



The **ACES** Club

Our Monthly Newsletter: May 2022

President's Report

Dear Reader,

First of all, I hope that this email finds each one of you well. In the last month I have received many emails from people across Australia seeking to know what classical education is all about and what the goals and aims of ACES are. I would like to begin answering this question in this month's newsletter and also in the following monthly newsletters.



ACES was established first and foremost to create awareness and knowledge about classical education within Australia, convince parents, teachers and all other stakeholders why we need it in Australia and, thirdly, to eventually assist schools and teachers wishing to transition to classical learning with the essential tools, resources and expertise. Our first conference was held last month to enable discussion, create interest and critical thinking, and challenge common assumptions about the purpose of education.

We at ACES realise that when compared to countries like the United States of America we don't have rigorous teacher training and many liberal arts colleges. However, we are filled with hope when we discover that there are some liberal arts/classical schools in Queensland, a new liberal arts school opening in New South Wales, i.e. Hartford College and some small micro-schools in Perth, WA. Further,

there are also “Classical Conversations” occurring in some states across Australia. These developments strongly suggest to us that there are parents, teachers and other interested individuals who are seeking a more noble and enriching way of education for our students and who do not succumb to the dominant utilitarian view of education. In addition, we are filled with more excitement and joy when we discover that the Ramsay Centre has established partnerships with some Australian universities to offer courses in Western Civilisation and the study of the great books. All these initiatives clearly demonstrate that the potential for a classical school renewal is something real and is gaining traction in Australia.

Over the next few years we are hoping to create strong regional networks in each city and offer professional development for teachers and parents. We pray that our Lord Jesus Christ will bless our efforts and work as we seek to instil wisdom in every student and nurture their souls.

I think that the above words clearly communicate some of the goals of ACES. The question I have not answered is how we wish to achieve these goals and that will be discussed in future editions of our newsletter this year. I will finish with something positive. ACES began four years ago with three teachers here in Melbourne having a chat one afternoon after school in a classroom and now we have an Executive Committee with representatives from New South Wales, Western Australia, Queensland, South Australia and Victoria. Our newsletter is reaching almost 250 people across Australia and we have a popular Facebook page, Instagram page, a website and, very soon, the first regional networking group here in Melbourne. People across Australia are slowly beginning to realise that education is really about human flourishing and not about seeing students as cogs in the wheel. We encourage you to reach out to us via email or express an interest in joining some of our focus groups like curriculum development, marketing, etc. by contacting us at contact@classicaleducation.org.au.

I hope you enjoy reading the articles in this edition and enjoy watching the videos and/or listening to deeply inspiring conversations.

Yours sincerely,

Kon Bouzikos
President of ACES

Articles of Interest

UPDATE FROM CLASSICAL CONVERSATIONS

Hello there friends! My name is Cheree Harvey and I am the Country Coordinator for Classical Conversations in Australia. Classical Conversations is a program which really finds its mission in encouraging and equipping mums and dads to teach their children from home using the Classical, Christian, Community model.



With this in mind, we are pleased to announce that we are holding a Parent Practicum on June 28 from 9am-4pm on the Gold Coast. This is a live in-person event where we can meet to learn about the classical model and also practise some of the skills of that model. This is an amazing opportunity to invest in yourself as a teacher of your homeschool and gain fresh vision and also contacts for the road ahead. And the Parent Practicum isn't limited simply to parents already involved in Classical Conversations! This is a time for anyone who is interested, who is homeschooling, who wishes to homeschool, who is

a parent who wants to learn more and explore more of the Classical Christian model. It is open to anyone anywhere in Australia. We desire to facilitate a space to connect and share our lives with one another and grow and keep learning.

If you're interested, please register via the link below so I know numbers: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/333355113117>.

And if you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me on charvey@classicalconversations.com. I am always happy to have a chat and help you on your learning journey.

RECLAIMING EDUCATION: MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY EVENT

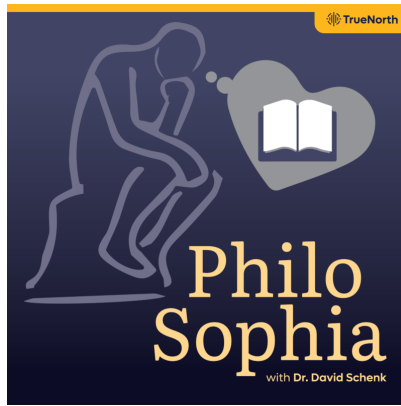
The Institute of Public Affairs is organising two events, one in Sydney on Thursday 26th May and one event in Melbourne on Thursday June 2nd. IPA invites all teachers who are concerned about the quality of education in Australia and wish to reform education to attend. Registration details are below.

Sydney (26th May): <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/reclaiming-education-sydney-tickets-328445167337>.

Melbourne (2nd June): <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/reclaiming-education-melbourne-tickets-328527112437>.

NEW CLASSICAL EDUCATION PODCAST

We are delighted to announce that Christopher Perrin, who was one of the keynote speakers during the April Conference, has recently launched True North.fm. This is a network of podcasts, vodcasts, and blogs on the renewal of classical education in the United States and abroad. TrueNorth.fm was founded in 2021 with the goal of providing an accurate, full-bodied understanding of classical education through our six podcasts: The Christopher Perrin Show, Classical Crossroads, Reclaiming Our Canon, Principia, PhiloSophia, and Culture Crush. We also feature the Anchored Podcast hosted by Jeremy Tate.



Whether you've known about classical education and the ongoing renewal for years, months, or just a few minutes, we welcome you to the TrueNorth.fm network!

REPORT FROM DR SHEELA NATHAN (PERTH, WA)

Our vision is to start micro-schools scattered around Perth. Imagine one micro-school around Perth CBD and another four at the four compass points of north-east, south-east, north-west and south-west. We shall approach churches and those who are sympathetic to provide us with space at an affordable rate. We also have teachers who are willing to teach at each of these micro-schools. What we need are 15 students in a location before we can start a micro-school.

In the past the one-teacher school was the only way in which education could be provided for the widely scattered children in bush areas. For us it is the only way, at the present, to provide the curriculum that we desire to, at an affordable price. Micro schools are able to curb costs because they have less overheads due to rented spaces and minimal staff.

Now, for a brief history of our micro-school: We started in Gosnells in 2020 as a pilot project. Last year in 2021, we started in Canning Vale with seven students ranging in age from Grades 1–4. This year we have started another micro-school as well as offering studies with us using an external mode. Next year we hope to offer a new course, particularly for the 11–14 year olds who have not had a chance to study in our Grammar stage. It is a transition from the Grammar to the Logic stage, covering Bible, History, English, Literature, Latin, Science, Math and Art.

WHAT ARE THE CLASSICALLY INCLINED TO DO?

In this article Kenneth Diffy Crowther shares his reflections on the CiRCE and ACES April conference, as well as his thoughts on what needs to happen in order for the classical renewal to flourish further in Australia. The piece can be read [here](#).



In this video, Scott Postma answers the question: *What is a classical Christian education (CCE)?* In a nutshell, CCE stands in the historic tradition of the liberal arts with an aim toward human flourishing. It further stands in opposition to the modern progressive pedagogy and slavish agenda of job training. Though CCE has been mildly dynamic, it has been a stable tradition, lasting in its approach for more than two millennia of Western civilisation.

WHY STUDY ANCIENT LANGUAGES?

In this brilliant interview, the panel at Memoria Press discusses why it is still important that students be given the opportunity to study Latin and Greek. Why are these languages still relevant today in a technologically-driven world and what benefits do they offer to students? Watch [here](#) and find out!

CLASSICAL EDUCATION PRACTICES IN THE MODERN CLASSROOM

In this blog, Sarah O'Dea from *Logos Australis* shares some micro-pedagogies that she is using in her classroom where she has begun a middle school rotation on the Great Conversation. Access the article [here](#).

HARTFORD COLLEGE PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

Hartford College is Australia's first liberal arts school for boys in Sydney's Daceyville. With its highly regarded mentoring program and its unique liberal arts curriculum, the college is the first of its kind in Australia. Hartford offers a unique approach to holistic education - providing academic excellence, Catholic spiritual development and character formation - to confidently produce the young men our society needs.

To learn more about Hartford College, please visit www.hartfordcollege.nsw.edu.au, email

 **Hartford College**

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

When: Tuesday, 24 May | **Time:** 7pm to 8:30pm
Where: Hartford College, 33 Banks Ave Daceyville



Register today!
Scan the QR code

Applications for years 5, 6 and 7 (in 2023) are now open.

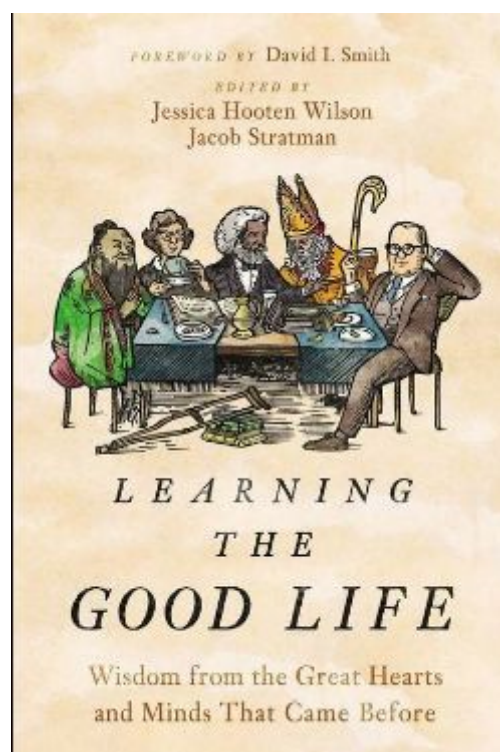
Come and learn more about Hartford College (Australia's first Catholic Liberal Arts high school for boys). With a strong mentoring program, and a focus on the Liberal Arts (in the Western Tradition), Hartford College is the first of its kind in Australia. Also see our renowned classrooms, meet the staff and see our future development plans at our upcoming Parent Information Evening.

Call (02) 9184 8840 | E: info@hartfordcollege.nsw.edu.au or visit www.hartfordcollege.nsw.edu.au to register

info@hartford.nsw.edu.au or call (02) 9184 8840.

Register [here](#) to also attend the college's next Parent Information Evening on Tuesday 24 May, 7pm at Hartford College, 33 Banks Avenue, Daceyville.

Books of Interest



From the publisher:

We've lost ourselves. Disconnected from the past and uncertain about the future, we are anxious about what our lives will be and troubled by a nagging sense of meaninglessness. Adrift in the world, many Christians have their identity completely wrapped up in work and their definition of the "good life" is financial success. Fewer of are staying committed to the Christian faith, finding it difficult to reconcile their experience with their longings and desires. With so much uncertainty, where can we find a true vision of "the Good Life"?

Learning the Good Life speaks to this malaise with trusted and assured voices from the past, inviting Christians into an age-old conversation with some of history's wisest hearts and minds as their dialogue companions. Featuring classic writings from a diverse lineup of over 35 writers and thinkers including Confucius, Augustine, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, W.E.B. DuBois, Flannery O'Connor, and Wendell Berry.

The book and others by Jessica Hooten Wilson can be found [here](#).



Cana Academy is an educational non-profit academy providing training and curricula for teachers and schools. On the website, you will find free resources, as well as videos on how to plan a classical programme and lesson plans that cover specific literature. Visit the site for more: <http://www.canaacademy.org/>.



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