CELEBRATION, CONFLUENCE, CONVERSATION, CONNECTING AND CONJURING

Celebration
Over three years ago when deciding what the national picture for the celebration of 100 years of Steiner education might look like in the Australian Steiner landscape, many ideas were brought forward and these ideas have come to fruition on local, national and international scales. Samford Valley Steiner School has played an important and significant role in the national picture, bringing together a youth conference, a historical 5-day event unlike anything that has happened before in Australian Steiner schools with teenagers from 14 schools coming together to celebrate this important event, with an eye not on the past, but the future and how they can Learn to Change the World. The first night was celebrated with Class 10 brilliantly performing their play, Insects.

Confluence
Schools arrived Tuesday from WA, Victoria, NSW, SA and QLD and New Zealand, set up camp and after a few shy moments, these vibrant teenagers, by the second day, were really flowing together, meeting each other and engaging in conversation, art and music. Mobile phones were voluntarily handed in so they could truly engage with each other. Music, games and laughter fill the spaces between singing, keynote lectures, conversation groups and workshops.
Tuesday night was the official welcome and we were very fortunate to have Uncle Joe, Brisbane elder from the Turrbal people officially welcome everyone. We look forward to Uncle Joe coming to our school on many more occasions and building stronger relationships.

Conversation
Conversation has been deep and meaningful as Steiner alumni encourage discussion on a wide range of issues important to the world’s future such as Indigenous culture, diversity, mental health, sustainability, consumerism and workshops to engage with topics such as moral technologies, refugees, story writing, art, music, ethical business and urbanism to name only a few!! The choice has been varied and each topic as important as the next. Dave Rule put together the best trivia night ever! To hear Class 10, 11 and 12 students sing the end of a blessing song they learnt in kindy, do Eurythmy, make platonic solids out of clay and write in binary notation was inspiring. Sorry to say that the teachers’ groups were not in the forefront of the top 3 trivia winners! There was much laughter all round.

Connecting
At the time of writing this newsletter article, we have heard two keynote speakers, Lisa Devine and Rose Nekvapil who through their personal and professional experience, gave students a sense of the fire within, how each person we meet is an opportunity to meet something in us, that by connecting with like-minded people we can make a positive difference. They both made a deep connection with students, who gave rousing applause at the end of each keynote, and follow up conversations with students have affirmed they really found these speakers inspiring and now have new food for thought or an inspiration to initiate action for social renewal. Rose spoke about the Youth Initiative Program so that students could hear about and also meet alumni from this international

Dates to Remember

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<td>Waldorf 10 Song Performance 11am at the Hall</td>
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program - https://yip.se They realised that post school there are many options for further connection with socially minded young people.

**Conjuring**

Lisa spoke about each young person having the capacity to conjure their own future; to be active participants in the world and to seek what opportunities they believe in, what brings them joy, what builds their inner fire. She also spoke how it is okay to not always be happy, to feel frustrated and feel insignificant at the current state of the world. She made it real; but also seeded hope, so that new ideas can be founded and brought forth from the students. All they need to do is connect, to learn, to be inspired from others who have made a difference and to believe that they too, in some way, large or small can make the world a more positive place through their thoughts, feelings and actions.

We can’t wait to hear the next two speakers on Friday and Saturday! Also, each morning before we begin, we sing the incredible piece of music that Dale Jones composed ‘100 Years’. This will be video linked live to other Steiner schools around Australia. The community is invited Saturday at 11am to hear and witness history in the making and to celebrate the culmination of this incredible event and to celebrate 100 years of Steiner education and be part of the next step in the next 100 years.

A huge thank you to EVERYONE who is involved in the vision, organisation or contribution in any way to supporting this conference, which, word is out, may even become a biannual event!

*Tracey Taylor*

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**Invitation to the Waldorf 100 Music Performance - Saturday 7 Sept at 11am**

At the Youth Conference the students have been rehearsing the stunning Waldorf 100 music score, composed by Dale Jones.

The whole community is warmly invited to the performance of the music on Saturday 7 September at 11am in the Hall. This performance from over 240 singers accompanied by musicians will be one not to miss! The performance will also be streamed live to participating schools around Australia.
PARZIVAL MAIN LESSON
Term 3 is a special time of year for Class 11 and I as we embark on the study of Parzival by Wolfram von Eschbach, an epic medieval tale written in the 13th century. This rich and complex tale follows the journey of a young adolescent boy, who through many failures and opportunities to develop human virtues such as courage, compassion and love, finds redemption and fulfils his destiny. The focus is on the inner journey of the human being. This text meets the seventeen-year old’s needs by supporting the development of their inner life as well as challenging their maturing intellect.

Students read, discuss, critically analyse, produce a main lesson book, complete an analytical essay and write a personal journal on some of the deeper questions people have been asking throughout humanity.

Mel Allan
Lucinda Skett’s Certificate of Steiner Education Analytical Essay: Parzival and the Compassion of Humanity

Compassion is an essential part of the building blocks of our society. It is defined as our emotional response when perceiving suffering and having an authentic desire to help alleviate that suffering (Seppala, 2014). It is what compels human beings to care for each other and to help one another. Not only is compassion the cornerstone of our modern society, Wolfram von Eschenbach portrays the importance of this virtue in the novel Parzival, written and set in a time very different from our own. Despite the drastic changes in culture and tradition from the time of Parzival and the modern day, the importance of compassion is still essential to the functionality of our society. This essay will be exploring the role of compassion in Parzival and our modern day.

The novel follows the main character, Parzival, on his journey to find the Holy Grail. The story is centred around his development of character and the trials he faces along the way that assist in his emotional growth. Gawan is another central character in Parzival, his contribution being essential to the portrayal of compassion in the story. While compassion can be felt for those in situations we ourselves have not experienced, it can be much more powerful when we do truly empathise with the suffering of another on a personal level. Gawan is shown to be a caring and compassionate person, this characteristic being the first thing we see when he is introduced. The first time Gawan encounters Parzival, he sees the young knight entranced by the sight of three drops of blood on the snow-covered ground. Gawan almost immediately understands the affliction of the boy before him, “Gawan, the glory of the Table Round, had had experience of such trouble” (Eschenbach, 2004, p.157). Gawan helps alleviate Parzival's suffering because he too had once suffered as the young boy had, his seemingly small act of compassion saving Parzival from the pain that once afflicted him. This exchange portrays the importance of compassion, showing that this virtue is a necessary human experience; to be human, we must think of others instead of always focussing on ourselves.

An act of compassion can save another person from damnation, and if not shown can be detrimental to their life. Compassion allows us to look outside of ourselves, see those who are in need, and take action to try and support them. Without this the world would not be able to function and society would crumble. Eschenbach uses Parzival to portray the significance of this virtue and the consequences that appear when it is withheld. Parzival is presented with the opportunity to demonstrate compassion when confronted with the suffering of Anfortas, but he withheld asking any questions in fear of being perceived as a fool, despite all of the signs advising him otherwise. Parzival’s naivety was his downfall, the desire to shed this characteristic of his only emphasising it. Because of Parzival’s lack of compassion for Anfortas and his subjects, both suffer greatly as the story progresses. Parzival’s mistake shows the importance of compassion, for if you cannot embrace the humanity of others, the consequences will manifest as your own suffering.

In the novel Parzival the acts of compassion, or lack thereof, demonstrate the necessity of this virtue in humanity. It is clear that compassion is incredibly important in the story, but has the importance of this virtue diminished since the 9th century when the tale was set? Despite the drastic changes in culture and the governing of our societies, compassion remains one of the most necessary virtues in our times. It is what connects the feeling of empathy to acts of kindness and generosity (Relationships Zone, n.d.). At its core, compassion is a response to the inevitable reality of our humanity, our experience of pain and sorrow. Compassion is an act of selflessness that can be shown in both big and small ways, neither of these less significant than the other. It’s no secret that our world is filled with suffering, and that is why acts of compassion are the foundations of our society and human experience. There are many people who lead arduous lives and it is the compassion of others that saves these people; the donation of a small sum of money allowing them to feed themselves if only one meal, and while one meal may seem small it can mean the world to someone who is suffering from not having enough. Yet our society subconsciously teaches us to regard others with suspicion, each man’s morality untrustworthy. We relate to others with apprehension instead of embracing a sense of connection. It has come to be this way because there are those who are untrustworthy, so it is perceived as unwise to offer yourself to those who you do not know, to regard peoples’ suffering without a sense of suspicion lest it does not run as deep as they would have you believe. But compassion is
almost innate, when we see someone in pain we instinctually want to help alleviate their suffering. In the novel Parzival, the importance of compassion is made clear by the effect of its absence. While showing itself in different ways, both in our modern-day society and in the time of Parzival, compassion is necessary if we are to be human.

While the novel Parzival was written and set in a time very different to our own, the key elements of the story are deemed just as important in the modern day as they were back then. Compassion is essential in life, its absence displayed in the form of suffering, both others’ and your own. Without compassion it is impossible to experience what it means to be human, for this virtue is what makes us human. The act of caring for others is the reason society hasn’t crumbled from the base up as compassion is the foundation of our morality and our sense of humanity. Without compassion we would not have human life, for without compassion, we cannot be human.

REFERENCES:


The Fifth Grader is at a balance point between innocence and wakefulness, often called the pinnacle of childhood. They are just beginning to discover their identity, and with it the feeling life emerges as from a chrysalis. While they can put on such a show of bravado, this emerging being is sensitive and impressionable. The Fifth Grade offers a curriculum which challenges them to develop new capacities in themselves they never knew they had. Once every four years the Greeks set aside their differences and competed in the Olympic Games. The Fifth Grader’s year will similarly culminate with their own Olympic Games (or Pentathlon). They have spent the year in preparation: jogging in the early morning, running sprints, jumping, throwing the javelin and the discus, and testing their skill in Greek wrestling. They enter the Pentathlon with trepidation and come home transformed, having gone through a rite of passage. They enter puberty with a greater sense of self and self-confidence. Michael Seifert

Class Five is so grateful for the time and support provided to us by Ted (Class Six), who gave us both Bothmer Gym and Olympics training throughout the year. Class Five embodied the essence of strength, beauty and grace in all aspects of their participation, and we proudly acknowledge the large part that Ted has contributed. We also feel a deep gratitude to Noosa Pengari Steiner School for organising and hosting the camp and Olympiad. We have returned with a strong sense of connection to the wider community. The children have made postcards of thanks which we will mail to Noosa Pengari Steiner School to show our appreciation, and hopefully sustain the friendships and connections made. A special thanks also to our wonderful volunteers, or should I say gods and goddess, Gaia – Earth Mother (Bea), Persephone (Karen), Aion, god of time and ages (Marshal) and Dionysus (Dave), who were delegated roles as team leaders and event judges and worked hard throughout the two days, including supervising and sleeping on the floor with a room full of children.

When I first told the children that they would be placed in Greek states (teams), and would sleep over night with their state, there was some apprehension. I offered them a room to stay together should they not feel comfortable but suggested not making up their minds yet. On arrival, we were greeted and welcomed by
eager Class Five students from Birali, Cairns and Noosa. After a delicious light breakfast, the children were quickly moved into their States. In no time at all new friendships were forged. When I reminded the children that they could sleep in a room with me, they told me that they had made “heaps of friends” and I was not to worry. Their sense of self confidence growing by the minute. The atmosphere sparkled with the joyful energy of children (and adults) engaged with every moment and experience.

The games began with the relay race and things went go, go, go from there. Engagement and enthusiasm abounded. All the work we put in with our training also bore fruit. There were many highlights. We did particularly well in the final wrestling tournament and the marathon. Though not everyone came a place, many personal best records were superseded. As well as strong and graceful athleticism, the children also showed grace and beauty in their care and support for one another, and in the way they conducted themselves. I walked about checking in with students and saw smiling, glowing joyful faces all about. The night concluded with a great feast in which the children sat with their states. Each school stood to speak their verses and again it was so lovely to feel the connection, the differences and similarities.

Perhaps one of the most touching moments came right at the very end. As we packed the bus with our luggage, many children gathered to say their last goodbyes to their friends. As the bus pulled away the children ran alongside it waving and smiling. A beautiful memory etched in our hearts until we meet again.

*Stefani, Class 5*
What is your Senior Project about?  
My project is about trying to figure out how we can get it right for the modern-day horse. How can we give our horses the best life that we can, how important the relationship is that we share with horses and how can we help them live a happy life?

This means I have explored different ways of training and just general care and applied the knowledge that I have gained through that to caring and working with my own horses. As part of my project I’m creating a video-scape to show the work I do with my horses and to show the interviews that I have done with professionals in different areas of horse care. This video will be posted on YouTube so that anyone is able to access it and gain knowledge from it.

What led you to choose that topic?  
I have always loved horses, and I knew from the beginning that for my senior project I wanted to focus on something that I love. I have seen many horses mistreated, but I believe a lot of the time it is out of ignorance of the owner. I wanted to help educate people on how they can best care for their horses, and take that knowledge and apply it to my own horses, and then use that as an example.

What have you found enjoyable about the process?  
I’ve found it really interesting learning new things, and actually being able to incorporate that into my own life. Of course, as part of my project I get to spend more time with my horses, which obviously I love! It’s also been fun and really interesting interviewing people and getting different perspectives and opinions.

I’ve also really enjoyed taking videos and pictures of my horses and figuring how I can best do that, as it’s not just as easy as telling them what to do or how to look!

What have you found challenging?  
I found it difficult to manage my time, to have enough time to do school work, SRP work and then still work and care for my horses in the way that I’m trying to advocate through my project. Another thing that I struggle with is motivation, which I know most people in my class have struggled with.

Another really big challenge for myself is creating a part of my practical which is a video-scape. I’ve never made any videos or short documentary’s before, so the whole process is completely new to me. From the outline, to taking videos, to editing. I have had help from John Salmond, a teacher at school, who has helped me heaps with planning this.
To date what have you gained from the process?
I actually think a big thing that I’ve learnt from my project is that the relationship I share with my horses is super important and helps with so many things. I’ve now also got a much better understanding on why we do things with our horses, and not just doing something because everyone else is. I’ve gained some useful skills in using a camera and getting videos and photos.

How would you describe the Senior Project to someone who does not know what it was?
The senior research project is a year-long project that allows class 12 students to study and explore almost any subject they want. Through the process not only will you be able to gain the knowledge, but also many skills along the way. It is an independent project, so although you have guidance through the project, it is largely up to you motivate yourself, and figure out challenges.

How are you feeling about the completion of the project?
I’m excited but also nervous to finish my project and see the final outcome. I’ve really enjoyed the process of learning this valuable information and applying it to my whole life. This knowledge is something that I will carry with me for the rest of my life and has already been really valuable to me.

What are your plans once you leave school?
Next year I’m hopefully going to the Netherlands for three or more months to work as a working student with a classical dressage trainer there, where I’ll learn some amazing skills and knowledge. Hopefully I’ll then be able to travel around Europe a little bit. I might also do a course at university in something similar to business.

Describe in one sentence your experience at Samford Valley Steiner School
It’s been a journey full of great memories and lifelong friends, expanding my skills and building curiosity. I’ve been at this school since preschool so I don’t know any different, but it’s been such a great experience and I think it has well prepared me for life after school.

Friday Foodies – 13 September

The last Friday Foodies for the term is coming up on September 13 - pop it in your diary! After a huge term (or so it feels) you deserve the chance to relax in the sunshine and unwind with good company and good food.

If you would like a full or half table for your home-cooked food, handmade artisan crafts, pre-loved goods or home-grown produce, please contact Cherie on 0423503926 or cheriepassion@gmail.com by September 12th at the latest :)

Open Mic is on again - and how much fun did the little kids have last time? So, let's finish the term on a big bang. Parents - ask your children if they'd like to get some friends together and perform. They can let Zoe Akeroyd know (zakeroyd@samfordsteiner.qld.edu.au), or can join in on the day.

Hope to see you there!
PAFA
What is your Senior Project about?
Officially titled ‘understanding and utilising unmanned aviation through the study of multirotor concepts,’ my senior research project is focused around designing the better, more efficient drones of tomorrow by better using the technology available today. To achieve this one must have a firm grip on not only historical, economic and evolutionary side unmanned aviation but understand the foundational mechanical and aerodynamic principles behind multirotor flight. The final product of the project is the proposition of an affordable alternate drone design optimised for improved usability and flight performance through intuitive design and the culmination aerodynamic, electronic and mechanical research and investigation.

What led you to choose that topic?
From a very young age unmanned aviation has been a major part of my life. Some of my earliest and most fond childhood memories are those at the airfield watching radio control model planes fly gracefully overhead with my late father and his colleagues at the controls. I have since been designing, building and flying my own fixed wing model aircraft in my spare time for almost 10 years now, in that time growing very comfortable with the disciplines I was flying. This all changed however when I was granted a scholarship for flight training to become one of the youngest certified multirotor pilots in Australia under the Civil Aviation Safety Authority’s new framework. I grabbed the opportunity with both hands and have not looked back since. With a renewed passion for all forms of aviation, the subject choice for this project formed a logical stepping stone which I could utilise to further my knowledge and expand my skillset in a relatively new area whilst enjoying what I love.

What have found enjoyable about the process?
Almost everything really. I thoroughly enjoy the whole research and development process as not only does it provide a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction but it consistently provides unique opportunities for one to develop themselves and learn things one would never think possible. For me understanding the working of the systems I utilise and rely upon daily is essential as it allows one to safely push the limits of what is possible whilst respecting the hardware’s limitations.

What have you found challenging?
When theory does not translate into reality. Not everything works out the way you want it to, and sometimes even the smallest, seemingly most unobnoxious variables outside of your control can have a profound and unpredictable impact. Thus far I have made over 100 revisions in the design of the tooling I am using and 6 in just the concept for the drone alone if one were to disregard its construction, so you can get the gist of where I am coming from.
To date what have you gained from the process?
The process has improved my research and design capabilities significantly whilst developing myself as a person. It has not always been smooth sailing; however, I am now highly competent in 3D modelling and computer assisted design and able to program multiple different types of flight controllers using different software. Furthermore, the project has allowed me to become competent in the design and operation of some computer numerically controlled (CNC) equipment, own CNC router designed and built by myself that provides me with the potential to machine parts to within a 0.1mm tolerance at home and overall, I now have a greater understanding and appreciation for drone systems and the technology that goes into their development.

How would you describe the Senior Project to someone who does not know what it was?
A yearlong assignment wherein one undertakes comprehensive research on their chosen subject, produces a practical physical element using the knowledge they have gained and then presents their findings to the school community through the production of a thesis and interactive speech.

How are you feeling about the completion of the project?
I’m not going to lie it is a tight timeline at the moment as it seems every other subject is also demanding 110 percent of my time and attention. At this stage I am confident that completion will occur prior to the relevant deadlines, however in hindsight undertaking such a technically demanding project whilst also deciding to build a boat singlehandedly and trying to juggle advanced math and physics in the one elective stream may not have been the wisest choice.

What are your plans once you leave school?
My aim is to gain a scholarship and study aeronautical engineering whilst working part time as a drone pilot/technician. If you have or know anyone with connections in these industries please feel free to get in contact via the school.

Describe in one sentence your experience at Samford Valley Steiner School
A formative challenging experience that has allowed me to develop and sharpen my critical thinking skills, curiosity and independence.

Hello everyone from the school’s outdoor classroom. We are having a terrific time. Today some birds came down to listen to our story. Helena also taught us a Rain Song. Once we have learnt it properly we will walk to our dry swimming holes to call up the water. We have been practising a dance with a song written by Buffy Saint Marie, Canadian Indian. We are looking forward to do some bush crafts over the next 2.5 weeks. Lydia
Dear class Seven,

Thank you for helping us with our windmills that we did in German. We love them.

love,
Class three

10x
Eurythmy brings increased health and well-being. It is a contemporary, spiritual approach to Living Movement, unlocking the secrets of the Life Energies in us and around us.

This module will be led by Jan Baker-Finch and Josefin Porteous. Teachers may receive NESA-accredited PD hours; please enquire.

Cost: $450. ~
For more information and registration, please contact Jan Baker-Finch:
pacificacollege@gmail.com
0403 171 651

NEW VENUE!
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Nick Ellson Holistic Health - Mobile PT and Online Coach
Join our new 12-week online program, designed to boost your energy and transform your life, one step at a time!

- Starts on Monday 9th September
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- Daily interaction in VIP Facebook group
- Weekly email with challenges, tips and recipes
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Homeopathic consults
Cyena is a SVSS mum and Homeopath with over 10 years’ experience in practice. She works with families who prefer to use natural medicines to help with a wide range of ailments. Homeopathic medicine is completely non-toxic and acts gently, allowing children’s bodies to recover without strain on their immune system. Homeopathy is holistic, taking into account the physical, mental and emotional aspects of the child’s experience. Cyena practices classical homeopathy in conjunction with a naturopathic approach to health. She is able to help with short term health complaints as well as chronic and recurring ailments. Cyena offers consultations by phone and in person at her home clinic in Gaythorne or via home visit. Call Cyena on 0418792827.

Creative arts therapy: Sessions & Courses: for Adults and Children
Creative arts therapy creates a space, where a difficult challenge or condition in the soul can be brought and explored in a gentle way. Using a range of artistic activities including sand play, painting, drawing and form drawing, clay modelling, writing and conversation, an unravelling begins. This may happen over a series of sessions with both guided and more open activities. Art making generates inner warmth and nourishment, helping to restore balance where astrality presses too deeply on the soul.

Reflective opportunities help to assist understanding, ultimately strengthening one’s resolve to move forward by oneself. This therapy is also suitable for children. With the assistance and involvement of the parent/parents a series of sessions is structured to meet the child’s needs. Drawing upon Rudolf Steiner’s fourfold view of the human being a way is sought to support and lighten the unfolding challenges that have become a hindrance for the child. A therapeutic story or artistic reflection is offered to the child as a completion of the series of sessions.

Kate has had a background of many years working in the creative field, as a crafts and handwork teacher in the Steiner School system and is a qualified Creative Arts Therapist. MA (CreativeArtTherapies), Grad DipArt Therapy & Couns. MIECAT. Member ACA
Kate Sharp Mb: 0401884205
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Wine events for your Celebration
Looking for a novel concept for your next event or celebration? I host distinguished wine events at your home, business, social club or society to suit all manner of celebrations, staff or client entertaining and networking.

You choose the ideal format and theme – I will help! - to suit your group of 10 to 100.

I bring the story behind the labels in a fun, blind tasting. Experience the flavours of Nero d’Avola from McLaren Vale side by side with the Sicilian original! And see if you can identify which is which.
Explore seriously good Aussie and imported wines – from the classics to the alternative (my passion!) to the downright obscure (also my passion!).
Contact Rob Hewitt at Robert.hewitt@bigpond.com or call 07 3882 0328 or 0447 762 321

Ever asked yourself why tree work is so dear?
Not anymore. I am offering tree services like crown lifting, thinning, dead-wooding, removing hangers and broken branches, cleaning palm trees, felling and removing small trees at very fair prices.

I used to work for large tree companies and would ask myself why you would pay for a three-man crew with truck and chipper ($300+/h) if the job could be done by a single person for less than half that amount.

I am a qualified Cert.3 Arborist and a registered qualified Arborist with the Queensland Arboriculture Association. Tree work will be done in accordance of Australian Standards (AS4373-2007). For peace of mind I do have $10M Public Liability insurance.
I can also do general gardening maintenance like hedging, edging, brush cutting and mowing as well as gutter cleaning and solar panel cleaning.
For free quotes call Urs from All Care Property Services on 0408 725 075.

Healthy Food can be simple, cost effective and tasty
Join us for a Workshop on Thursday 29 August. Come along and learn how cooking with a Thermomix can make the experience quick and easy. Satisfy any dietary needs.
Be Inspired and take away new ideas.
Join us for some fun then enjoy eating what we have cooked together afterwards.
No cost: just a couple of hours of your time.
For more details, call David on 0402 123 918

Tools for a Wise Kids Quest
Ages 6-11
Relaxation Centre of Queensland
Monday 30th September 9am-3.30pm
Are your children prepared to go on a quest of discovery, on the outside world, with tools to navigate the inner world too? Andrew Holt is offering a fun life-skills workshop for Wise Kids. Here’s an opportunity to gift your child with an experience that will sow them with tips and tools for the whole of their lives.
are powerful plant extracts which support our bodies overall wellbeing and quickly balance emotions.

Discover how they can assist your family with many issues including; sleep, stress, gut health, mood support, tox-free cleaning and natural skincare.

I'm a holistic mum offering regular local classes and workshops on how to use these amazing gifts from the earth to enhance whole family wellness.

Come along and be inspired with ideas, recipes and lots of support on the ways you can integrate essential oils into your life.

Let’s connect ph: 0409 615325 or go online www.breetaylormolyneaux.com.au

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