

HOMESCHOOLING

12 - 17 y.o.

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EDUCATION

Greetings and a most Happy Year ahead!

2025 PROGRAMME OFFERINGS

I have recently received a number of texts and emails with regards HomeSchooling, and have also only yesterday become aware of the email parents received in relation to some of the changes at Village Learning.

Firstly thank you to Marja for including possibilities for those interested in finding ways for their teens to continue working with myself in the manner I work and in what I offer. When I spoke with Marja towards the end of 2023 and arranged for Village to move onto the property at Kyn (now Commonplace), I decided to put on hold my teen programme in Margaret River, and to 'merge' my offerings in Vasse through Village - it would otherwise have seemed confusing to have various programme offerings for the same age group under different labels in the same location.

The way I prefer to offer any programme is to have it sustained over a prolonged period of time, usually a Term at a time. This allows for sufficient commitment from both the teens and the parents, without committing to how the longer future unfurls as adolescents grow and shift in expectantly unexpected ways.

I am now in a renewed stage, considering how to better offer options that may suit parents and teens in various locations.

OUTREACH FOR INTEREST

As previously mentioned (in November 2024 - though it seems not all parents received the outline), I mentioned that I intended to have Wednesdays aside for Village Learning in Vasse. As it now seems that (at least some) parents at Village prefer to opt for a model that includes shorter discrete fragments based on Charlotte Mason's pedagogical views, the ways I strive to work and engage with the students will not be consistent with this approach (I do realise that some have sought to integrate *some* of her insights with Steiner's broader views of the growing human being - but the two are fundamentally at odds from my perspective).

With your committed engagement, I am offering an **8-week programme on Literature, Politics and History through Huxley's *Brave New World***. If you (or know a family with teens) are in the Witchcliffe, Augusta, Margaret River, or Cowaramup with commitment on **Fridays** to participate in or near **Margaret River**, please do be in contact. As a parent, you're undoubtedly well aware that it does take time and effort to arrange, organise, commit and follow through with any activity. So I am looking to see how I can make this work for those who remain interested and wish to plunge and commit.

I am also keen to include philosophy *through* the art of tarot. In Europe tarot is considered a 'cultural artifact' (contrasted to the way many people see it in especially North America and Australia). Tarot imagery is vibrant with historically significant, and philosophically rich notions from which insight can be developed and gained. The art-form stimulates imagination - something that is integral to developing a rich inner life and moral discrimination - as an example, how can we *represent* (and what ARE) the ideas of Justice, Fortitude, Resurrection, Truth, Death, or even evil. It is with such in mind that the other **8-week programme** I offer has a **focus on history and philosophy through the art of tarot** - the images we shall copy and use as our base can be viewed here: <https://fourhares.com/tarot/course/mott/i.html> (there is a forward arrow to move from image to image).

Though not currently organised, an **8-week programme on Geometry** will resume. My way of working continues to be focussed on students and where they're at, the subject matter an opportunity to expand and deepen insight and understanding. Each undertaking expands and deepens (in a similar vein a specific Shakespeare play in year 8 may be revisited at university).

LOCATIONS OR VENUES

In **Margaret River**, I have in the past used the facilities at the **Community Centre**. It is centrally located (with the public library on the same land), and easily accessible to and from the main street and shops. It has also been suggested (by one of the parents) to perhaps use the facilities at **Gathered Organics** (I have not as yet approached them) - it is on Walcliffe Road, a fantastic venue and local endeavour well worth supporting (as are many others in the region, of course!).

If there is interest, I am open to holding space in **Witchcliffe** (within the ecovillage or elsewhere) - it depends, as is so often the case, on sufficient interest and commitment (though I was asked about Witchcliffe a number of years ago, most of the intended participants were at the time younger - with some exceptions who participated in my Margaret River-based courses).

I will also be discussing various possibilities and needs in the **Bridgetown-Balingup-Nannup** region. Please do be in touch. As always, making the connections with the Homeschooling communities, with their vast and varied commitments, needs and wishes has all the hallmarks for wonderful eclecticism and syncretic synergy...

YOGA AND MEDITATION

In addition to the above, Alice and I will be holding our annual Denmark Retreat on the long weekend in April. Please do check my website (or contact either of us) for details (places are limited).

My current yoga classes include Thursdays in Balingup (including a teen group), Fridays in Margaret River, and Saturdays in Yallingup (Alice has classes in Margaret River, Yallingup and Vasse). Except for the teen class, details are on my website.

STAYING CONNECTED

If you have yet to subscribe to my Sage Newsletter (it comes out in Tuesdays), please do not hesitate - it remains my only regular means of ensuring that those in our region remain informed of various undertakings:

Subscribe from <https://www.fourhares.com/sage/>

As always, I wish everyone all the very best for your journeys in homeschooling and the rich and wonder-filled challenges of parenting,

Jean-Michel

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