



Steiner/Waldorf Schools in Australia: The List

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Abstract: Dr Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925) and Emil Molt (1876-1936) together founded the original Waldorf School in Stuttgart in 1919 in the turmoil of post-WWI Germany. The project was a marriage of Steiner's pedagogy and Molt's funding. The Stuttgart school was to serve as a prototype for a new alternative education movement. Since then, Steiner schools (aka Waldorf schools) have proliferated across the globe (with 3142 schools and kindergartens in 74 countries). In Australia there are 62 Steiner schools with a total enrolment of 11,391 students. The mean number of students per school is 184 and the median is 150 students. There are Steiner schools in all six Australian states (NSW, n=21; Victoria, n=16; Queensland, n=8; Western Australia, n=8; South Australia, n=4; Tasmania, n=2), and in the two territories (Northern Territory, n=2; Australian Capital Territory, n=1). One third of Steiner schools in Australia offer the full spectrum of primary plus secondary classes (i.e. K-12) (n=21); a further third of Steiner schools offer the spectrum of primary classes (i.e. K-6) (n=21); a final third of Steiner school (n=20) offer some other variation of classes. Of the 62 Steiner schools in Australia, 41 are differentiated with either the name 'Steiner' (n=34) or 'Rudolf Steiner' (n=7); a small number bear the name 'Waldorf' (n=4); some others are not differentiated by either 'Steiner' nor 'Waldorf' (n=8); in addition, some State schools offer a 'Steiner stream' nested within a government school (n=9). Most schools in Australia are government schools (n=6,727) followed by Catholic schools (n=1,759), plus there is a multitude of other religious schools (aka faith-based schools). Steiner schools (n=62) lead the field of the 'alternative' schools in Australia, followed by Montessori schools (n=46), and 'other' (n=47). In the present paper the list of Australia's 62 Steiner schools includes name, state or territory, enrolment, and NAPLAN participation.

Keywords: Rudolf Steiner, Emil Molt, Waldorf education, Stuttgart, NAPLAN, Alfredo Genoni, maps.

INTRODUCTION

New Age Education

Dr Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925) was a New Age philosopher bristling with ideas (Fig. 1). He was neither parent nor school teacher. He married twice; there was no progeny. Nevertheless, Steiner had an enduring interest in education. He had an early job tutoring school-age children in a familial setting. Later he taught various worker classes [1, 2]. Later in life, as an accomplished orator, Steiner enthralled, bewildered and mesmerised audiences throughout Europe and Britain with accounts of his 'spiritual science' of Anthroposophy [3].

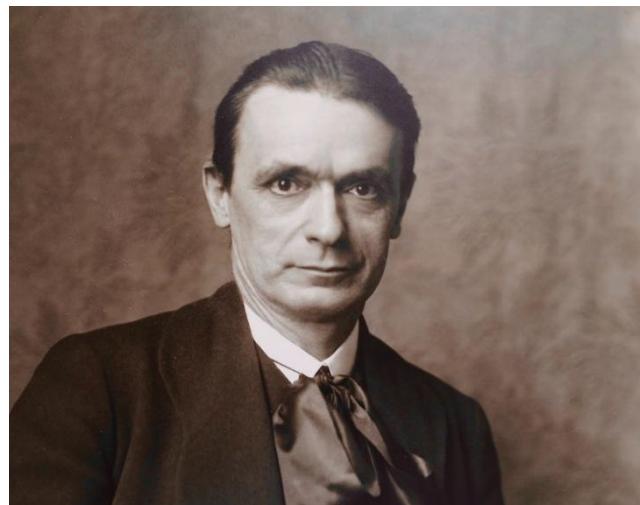


Figure 1: Dr Rudolf Steiner founded the original Waldorf school in Stuttgart in 1919
 (image source: Biodynamic Association UK).

As a Theosophist, Steiner wrote a small book: 'The Education of Children from the Standpoint of Theosophy' [4]. Later, as an Anthroposophist, he published a similar small book: 'Education of the Child in the Light of Anthroposophy' [3, 5].

When Emil Met Rudolf

The reification of Steiner's education ideas finally came within reach when Steiner met Emil Molt (1876-1936). Molt was a devotee of Rudolf Steiner. He was keen to demonstrate his devotion, and in these early post-WWI years, Molt was nouveau-riche, and he had the wherewithal to do just that [6] (Fig.2).

Emil Molt was a tobacco industrialist from Stuttgart, a savvy businessman, a self-made man. He had made his fortune in WWI supplying cigarettes to German troops, availing himself of his established Swiss and Turkish personal connections to maintain his supply-chain [6]. Cigarettes were one of the few 'comforts' for troops in the trenches and were included in Red Cross packages to front-line soldiers of both the Axis and the Allies. Immediately post-WWI, Molt's fortunes were at their zenith.

That first Steiner school was funded by Emil Molt and his Waldorf-Astoria cigarette factory in Stuttgart. Steiner had delivered lectures to the cigarette factory workers; the children of factory workers were the earliest enrollees. The original purchase by Molt for the new school was a restaurant set high on the hill overlooking Stuttgart (up the hill from his factory). The 'Freie Waldorf-Schule' opened on 7 September, 1919.



Figure 2: Emil Molt funded the original Waldorf school in Stuttgart in 1919 (image source: Freie Waldorfschule Uhlandshöhe).

Molt promptly funded a purpose built three-storey school on site (Fig.3). The school, buildings and students grew rapidly. By 1926 there were 1,025 students, and for most year-cohorts there were already either two or three parallel classes [7].

Vanguard

Steiner was keen that the Waldorf School in Stuttgart was to be a prototype and the vanguard of an educational movement (rather than a one-off venture). Steiner was also determined to plant the seeds for Waldorf education in the Anglo-world. With this in mind, he delivered extensive education lectures in Britain.

First, was a ‘taster’ at Stratford-on-Avon in 1922 (this was his first post-WWI visit to Britain) [8, 9]. That was promptly followed by more comprehensive lecture series on education delivered at Oxford in 1922, Ilkey in 1923, and Torquay in 1924 [8, 10-12].



Figure 3: The original purpose-built school block of the Waldorf school in Stuttgart, is now over a century old and still in use (image source: J Paull).

World

Steiner cared deeply for the success of the Stuttgart Waldorf school. He attended at least 71 faculty meetings of teachers in the years 1919 through 1924 [13, 14]. The Stuttgart Waldorf School grew rapidly, in Steiner's lifetime from 252 students in 1919 to 897 students in 1925, and to 1,025 students by 1926 [7, 13].

Stuttgart was to be the 'mother school', the proof of concept, and the living prototype of a viable alternative to government schools. Since then, Steiner schools have proliferated across the globe (with 3142 schools and kindergartens in 74 countries) [15] (Fig. 4).



Figure 4: Density-equalising world map off Waldorf/Steiner schools (equal map areas = equal number of Steiner schools) [image source: 15].

Australia to Stuttgart

There is an Australian connection with the Stuttgart Waldorf school. Alfredo (Fred) Genoni (1913-1999) was sent from Australia by his Anthroposophist parents, Marino (Maurice) (1881-1971) and Christina Genoni (nee McNeill) (b1886), to board with a local Stuttgart family and to study at the Stuttgart school from approximately age 12 to 17 years (c. 1925-1930) [16]. The Genoni brothers had migrated from Milan (pre -WWI) and they were an early and prominent Anthroposophist family in Western Australia and Victoria [17-19].

Anthroposophy vs Nazis

In Germany during the Nazi era, all books by Steiner were banned (in 1935) [20]. Anthroposophy ventures, including schools, were progressively closed down from that point onwards [21]. By a decree of the Reich Ministry of Education, the Stuttgart Waldorf School was closed on 1 April 1938 [22].

The Stuttgart school site was used by the Nazis for Army training. The site was bombed by the Allies in WWII, damaging both the former-restaurant and the main school building [22]. The school site was recovered promptly after WWII, and the school has since prospered. There is now an impressive array of purpose-built facilities of Anthroposophist-style architecture on the site, and the school presently caters for almost a thousand students (K to 12).

Stuttgart to Australia

The present paper considers the Steiner schools in Australia. These schools offer an alternative to both State (i.e. government) schools and faith-based schools. This paper does not consider the virtues and practices of Steiner's pedagogy. Many of Steiner's lecture series on education remain in print in modern editions [e.g. 23, 24, 25], and in addition there are numerous accounts by others (see <worldcat.org>). Some of Steiner's lectures on education are available in English and free (see <rsarchive.org>).

It may be instructive for Steiner-newbies to remember that Steiner's lectures on education were preserved at the time in shorthand by attendees of his lectures and they were published 'unchecked by the author'. Rudolf Steiner was the author of 'Philosophy of Freedom' [26], it was his first book. He was never about dogma, and his extemporaneous thoughts ought to be viewed as ideas not directives, as suggestions not dogma. Rudolf Steiner was never 'Dr Dogma', he was always 'Dr Alternative'; to his followers, in his lifetime, he was just "The Doctor".

METHODS

The present paper draws on multiple sources and databases. Some data are from Steiner Education Australia (SEA) and are available at <steinereducation.edu.au> [27]. Individual schools provided data for the present study. NAPLAN (National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy) school data and results are available from ACARA (Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority) [28, 29]. The Australian Bureau of Statistics has a selection of aggregated schools data <www.abs.gov.au> [30]. Specific school data is available at the the Australian Schools Directory <www.australiantschoolsdirectory.com.au> [31]. The density equalising map of Australian Steiner schools uses the algorithm developed by Gastner, Suguy & More [32]. For the density equalising maps, the areas of states and territories are re-sized proportionate to the parameter under study; in this study the parameter is the number of Steiner schools in the state or territory (so that the density of Steiner schools is constant across the new map; i.e. equal areas on the map = equal numbers of Steiner schools). For Australia a reference map is provided for comparison (equal areas on the reference map = equal areas on the territory) (Fig.A1). The Genoni Family Tree compiled by Margaret Genoni is the source of Genoni family birth and death dates [33]. The information about Alfredo Genoni being sent as a student to the Stuttgart Waldorf School aged c.12 years for approximately 5 years (c.1925-1930) is from his daughter Helen Genoni [16]. Worldcat.org was used to check particular citation data. Quotations retain the spelling of the originals. For the purposes of the present paper, 'Steiner', 'Waldorf' and 'Steiner/Waldorf' are used interchangeably as qualifiers of 'school' or 'education'.

RESULTS

In total, there are 9842 schools in Australia [31] with 4,132,006 students [30]. These are predominantly Government schools (aka public schools) (n=6,727), there are many 'religious' schools (aka 'faith-based' schools) with Catholic schools (n=1759) predominating that sector. Steiner schools are the largest category of 'Alternative' schools according to the Australian Schools Directory, followed by Montessori schools (n=46), and 'other' (n=47) [31].

There are 62 Steiner schools in Australia [27] (Table A1). There are Steiner schools in each of Australia's six states as well as the two mainland territories (Fig.5, Table 1. The mean number of students per school is 184 and the median is 150 students (Table A3).

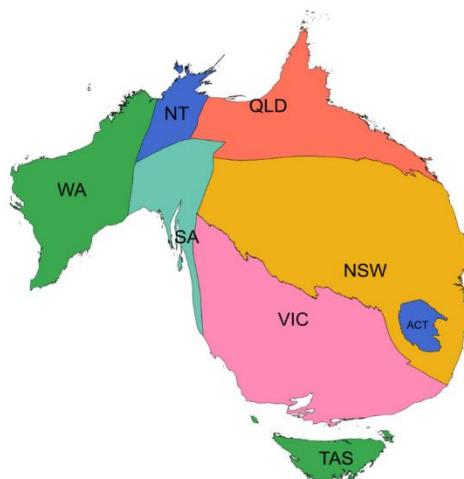


Figure 5: Density-equalising map of Steiner schools in Australia (N=62) (equal map areas = equal number of Steiner schools) (A reference map appears in the Appendices as Figure A1)

Steiner schools are concentrated in the Eastern states (Fig.5). Two states (NSW and Victoria) account for 60% of Steiner schools in Australia. Three states (NSW, Victoria and Queensland) account for 73% of Australia's Steiner schools.

Table 1: Classes catered for in Steiner schools in Australia (n=62).

State	<K-6	K-6	>K-6	-7-10	K-12	Σ
NSW	1	5	4	0	11	21
Victoria	0	9	2	1	4	16
Queensland	2	1	2	1	2	8
Western Australia	0	3	3	1	1	8
South Australia	0	2	0	0	2	4
Northern Territory	0	0	2	0	0	2
Tasmania	0	1	1	0	0	2
Australian Capital Territory	0	0	0	0	1	1
Σ	3	21	14	3	21	62

Of Australia's 62 Steiner schools, 9 are hosted within State schools as 'Steiner streams' and thereby offer an alternative within a government school (Table A1). The other 53 are independent Steiner schools.

Of the 62 Steiner schools, a third (n=21) cater for the full spectrum of Australian school classes (Kindergarten to Year 12; K-12). A further third (n=21) cater for the full primary school years (Kindergarten to Year 6; K-6). The remaining third cater variously: (i) for some primary school classes but not through to Year 6 (<K-6; n=3); or (ii) for primary and some secondary school classes but not through to Year 12 (<K-12; n=14); or (iii) for selected secondary school classes (c.7-10; n=3) (Fig.6, Table 2).

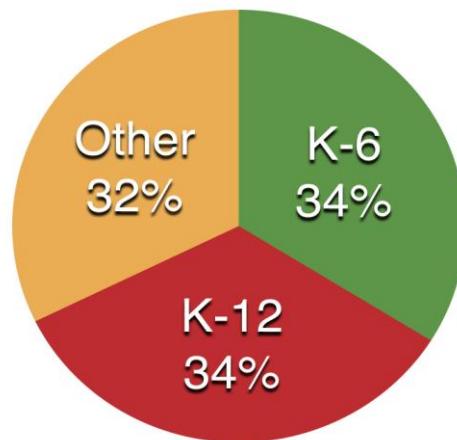


Figure 6: Distribution of Steiner schools; a third are K-12 (n=21), a third are K-6 (n=21), a third offer some other variation (n=20).

Table 2: The distribution of names of Steiner schools in Australia (n=62).

State	In a State school	“Steiner”	“Rudolf Steiner”	“Waldorf”	Other	Σ
NSW	0	8	6	1	6	21
Victoria	6	8	1	0	1	16
Queensland	1	6	0	0	1	8
Western Australia	0	7	0	1	0	8
South Australia	2	0	0	2	0	4
Northern Territory	0	2	0	0	0	2
Tasmania	0	2	0	0	0	2
Australian Capital Territory	0	1	0	0	0	1
Σ	9	34	7	4	8	62

Names

The Waldorf-Astoria cigarette factory and Emil Molt, in Stuttgart, Germany, funded Rudolf Steiner's original school in Stuttgart. The name 'Freie Waldorfschule Uhlandshöhe' derived from that provenance [34]. This name set the precedent of pairing 'Waldorf' and the geographic region as a naming convention for the earliest Steiner schools (Uhlandshöhe is the hillside suburban locality overlooking the Stuttgart CBD).

At a faculty meeting in 1920 a teacher suggested that rather than the ‘Waldorf’ name, schools should be ‘Rudolf Steiner Schools’. Steiner promptly rejected that proposal outright, stating unequivocally: “Under no circumstances can we do that” [13, p.139]. At that time, Steiner forthrightly opposed the use of a personal name including his own [13]; but it can be argued that ‘times change’.

Most of Australia’s Steiner schools have ‘Steiner’ in the name of the school (66%; n=41). Of these, some schools bear the full name ‘Rudolf Steiner’ in the name (11%; n=7) (e.g. Melbourne Rudolf Steiner School), while most bear just ‘Steiner’ (55%; n=34) (e.g. Alice Springs Steiner School). A few schools have ‘Waldorf’ in the name (6%; n=4) (e.g. Perth Waldorf School). Some of the Steiner schools are not differentiated in the name as either a ‘Steiner’ or a ‘Waldorf’ school (13%; n=8) (e.g. Wild Cherry School). There are a further 9 Steiner schools (15%) that are ‘Steiner streams’ within State schools (e.g. Castlemaine Secondary College (Steiner stream)) (Tables 2 & A1).

Outcomes and NAPLAN

An assessment of the academic and educational achievements of Steiner schools in Australia (or the world) is beyond the scope of the present paper (and appears worthy of further research). For Steiner school students (in Austria) there is a reported dissonance between the “high motivation” of students versus the “moderate achievement” [35].

A US Steiner school claims that: “Waldorf education is far reaching in its ability to spark successful careers of all kinds” [36]. To illustrate their point they nominate “Waldorf Alumni” from around the world, including: a Nobel laureate, Thomas Südhof (Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology, 2013); a Prime Minister of Norway, Jens Stoltenberg; a Porsche car designer, Ferdinand Alexander Porsche; a CEO of American Express, Kenneth Chenault; actors including Sandra Bullock and Jennifer Aniston; and authors, including Michael Ende, author of ‘The Never Ending Story’ [36].

For school students in Australia there is a national assessment scheme. NAPLAN (National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy) which assesses students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Four areas are tested: reading, writing, language (spelling, grammar and punctuation), and numeracy [29].

The national participation rate in NAPLAN is reported as 93.8% [37]. In contrast, Steiner school’s student participation rate is 43.7% (Table A1). A consequence of this low participation rate is that any analysis (where it forthcoming) would be problematic, with only very tentative conclusions possible. Participation rates in NAPLAN in Steiner schools vary greatly, ranging from 0% (n=11) to 100% (n=4) (Table A1).

A comprehensive analysis of the NAPLAN results as well as the academic and other outcomes of Steiner school in Australia has not been done (it warrants researching). ‘Take my word for it, it’s all good, I’m a Waldorf teacher’ will just not do. The Australian analyses of Australian Steiner school outcomes that are available are inadequate and deficient [e.g. 38, 39]. Those authors used a self-selected sample (N=165), recruited subjects via social media, and reported that the sample had variously “completed school between 1979 and 2020” (p.9), that 71% “identified as female” (p.9), and 66% (n=109) had a post school qualification [38] (the latter finding is comparable to the broader Australian population [40]). They declared their “Methodologies and methods” as “Positioned midway between

positivism and deconstructive approaches" (p.7) and it seems that they landed their research output perhaps midway between 'dubious and flawed' with a generous dollop of prolixity [38].

The low NAPLAN participation rate (Table A1) signals the uneasy relationship between NAPLAN and some Steiner schools in Australia. The CEO of Steiner Education Australia (SEA) asserts that: "NAPLAN tests are timed, multiple choice, error-prone questions designed to trick students" [41, p.8].

In a submission against NAPLAN testing, SEA criticises an "obsession with measurement" [41, p.4]. That submission could best be characterised as a 'rant'. The submission refers to "The Steiner approach" but curiously does not quote Steiner, despite, firstly, that Steiner spoke at great length about the topic, and secondly, that there are 23 other items in the reference list of the submission [41, p.7].

It was Rudolf Steiner who provided the original vision, guidance, and impetus. He had a great lot to say about education, and his insights may be instructive for SEA's CEO Puckeridge. Steiner was not laying down 'dogma' but was rather sharing his personal insights, which he freely shared. Instead, and with apparent approval, Puckeridge offers pop-psycho-babble such as a "new social imaginary" and a "one way gaze upon teachers", which some may regard as rather unhelpful, uninformative, and which in no way advance a diatribe against testing and measuring [41, p.11]. As Queen Gertrude in Hamlet observed: "The lady doth protest too much, methinks" [42, p.151].

The SEA invective against NAPLAN indicates that testing is a hot-button issue for Steiner education (at least in Australia) but, with no alternative forthcoming, what to make of it? The sensitivity, the negativity, the poor NAPLAN participation rates, and the actual NAPLAN results (considering participation rates), call for further examination.

Psychologists have long grappled with the challenges of measurement, and although for absolutists it can be disappointing and likely irritating, they may console themselves with tautologous conclusions of the kind: 'NAPLAN measures what NAPLAN measures'. The output numbers of NAPLAN tests are proxies for 'educational attainment' (not the educational attainment *per se*). A coherent critique of NAPLAN could address how good (or bad) is the instrument and how it might be honed, rather than rejecting the quest because, as educators (or roofers or electricians or doctors or whatever), we do want to know how good or bad we are doing and to be accountable. Constructive engagement with NAPLAN would appear to be the way ahead for SEA.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding and student welfare have apparently not been problematic issues in Australian Steiner schools; however they have been an issue in some UK Steiner schools. The UK regulator, Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills), has delivered some unfavourable inspection reports on some UK Steiner schools. In some instances this has resulted in closure. One example is Wynstones Steiner School (K-12) at Whaddon near Gloucester) which was founded in 1937. Following unfavourable Ofsted reports, including of "significant safeguarding concerns", the school closed in 2020 [43]. When the author visited the former school premises of Wynstones Steiner School, the buildings were vacant and in a state of apparent abandonment (in 2024).

Arguably the oldest Steiner school in the Anglo-sphere, (from 1922), was established at Kings Langley by Margaret Cross (1866-1962) [44]. The Rudolf Steiner School Kings Langley in Hertfordshire (K-12), was deregistered by the UK Department for Education (DfE) and closed in 2019. That closure followed a series of unfavourable Ofsted reports [45]. When the author visited the former school premises, the property was shuttered and for sale (in 2024).

Australian Steiner schools are independent of each other, and independent of UK Steiner schools, and there is no Ofsted equivalent in Australia. The failures in the UK suggest that vigilance is called for in Australia, given that the safeguarding of students must be pre-eminent over other values and aspirations of any school.

Bluey

An account of Steiner schools in Australia would be incomplete without a mention of a particular cartoon dog, Bluey, an Australian Blue Heeler puppy. Named after its lead puppy, ‘Bluey’ is the Australian animated TV series for preschoolers about the adventures of Bluey. It is the creation of Joe Brumm and is produced by Ludo Studio, Brisbane, Queensland (from 2018). The studio states that: “Bluey follows the adventures of a lovable & inexhaustible six-year old puppy, who along with her sister Bingo, parents and friends is learning all about the world” <www.bluey.tv>.

Fans of Bluey assert that Bluey attends a Steiner school. According to the Bluey Wiki <blueypedia.fandom.com> Bluey’s school ‘Glasshouse Primary School’ is based on Samford Valley Steiner School (samfordsteiner.qld.edu.au) [46].

The ‘Adult Bluey Fans’ Facebook group’ <www.facebook.com> has three quarters of a million members. One Bluey fan states that: “Every time there’s an episode where they’re at school it makes me sad because I would have THRIVED at a place like that” [47]. Another fan states: “Australian here! Bluey does indeed go to a Waldorf/Steiner school. The school in Bluey is based on the Samford Valley Steiner School in Queensland AU” [48].

A US Bluey fan declares that: “I’m in the US. I’m also a certified Waldorf teacher, and I have taught at a Waldorf school for many years. Bluey does indeed go to a Waldorf/Steiner school. The show does a good job at showing authentic aspects of attending a Waldorf school: architecture of the school, focus on nature, imagination, the very specific wooden/natural toys, puppet shows/storytelling, songs, verses, etc. Calypso is spot on for an early childhood teacher! It’s all pretty magical. Unfortunately, most Waldorf schools in the [United] States are private and cost a fortune to attend … It really is a shame that this wonderful education isn’t made more accessible. So exciting to see it represented in Bluey though!” [49].

As an afterword to the comment of O’Brien above, it is noted that all schools in Australia are government funded, that includes all the Steiner/Waldorf schools. Non-government schools in Australia typically do charge fees which they set themselves. Australian Steiner school fees are typically ‘modest’.



Figure 7: Bluey and family (image source: www.bluey.tv).

One Bluey commentator states that: “All the clues point to the fact that Bluey goes to a Steiner school, also called a Waldorf school. Waldorf education ... was developed by ... Austrian eccentric Rudolf Steiner ... the goal of a Waldorf education is to allow children freedom of expression to develop as a whole human being, physically, mentally and (non-denominational) spiritually ... Waldorf education for younger students like Bluey involves a daily routine of lots of free play, art, circle time, and practical skills like knitting, gardening, and cleaning up ... another unique quirk of of Steiner schools is the building itself: Steiner was an architect ... Waldorf schools often feature lots of rounded surfaces and edges, walls meeting at non-perpendicular angles, and light, subtle colors ... Eagle-eyed fans have noticed striking similarities between Samford Valley Steiner School ... located about 45 minutes north of Brisbane (where Bluey lives) and Glasshouse Primary” [50].

Disney and BBC have announced an upcoming Bluey feature film “to bring Bluey to worldwide cinemas in 2027... Delivering the same charm and humor that made the television series a global phenomenon, the movie will continue the adventures of Bluey, a loveable, inexhaustible, blue heeler dog, who lives with her Mum, Dad and her little sister, Bingo ... Disney will release the ‘Bluey’ movie in theatres worldwide ... Available in over 140 countries, ‘Bluey’ is 2024’s most watched series globally on Disney+, and the year’s No.1 most-watched series on streaming to date ... among total viewers in the U.S., with more than 50.5 billion minutes watched” [51].

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

According to a close confidante of Steiner’s: “Of all his creations, Rudolf Steiner certainly loved the Waldorf School the most, if mainly because the future belongs to the children” [52, p.5]. The Australian connection dates back to the original Waldorf school in Stuttgart when the young Australian-born Alfredo Genoni was enrolled and sent from Australia in the 1920s as a student to board with a local family.

Steiner lived his life in Switzerland, Germany, and Austria, his lecture circuit was confined to Europe, his lectures were always in German, and his final lectures on education were delivered more than a century ago (in 1924) [53]. Yet, it appears that Steiner’s ideas on education have successfully transcended the quadrella of challenges, viz. time, space, culture, and language.

The founding, persistence, and proliferation, of Steiner/Waldorf schools in Australia is testament to the resilience and contemporary salience of Rudolf Steiner's Waldorf education philosophy. The oldest of these schools, Glenaeon Rudolf Steiner School in Sydney dates from 1957 [31]. There are now 62 Steiner/Waldorf schools in Australia of catering for 11,391 students.

A third of Steiner schools in Australia offer the spectrum of pre-tertiary education (K-12). This indicates that these schools have successfully navigated the regulatory regime within their State or Territory, and have earned social licence and parental confidence in their offering.

Another third of Steiner schools in Australia offer primary school classes (K-6). Some of these Steiner primary schools may be (or may view themselves as) 'feeder' schools for Steiner schools that offer secondary education (7-12).

A final third of schools offer an incomplete primary or secondary education experience. Some may be on a path to expand their class-range incrementally, while some others (e.g. Tarremah Steiner School which offers K-10) may be 'stuck' with a truncated offering due to some lack of budget, demand, demographics, or aspiration.

A possibly singular aspect of Steiner education in Australia is that some government schools (n=9) incorporate a 'Steiner stream' in parallel with their 'standard' educational offering (Table A1).

The Melbourne Rudolf Steiner Seminar offers an Advanced Diploma in Rudolf Steiner Education (full-time two-year) [54]. The University of the Sunshine Coast (Queensland) offers a Graduate Certificate in Steiner Education (one-year part-time): "Graduates are in demand in Steiner schools all over the world due to an international shortage of qualified Steiner teachers" [55].

Steiner/Waldorf schools offer a viable 'alternative' educational opportunity for Australian families and students. Since the founding of the original Waldorf school in Stuttgart, some of Rudolf Steiner's education ideas have been broadly adopted into the 'mainstream', but despite the passage of more than a century, Steiner education maintains its distinctive flavour, characteristics and integrity. As government schools in Australia increasingly embrace social engineering roles beyond, in the views of some, an educational remit, there can be expected be a continuing and increasing role for 'alternatives' such as Steiner education.

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APPENDICES

Table A1: List of Steiner schools in Australia (sorted by State and Territory).

Name	Differentiation	State	Students	NAPLAN %	Years
Orana Steiner School	Steiner	ACT	441	90	K-12
Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School	Rudolf Steiner	NSW	379	65	K-12
Aetaomah School	nil	NSW	66	0	K-8
Armidale Waldorf School	Waldorf	NSW	148	37	K-12
Aurora Southern Highlands Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	140	52	K-12
Blue Mountains Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	81	58	K-6
Chrysalis Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	190	38	K-10
Central Coast Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	300	57	K-12
Casuarina Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	124	62	K-6
Glenaeon Rudolf Steiner School	Rudolf Steiner	NSW	420	59	K-12
Kamaroi Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	175	39	K-6
Kindlehill School for Rudolf Steiner Education	Rudolf Steiner	NSW	110	38	K-12
Linuwel School	nil	NSW	241	56	K-12
Lorien Novalis School	nil	NSW	242	26	K-12
Mumbulla School for Rudolf Steiner Education	Rudolf Steiner	NSW	174	24	K-6
Newcastle Waldorf School	Waldorf	NSW	238	21	K-12
Port Macquarie Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	66	0	K-5
Rainbow Ridge S for Rudolf Steiner Education	Rudolf Steiner	NSW	100	0	K-8
Shearwater the Mullumbimby Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	598	33	K-12
Tallowood Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	82	81	K-6

The Alpine School	nil	NSW	96	45	K-12
Warrah Specialist School	nil	NSW	33	0	K-12
Alice Springs Steiner School	Steiner	NT	152	49	K-8
Milkwood Steiner School	Steiner	NT	133	45	K-7
Birali Steiner School	Steiner	QLD	148	0	K-10
Cairns Hinterland Steiner School	Steiner	QLD	182	28	K-10
Goora Gan Steiner School	Steiner	QLD	66	0	K-6
Noosa Pengari Steiner School	Steiner	QLD	316	17	K-12
Rose Rainbow Preschool	nil	QLD	80	NA	K
Samford Valley Steiner School	Steiner	QLD	483	18	K-12
South East Brisbane Steiner School	Steiner	QLD	31	0	K-4
Benowa State High School (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	QLD	74	NA	7-9
Mount Barker Waldorf School	Waldorf	SA	306	45	K-12
Willunga Waldorf School	Waldorf	SA	372	19	K-12
Trinity Gardens (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	SA	138	NA	K-6
Sheidow Park (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	SA	180	NA	K-6
Tarremah Steiner School	Steiner	TAS	244	84	K-10
Tamar Valley Steiner School	Steiner	TAS	92	89	K-6
Sophia Mundi Steiner School	Steiner	VIC	161	63	K-12
Melbourne Rudolf Steiner School	Rudolf Steiner	VIC	466	8	K-12
Ballarat Steiner School	Steiner	VIC	80	85	K-6
Castlemaine Steiner School	Steiner	VIC	146	69	K-8
Castlemaine Secondary College (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	VIC	50	ND	9-10
Dandenong Ranges Steiner School	Steiner	VIC	158	16	K-6
Freshwater Creek Steiner School	Steiner	VIC	142	86	K-6
Ghilgai Steiner School	Steiner	VIC	86	0	K-6
Little Yarra Steiner School	Steiner	VIC	262	8	K-12
Mansfield Rudolf Steiner School	Rudolf Steiner	VIC	211	81	K-12
Wild Cherry School	nil	VIC	39	0	K-6
Thornbury Primary School (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	VIC	86	ND	K-6
Mornington Park Primary School (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	VIC	150	ND	K-6
East Bentleigh Primary School (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	VIC	172	ND	K-6
Collingwood College (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	VIC	165	ND	K-9
Briar Hil Primary School (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	VIC	214	82	K-6
Golden Hill Steiner School	Steiner	WA	120	100	K-10
Helena River Steiner School	Steiner	WA	123	100	K-7
Leaning Tree Steiner School	Steiner	WA	123	100	K-9
West Coast Steiner School	Steiner	WA	174	100	K-6
Perth Waldorf School	Waldorf	WA	535	98	K-12
Silver Tree Steiner School	Steiner	WA	170	0	K-6
Yallingup Steiner School	Steiner	WA	117	0	K-6
Parkerville Steiner College (sub-campus of Perth Waldorf School)	Steiner	WA	*	*	7-10
NAPLAN % PARTICIPATION (Mean)				43.67	
TOTAL STUDENTS			11391		

Table A2: List of Steiner schools in Australia (sorted alphabetically).

Name	Differentiation	State	Students	NAPLAN %	Years
Aetaomah School	nil	NSW	66	0	K-8
Alice Springs Steiner School	Steiner	NT	152	49	K-8
Armidale Waldorf School	Waldorf	NSW	148	37	K-12
Aurora Southern Highlands Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	140	52	K-12
Ballarat Steiner School	Steiner	VIC	80	85	K-6
Benowa State High School (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	QLD	74	NA	7-9
Birali Steiner School	Steiner	QLD	148	0	K-10
Blue Mountains Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	81	58	K-6
Briar Hil Primary School (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	VIC	214	82	K-6
Cairns Hinterland Steiner School	Steiner	QLD	182	28	K-10
Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School	Rudolf Steiner	NSW	379	65	K-12
Castlemaine Secondary College (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	VIC	50	ND	9-10
Castlemaine Steiner School	Steiner	VIC	146	69	K-8

Casuarina Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	124	62	K-6
Central Coast Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	300	57	K-12
Chrysalis Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	190	38	K-10
Collingwood College (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	VIC	165	ND	K-9
Dandenong Ranges Steiner School	Steiner	VIC	158	16	K-6
East Bentleigh Primary School (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	VIC	172	ND	K-6
Freshwater Creek Steiner School	Steiner	VIC	142	86	K-6
Ghilgai Steiner School	Steiner	VIC	86	0	K-6
Glenaeon Rudolf Steiner School	Rudolf Steiner	NSW	420	59	K-12
Golden Hill Steiner School	Steiner	WA	120	100	K-10
Goora Gan Steiner School	Steiner	QLD	66	0	K-6
Helena River Steiner School	Steiner	WA	123	100	K-7
Kamaroi Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	175	39	K-6
Kindlehill School for Rudolf Steiner Education	Rudolf Steiner	NSW	110	38	K-12
Leaning Tree Steiner School	Steiner	WA	123	100	K-9
Linuwel School	nil	NSW	241	56	K-12
Little Yarra Steiner School	Steiner	VIC	262	8	K-12
Lorien Novalis School	nil	NSW	242	26	K-12
Mansfield Rudolf Steiner School	Rudolf Steiner	VIC	211	81	K-12
Melbourne Rudolf Steiner School	Rudolf Steiner	VIC	466	8	K-12
Milkwood Steiner School	Steiner	NT	133	45	K-7
Mornington Park Primary School (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	VIC	150	ND	K-6
Mount Barker Waldorf School	Waldorf	SA	306	45	K-12
Mumbulla School for Rudolf Steiner Education	Rudolf Steiner	NSW	174	24	K-6
Newcastle Waldorf School	Waldorf	NSW	238	21	K-12
Noosa Pengari Steiner School	Steiner	QLD	316	17	K-12
Orana Steiner School	Steiner	ACT	441	90	K-12
Parkerville Steiner College (sub-campus of Perth Waldorf School)	Steiner	WA	*	*	7-10
Perth Waldorf School	Waldorf	WA	535	98	K-12
Port Macquarie Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	66	0	K-5
Rainbow Ridge S for Rudolf Steiner Education	Rudolf Steiner	NSW	100	0	K-8
Rose Rainbow Preschool	nil	QLD	80	NA	K
Samford Valley Steiner School	Steiner	QLD	483	18	K-12
Shearwater the Mullumbimby Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	598	33	K-12
Sheidow Park (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	SA	180	NA	K-6
Silver Tree Steiner School	Steiner	WA	170	0	K-6
Sophia Mundi Steiner School	Steiner	VIC	161	63	K-12
South East Brisbane Steiner School	Steiner	QLD	31	0	K-4
Tallowood Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	82	81	K-6
Tamar Valley Steiner School	Steiner	TAS	92	89	K-6
Tarremah Steiner School	Steiner	TAS	244	84	K-10
The Alpine School	nil	NSW	96	45	K-12
Thornbury Primary School (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	VIC	86	ND	K-6
Trinity Gardens (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	SA	138	NA	K-6
Warrah Specialist School	nil	NSW	33	0	K-12
West Coast Steiner School	Steiner	WA	174	100	K-6
Wild Cherry School	nil	VIC	39	0	K-6
Willunga Waldorf School	Waldorf	SA	372	19	K-12
Yallingup Steiner School	Steiner	WA	117	0	K-6
NAPLAN % PARTICIPATION (Mean)				43.67	
TOTAL STUDENTS			11391		

Table A3: List of Steiner schools in Australia (sorted by number of students enrolled).

Name	Differentiation	State	Students	NAPLAN %	Years
Shearwater the Mullumbimby Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	598	33	K-12
Perth Waldorf School	Waldorf	WA	535	98	K-12
Samford Valley Steiner School	Steiner	QLD	483	18	K-12
Melbourne Rudolf Steiner School	Rudolf Steiner	VIC	466	8	K-12
Orana Steiner School	Steiner	ACT	441	90	K-12

Glenaeon Rudolf Steiner School	Rudolf Steiner	NSW	420	59	K-12
Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School	Rudolf Steiner	NSW	379	65	K-12
Willunga Waldorf School	Waldorf	SA	372	19	K-12
Noosa Pengari Steiner School	Steiner	QLD	316	17	K-12
Mount Barker Waldorf School	Waldorf	SA	306	45	K-12
Central Coast Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	300	57	K-12
Little Yarra Steiner School	Steiner	VIC	262	8	K-12
Tarremah Steiner School	Steiner	TAS	244	84	K-10
Lorien Novalis School	nil	NSW	242	26	K-12
Linuwel School	nil	NSW	241	56	K-12
Newcastle Waldorf School	Waldorf	NSW	238	21	K-12
Briar Hill Primary School (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	VIC	214	82	K-6
Mansfield Rudolf Steiner School	Rudolf Steiner	VIC	211	81	K-12
Chrysalis Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	190	38	K-10
Cairns Hinterland Steiner School	Steiner	QLD	182	28	K-10
Sheidow Park (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	SA	180	NA	K-6
Kamaroi Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	175	39	K-6
West Coast Steiner School	Steiner	WA	174	100	K-6
Mumbulla School for Rudolf Steiner Education	Rudolf Steiner	NSW	174	24	K-6
East Bentleigh Primary School (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	VIC	172	ND	K-6
Silver Tree Steiner School	Steiner	WA	170	0	K-6
Collingwood College (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	VIC	165	ND	K-9
Sophia Mundi Steiner School	Steiner	VIC	161	63	K-12
Dandenong Ranges Steiner School	Steiner	VIC	158	16	K-6
Alice Springs Steiner School	Steiner	NT	152	49	K-8
Mornington Park Primary School (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	VIC	150	ND	K-6
Armidale Waldorf School	Waldorf	NSW	148	37	K-12
Birali Steiner School	Steiner	QLD	148	0	K-10
Castlemaine Steiner School	Steiner	VIC	146	69	K-8
Freshwater Creek Steiner School	Steiner	VIC	142	86	K-6
Aurora Southern Highlands Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	140	52	K-12
Trinity Gardens (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	SA	138	NA	K-6
Milkwood Steiner School	Steiner	NT	133	45	K-7
Casuarina Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	124	62	K-6
Helena River Steiner School	Steiner	WA	123	100	K-7
Leaning Tree Steiner School	Steiner	WA	123	100	K-9
Golden Hill Steiner School	Steiner	WA	120	100	K-10
Yallingup Steiner School	Steiner	WA	117	0	K-6
Kindlehill School for Rudolf Steiner Education	Rudolf Steiner	NSW	110	38	K-12
Rainbow Ridge S for Rudolf Steiner Education	Rudolf Steiner	NSW	100	0	K-8
The Alpine School	nil	NSW	96	45	K-12
Tamar Valley Steiner School	Steiner	TAS	92	89	K-6
Ghilgai Steiner School	Steiner	VIC	86	0	K-6
Thornbury Primary School (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	VIC	86	ND	K-6
Tallowood Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	82	81	K-6
Blue Mountains Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	81	58	K-6
Ballarat Steiner School	Steiner	VIC	80	85	K-6
Rose Rainbow Preschool	nil	QLD	80	NA	K
Benowa State High School (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	QLD	74	NA	7-9
Aetaomah School	nil	NSW	66	0	K-8
Port Macquarie Steiner School	Steiner	NSW	66	0	K-5
Goora Gan Steiner School	Steiner	QLD	66	0	K-6
Castlemaine Secondary College (Steiner Stream)	Steiner Stream	VIC	50	ND	9-10
Wild Cherry School	nil	VIC	39	0	K-6
Warrah Specialist School	nil	NSW	33	0	K-12
South East Brisbane Steiner School	Steiner	QLD	31	0	K-4
Parkerville Steiner College (sub-campus of Perth Waldorf School)	Steiner	WA	*	*	7-10
NAPLAN % PARTICIPATION (Mean)				43.67	
TOTAL STUDENTS			11391		



Figure A1: Reference map of Australia (equal map areas = equal territory areas).