, at Tarremah, value and aspire to? Are we raising happy and balanced children who, when they eventually enter the larger society, will release goodwill and positive energy, and actively contribute to making society and the world a better place?

Whilst in Bhutan, I learned that the 'happiness' in GNH does not refer to that fleeting pleasurable, 'feel good' mood so often associated with the word. Rather, it refers to quality of life, based on measurable criteria. GNH is made up of a compilation of four categories (or pillars) and is built upon the interrelationship between nine key elements (or domains) of a happy and healthy life. True happiness comes from finding the right balance between each of these.

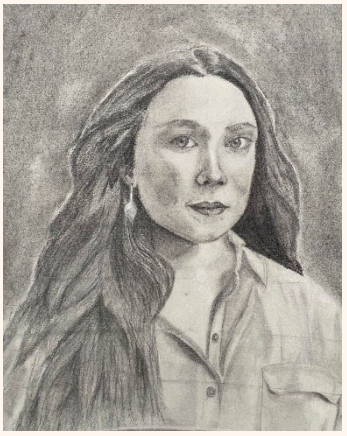
GNH applies to governments and businesses, to schools and other institutions, to families, and to us as individuals. On a national level, GNH means balancing economic wealth with spiritual and emotional wellbeing. On a personal level, it means creating and maintaining spiritual, social and ecological connection, and developing self-leadership. This is the secret to effecting positive societal change. This is the kind of graduate we hope to produce at Tarremah: an active, socially-conscious citizen and change-maker.

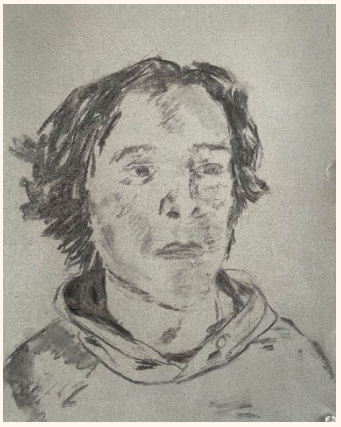
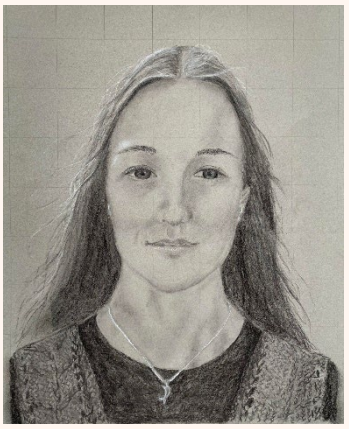
I would be happy to share more of what I learned in Bhutan with interested members of our Tarremah community at a presentation later in the year. I will further explain what GNH actually means, how it is used to measure Bhutan's "wealth", and why we might choose to adopt aspects of it in our own lives. I will also offer examples of how we might do this, in pursuit of a society with empathic leaders and happy citizens. *Watch this space for details of the event.*

Rosie Barry
Craft Teacher

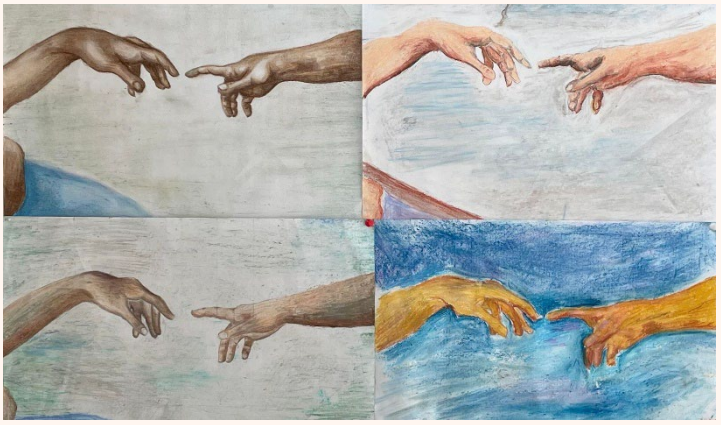
Student Artwork

Class 9



Class 8



Class 7

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Of course there are many, many other staff and parents at work each day, supporting the children and the school, often in unseen ways. Thank you to everyone for all that you do! An especially big thank you to Margaret Peversi, who will be retiring at the end of the term. Margaret has served for many years at Tarremah, was a founding parent, and is now a grandparent here (luckily we will still see her around). She has worked with the School Executive, recently teaching craft across the whole Primary school and into the lower Secondary School. Margaret has been a wonderful colleague to work with and will be missed by us all.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at our Winter Spiral this evening! Wishing you all a warm and winter-delight filled holiday.

Mandy Silversides
Education Facilitator

Call out from Pippin Hill

Care Farming / Camphill Communities /Curative Farming /Therapeutic Gardening / Horticulture therapy or NDIS funded nature based activities.

This is a call out to see if there are people in our community who dream of creating, co creating or have a lived experience of spending time in such an environment .

We would love to make contact.

At Pippin Hill in Cygnet we are looking into the possibility for this as part of a BD /Permaculture community led collective who's interest is to co create an inspirational ,educational ,healing and highly productive farm project.

Please contact Mark Healy for more information Email: magicpathman@gmail.com Mobile 0407042405

Grandparents and Special Friends Day

We are delighted to announce that the Grandparents and Special Friends Day will be held in the second week of Term 3 on Thursday 29 August.

Grandparents and Special friends will be invited to visit the Primary School classes and attend the Hall with the Secondary School students for some yummy treats, tea, coffee and entertainment.

An invitation will come home with your children early next term and we will ask for RSVPs, including a request to assist with cakes and biscuits as per last year.

Class 10 present '*Anastasia: A Twisted Tale*'

Thursday 27 June, 6pm for 6:30pm in the Hall

Anastasia: A Twisted Tale is an original play written by Class 10 students and directed by James Daly.

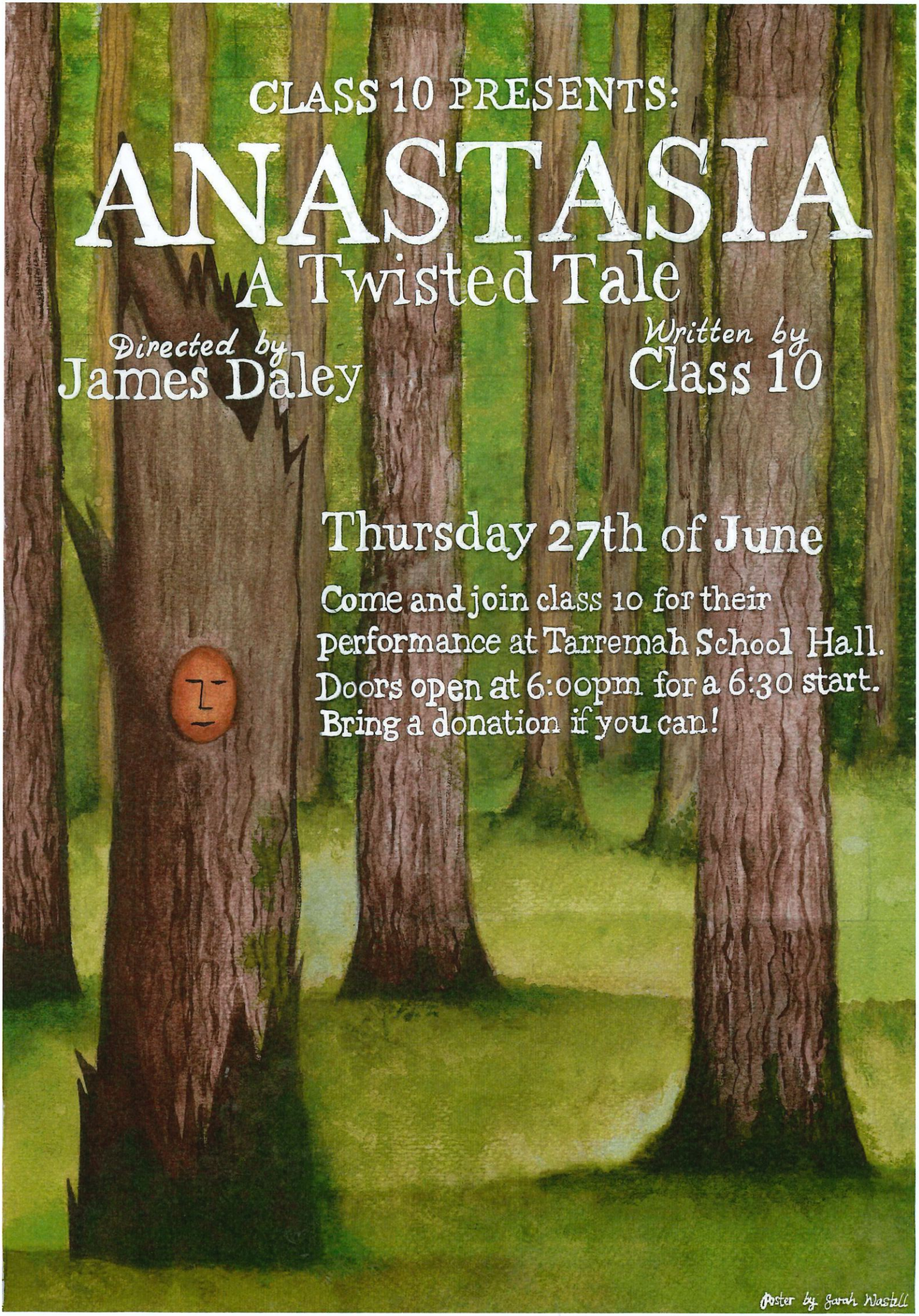
The play follows the story of Princess Anastasia, however, the story is not the one you may be familiar with. In this story, Anastasia goes on a hero's journey where she encounters a whole new world of evil monsters, a band of merry men and a life changing journey through the woods.

If you like daring rescues, comedic chaos and a touch of magical mystery, then this is the play for you!

This play is not recommended for Primary Students. Gold coin donation at the door.

We hope you enjoy the show!!

Sarah
Class 10 Student


CLASS 10 PRESENTS:
ANASTASIA
A Twisted Tale
Directed by
James Daley
Written by
Class 10
Thursday 27th of June
Come and join class 10 for their performance at Tarremah School Hall.
Doors open at 6:00pm for a 6:30 start.
Bring a donation if you can!
Poster by Sarah Wastell

Winter Spiral 2024

Dear Parents,

One of cornerstones of Steiner education is the acknowledgement of the connection between human beings and the rhythm of natural life. To celebrate the winter season, Tarremah will hold its traditional Winter Spiral.

We welcome families to join us at the Winter Spiral, on Friday, June 21. We consider this event important for all children to attend, especially when young children are looking forward to pairing up with their older buddies. Please take your child directly to their class at 5:00pm, before proceeding to the hall ready for a 5:20pm start. Please dress your child appropriately for a cold evening walking close to candles. Also please be mindful of the distracting nature of flash photography, torches, neon glow sticks and mobile phones.

It is a night of reverence and beauty, as the children spiral into the circle in darkness building a spiral of light as they walk out. At the conclusion of this event, please collect your children as soon as they leave the Hall and make your way directly to your vehicle in order to maintain the mood of quiet reverence.

We look forward to seeing you at this special occasion.

The soul will most effectively find itself when it lives in association and contact with the year in its course, when the change from one week to another exerts some influence on it…the soul should feel itself healthily at one with the course of nature. Rudolf Steiner

Kind Regards,

The School Executive and Winter Spiral Committee

TERM 3, 2024 EVENT CALENDAR

Please be aware that these dates are subject to change and times will be available closer to the event.
Please check the Tarremah Times and/or the website for up to date information.

Monday 22 July	*Student Free Day*
Tuesday 23 July	*First Day of Term 3*
Thursday 25 July	*Class 7 Birthing Presentations*
Tuesday 6 – Thursday 8 August	*Class 8 Mt Field Camp*
Wednesday 7 August	*School Tour*
Wednesday 7 August	*P&F Heartwarmers*
Monday 12 – Friday 16 August	*Class 10 Survey Camp*
Thursday 15 August	*Class 7 Medieval Banquet*
Monday 19 August	*Student Free Day*
Tuesday 20 – Friday 23 August	*Book Week*
Friday 23 August	*Book Week Assembly*
Wednesday 28 August	*Class 8 Project Presentations*
Thursday 29 August	*Grandparent's & Special Friend's Day*
Wednesday 4 September	*School Tour*
Wednesday 4 September	*Heartwarmers Café*
Thursday 5 September	*Primary School Music Concert*
Friday 6 September	*Class 7 Climbing*
Saturday 7 September	*P&F Quiz Night*
Friday 13 September	*Class 7 Mountain Day*
Thursday 19 September	Secondary School Music Concert
Tuesday 24 September	*Spring Festival*
Thursday 26 September	*ECC Spring Festival*
Friday 27 September	*Class 7 & 8 Climbing*
Friday 27 September	*Last Day of Term 3*

Our Highest Endeavour: How does Steiner Education Build Meaningful Lives?

A Tarremah Community talk
with Andrew Hill

Please join us on Wednesday 26th June 2024
at 6:30pm
in the Tarremah Music Room

"Our highest endeavour is to produce young men and women who out of themselves are able to impart meaning and direction to their own lives"

From the foreword to the first edition of Rudolf Steiner's Study of Man.

How does Steiner education build meaningful lives? Over recent years there has been some fascinating research that details just what constitutes a meaningful life. Among the key elements are purpose, story-telling, belonging and transcendence. Sound familiar? Yes, these "pillars of meaningfulness" are exactly what Steiner schools aim to deliver. But we do much more. This talk will draw together the elements of Steiner education that deliver a meaningful education and form the "pillars" of a lifelong meaningful journey for our students.

Biography

Andrew Hill, CEO Steiner Education Australia

Andrew Hill trained in Anthropology at the University of Sydney. He lived for a year in the rainforest completing a study of the culture of one of the First Nations people of Malaysia, is fluent in their language, and has maintained a lifelong connection with his adopted family.

He taught Behavioural Science in Medicine at the Universities of Sydney and Newcastle before becoming a Steiner teacher. He was involved in founding and establishing the first ten years of the Newcastle Waldorf School where he took his first Class Teacher cycle.

At Glenaeon Rudolf Steiner School, Sydney, he took two more class teacher cycles, and taught high school up to Year 12. He was Collegiate Chair and Head of School at Glenaeon for 14 years, and has been involved in teacher training for many years.