FEBRUARY 13 | ISSUE 1, 2026

Tarremah Times

Tarremah Steiner School

Chalkboard by Class 1 Teacher, Rosie

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 13 February
P&F Welcome BBQ

Mon 16 February
Class 8 Parent Meeting

Tues 17 February
Class 1 & 6 Parent Meetings

Wed 18 – Fri 20 February
Class 7 Ropes Camp

Wed 18 February
Class 3 Parent Meeting

Thurs 19 February
Children & Smartphone Talk (Pg 5)

Thurs 19 February
Online Community Education (Pg 6)

Wed 25 – Fri 27 February
Class 6 South Camp

Tues 3 – Fri 6 March
Class 9 Living In-between camp

Tues 3 – Fri 6 March
Class 9 Farming Intensive

Wed 4 March
School Tour

Wed 4 March
Heartwarmers Cafe

Welcome back to Tarremah for 2026

I trust you all had a relaxing holiday break and hope you are feeling positive about the year ahead. I'd like to extend an extra warm welcome to new families joining us throughout the school in 2026, and hope that you feel an established part of the community before long. Thank you to the P and F for all the opportunities to meet and connect, culminating in our family BBQ this evening.

You might have noticed some changes around the school, with new shade and playground infrastructure that has been keeping some of our team busy over the summer. Many will have also noticed we have a new courtyard near the library, with level the access to the adjacent classrooms.

Our staff have been working hard to prepare for the children's return, culminating in a week of Professional Development. Rich presentations and discussions were had around the educational journey of a child at Tarremah, including the numeracy development in the Primary school, developmental questioning and nurturing our own creative development through chalkboard drawing.

Staff who have had a change in role and a few farewells

Last year, our long-serving German teacher, Ursula Mischkaulina, made the significant decision to retire. Ursula has been at Tarremah for 15 years! She had been teaching German across the whole Primary and Secondary school, was responsible for organising the German exchange program in the upper Secondary School and has been a valued colleague (especially to those in our little LOTE team). We wish Ursula very well in this next phase of her life and are grateful for all of the years of German language at Tarremah.

Sadly, Danni and Sarah Webb aren't continuing with us this year. Danni has been at Tarremah for 10 years. She was greatly loved by the children, skilled in her assistance of students, and adaptable in working both in the Early childhood and throughout the Primary School. Sarah has been with us for the past few years, as a passionate advocate in learning support for the Secondary School. She was also loved by the children she worked with, and we all appreciated her passion and enthusiasm for supporting staff and students. We wish them both very well in their next endeavours.

Several staff have stepped into slightly different roles this year, including Sophy, who will now take the Primary Gardening program as well as and Horticulture; Michael will be stepping away from Primary Gardening to focus soley on Woodcraft, and Kaara will teach Craft to Classes 2 and 3, as well as continuing with Silvereye.

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We are delighted to announce, that Sharon Clarke is now the Secondary Student Support Coordinator. This year, after extensive consultation we have shifted our model of support, to be broader, more holistic, and with multiple pathways of consultation. We will be sharing more about our new structure in the coming weeks.

Welcome to new staff

We have several new teachers and two new teaching assistants (TAs) joining us this year. We hope you will join us in making them feel welcome at Tarremah.

Julie -Class Five TA

Julie (also a parent at Tarremah!) has been working for many years assisting and supporting students in their classroom learning. Before coming to Tarremah, she worked at the Alice Springs Steiner School in a similar role. She brings a wealth of knowledge and capacity to her position.

Delphi - Class Four TA and Eurythmist

Delphi has recently completed her four-year Eurythmy training and work as a TA at Glenaeon Steiner School. She has just moved from Sydney with her partner. We look forward to trying out a new Eurythmy program with Delphi (limited to the early childhood and younger primary years at this stage) and to helping her settle into her role with Sarah and Class Four.

Adrienne -Primary Student Support

Joining us at the end of 2025 in Primary Learning Support, Adrienne has returned for this term to continue the work, until we find a permanent teacher for this position. Adrienne has so capably and carefully stepped into this role and worked hard to ensure we meet the needs of our Primary students needing extra support.

Rosie – Class One Teacher

As a parent of two Tarremah alumni, a teacher and an accomplished artist, Rosie joins us with a great deal of enthusiasm for Steiner education. She is passionate about our artistic and development approach, along with our gentle rhythms and child-centred focus.

Petra – Craft teacher

Also, previously living interstate, Petra is a parent and exquisite craft maker. Her commitment and understanding of Steiner education has grown deeply over many years working in the Early Childhood at Orana Steiner School (Canberra).

Eden – Class Eight Guardian, English and Drama

Some of you will have met Eden as she produced two wonderful plays in the Secondary school last year. So many of the students shared how much they appreciated Eden's guidance and approach. She is another parent at Tarremah, is a passionate and skilled teacher, who brings a lot of interest and enthusiasm to our pedagogical approach.

Jan – German language teacher

We are delighted to welcome Jan, (who appeared very late in our recruitment process). Jan has recently been teaching German in different educational contexts and has a dynamic approach in the classroom, which complements our pedagogy very well. Some years ago (in Switzerland), Jan was involved in a specialised Steiner educational institution and really looks forward to re-engaging with a style of education that aligns with his own values.

Matt and Mandy
School Chair & Education Facilitator

Some reflections on our Teaching Assistant Course and the nature of Anxiety

Throughout last year and into this year, a group of teaching assistants are undergoing training with Barbra Baldwin and Jackie Cox, through Steiner Education Australia. These two educators work deeply with anthroposophical understandings and have taken on a mentoring role by creating and delivering the course to TAs across Australia. This course offers strategies, concepts, and ideas on how we can best meet and understand children's needs in the most wholistic way possible.

To structure this journey, we began looking at the fundamental component's which shape and influence a child's development. This includes the temperaments, the senses, the constitutional polarities, and archetypal pictures. All of which encourage and strengthen our observations and consequently, our understanding of the child. This picture then guides us to look beyond the physical body of the child which is so integral when seeking to support a child wholistically.

As we reach our halfway point in the course, we have begun to explore more common terminology such as, anxiety. At the end of last year, some of the class cottoned on to my dislike of spiders. Particularly, my anxiety around spiders of a certain size. We had a good laugh, but there was something in this discovery which made me feel that I was doing the children a disservice. I vividly remember watching my mother squirm and use numerous tactics to remove spiders from my bush home. I sat watching these sagas. Focusing on my mother's behaviour, not the spider. Consequently, as an adult, I'm conscious of the possibility of imposing my fears or discomforts onto the children in my care. Particularly as we know that anxiety impacts a child's play and their ability to feel safe.

Trauma is fear which lives in the past, whereas anxiety is fearing the future. A fear of something which hasn't happened but could. Personally, the level of anxiety that I feel watching a spider, is hugely disproportionate compared to the potential, but unlikely risk of harm which could occur. The world is a place of unfathomable beauty and filled with extraordinary people and creatures. We want our children to experience this. Of course, there are risks but our experiences outweighs those 10-fold. An example, when you have a cold, you still make a cup of tea, especially as you know, that the moderate risk of sneezing and spilling the tea on your chest, does not outweigh the positive benefits of the tea.

Playing in the Peter Murrell reserve is just the same. There could be spiders or we could trip and fall, but never should we stop having fun in the kingdom of nature for fear that these events may occur. Whether it be spiders, technology, or others, we can overcome our fears with curiosity, love, and courage, eradicating the potential of passing unnecessary anxiety onto our children.

Teresa Sherman
Class 3 Teacher's Assistant

Community Talk Invitation

Thursday 19 February, 6pm – 7:30pm in the Music Room

Tarremah parents are warmly invited to a presentation by Tracey Tipping, a Tarremah parent, economist and policy advisor, on the real impacts smartphones and social media are having on young people today.

In this Parent Education Session, Tracey will unpack some of the latest research, share powerful real-world stories, and explain why some children are experiencing rising anxiety, loneliness and distraction in the digital age. Parents will learn how algorithms and predators target young users, why developing brains are particularly vulnerable, what the December 2025 social media age-limit changes mean, and—most importantly—what practical steps families can take right now.

This talk is designed for parents and caregivers of primary and high school children.

*****This presentation contains discussion of sensitive issues such as online child exploitation, pornography, self-harm, suicide, cyberbullying and predatory behaviour. These topics are addressed to support parent education and digital safety. Audience discretion is advised. *****

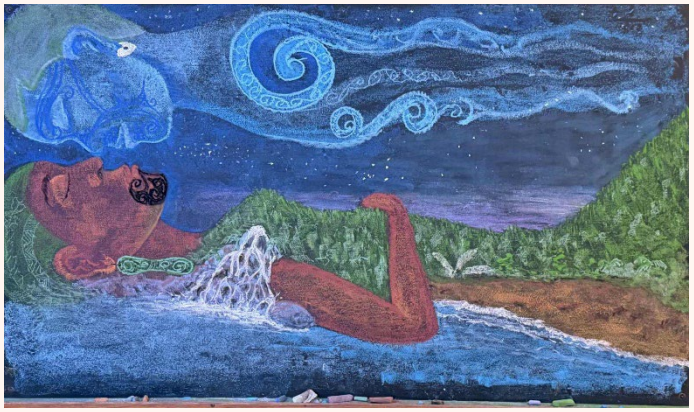
Please register your interest using the link below.
Click here to register for the talk!

Why do teachers create chalkboard drawings?

Chalkboard drawings are a creative expression of the theme of the main lesson that the students are immersed in. Teachers create these beautiful, though temporary artworks, as a gift to their classes. As a teacher, it is a fantastic way to get into the mood of the main lesson, and a part of the deep preparation for the work that is about to begin together.

The wonderful chalkboard drawings here give a hint toward the stories and learning that are in the main lessons to come for our Primary children this term (see also Class One's on the front-page header).

Class 3



Class 2

Class 4

Class 5

Class 6

SIMPLICITY PARENTING

The Simple Joys of Family Life

The family is the child's central experience of community. Simplicity Parenting gives us practical, achievable ideas to create positive role modelling by building a calm, connected and nourishing family culture from which both parents and children will benefit. This talk will explore simple actions that will hold our family through childhood and ground our children in a strong sense of self.

Mary Heard trained at the Simplicity Parenting Institute in 2015 and has since led hundreds of families through the process of simplifying their environment, rhythm, schedules, adult content and media and creating a values based, adult led home life. Mary's two adult children were educated at Glenaeon where she worked for 11 years. You can hear Mary on https://steinereducation.edu.au/steiner-voices-xyz/

Thursday Feb 19, 7.30pm on Zoom

Booking: https://events.humanitix.com/simplicity-parenting-schools

The Artistic Impulse through the Steiner Curriculum

A talk by Sophia Montefiore

With her extensive experience and deep understanding of the developing human being, Sophia Montefiore will share her insights into the Arts curriculum. Steiner education educates the soul life and the will forces of our young children. Sophia will explore the importance of the Arts and how they shape and extend our children's learning.

"The child must be led into writing through art, so that the will is engaged before the intellect."
Rudolf Steiner, Practical Advice to Teachers

Sophia Montefiore is currently a teacher and Senior School Coordinator at the Newcastle Waldorf School in Australia. She has taught and mentored across a range of subjects including English, History, Mathematics, Projective Geometry, Art, and Philosophy. Sophia is also the artist behind our Steiner Parent Education Initiative Logo!

Thursday March 5, 7.30pm on Zoom
Booking Link
https://events.humanitix.com/copy-of-the-artistic-impulse-though-the-steiner-curriculum-schools