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# The **ACES** Club

Our Monthly Newsletter: July 2022

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## President's Report

Dear friends and subscribers,

First of all, I hope that this email finds each one of you well. Subscriptions to the ACES newsletter have continued to grow in the last couple of weeks. More and more people are interested in exploring classical education and I am particularly hopeful by the inquiries I am receiving from parents. The July edition of our newsletter features many excellent articles written by Australians across our beautiful country. I would like to thank Karl Schmude, James Franklin, Denise O'Hagan, Natalie Kennedy, Steven Schwartz, Sarah Flynn and Jonothan Lethbridge for their excellent pieces of writing. They express a common concern - as do we all! - about the state of education in Australia and are supportive of the liberal arts. Each writer touches on a different theme in his or her article, whether it be poetry, mathematics, the study of Latin, great literature, etc. Their insight is valuable and to be commended. Many others have kindly written and will be writing short articles for our upcoming August and September newsletters, so stay tuned!



Sarah Flynn, who is one of our committee members and the creator of *Logos Australis*, took the initiative and has been running an online book club every fortnight. The book presently being read and explored by all participants is "The Liberal Arts Tradition" by Kevin Clark and Ravi Scott Jain. I have attended these sessions and have greatly

benefited from the rich dialogue that occurs during them. Another piece of good news is that Diff Crowther, also an ACES committee member, has taken the initiative alongside James Treweek and created a regular podcast called *Educating Humans*. Both gentlemen grapple with the notion of a liberal arts and classical education in a very engaging way. Thanks to both of them for their efforts so far. Jonathan Hili, our secretary, and Joe Capuana, a founding committee member, have created flyers/brochures (included below) to promote ACES and its mission. I am hoping that these will be distributed in every part of Australia to parents and any other interested persons. In a nutshell, I have shared some examples of what people are doing to further ACES' agenda in spreading the word regarding classical education. Like me, these people are busy but have set aside some time each week or month for the cause. It is such small but significant measures that will ensure that more Australians are introduced to classical education.

ACES is apolitical but recognises and celebrates any comments made by former and current politicians highlighting the importance of a classical and liberal arts education. During the month of July, former PM John Howard was interviewed by the President of Campion College, Paul Morrissey. The link for this excellent discussion is included below. At the conclusion of this interview my sense of hope grew and my determination to continue working hard intensified.

Finally, I would like to conclude by saying that ACES is committed to cultural renewal. Although our main work focuses on the creation of classical schools and enriching the educational narrative in Australia, we also believe that the culture also needs to be renewed.

Once again If you are interested in joining some of our focus groups or simply have an enquiry, please contact us at [contact@classicaleducation.org.au](mailto:contact@classicaleducation.org.au). You may also wish to join one of the *Paideia Reading Groups* that have recently started - sign up [here](#)! 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

# Australian Classical Education Society (ACES)

*Let light and truth flourish!* **We are:**

- a grassroots association that values the pursuit of truth, goodness and beauty
- seeking to promote dialogue around classical learning in the Australian educational landscape
- developing alternative curriculum models and resources for implementation in classical schools
- working to establish classical schools and home schooling
- with representation in many Australian states and territories

Find us on Facebook and Instagram!

contact@classicaleducation.org.au  
www.classicaleducation.org.au

## CONTACT



To find out more about classical education contact the Australian Classical Education Society at:  
Website: [classicaleducation.org.au](http://classicaleducation.org.au)  
Email: [contact@classicaleducation.org.au](mailto:contact@classicaleducation.org.au)  
Here you can sign up to our free monthly newsletter.

You can also follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/classicaleducation/>  
Classical Education  
Social: @classicaleducation

With members all over Australia, we can connect you with other like-minded people.  
Contact us now!

## EDUCATION THAT HAS MEANING



Do you want your child to have an education that is meaningful, nurtures wisdom, is fun, directed towards what is true, good and beautiful, and faithful to your Christian tradition? If you answered yes, then classical education just might be for you.



Classical education is an education which looks not only for facts, but for meaning.

Are you like the many growing number of parents who are concerned about the direction of education in Australia? Maybe you are not a parent yet, but hope that one day to have access to a school which aligns to your values, your beliefs and addresses the needs of your child? And maybe you want your child to experience an education which is not only fun, but also academically rich and full of meaning? If so, then look into classical education. With a classical education your child will experience something uniquely different. You will see them read the great books which shaped civilisation. They will not only learn mathematical equations, but understand their relevance and purpose. Science, philosophy, religion, the arts (which includes music, sport and the study of ancient languages), will all be done just for the sake of developing polymathic skills, but to develop faith, understanding, wisdom, discipline and eloquence of expression. Put out more!

## CLASSICAL EDUCATION: A SUMMARY

Classical education is a traditional style of education done in a modern way. It prepares a child for life, focusing on his or her formation as a human. A classical education will serve and support the needs of the family, while preparing the child for adult civic life.

### HUMAN FORMATION:

Do you recall your time at school thinking, "Why I am learning that? What use is it?" You may not even recall most of the things you learnt at school. With a classical education no knowledge is wasted because it seeks meaning, developing character. A classical education will help raise modern citizens through the cultivation and nurturing of faith, wisdom, virtue and eloquence. Your child will become the best version of him or herself.

### LIBERAL ARTS:

Studying the liberal arts, students are more likely to excel in grammar, logic and rhetoric. This is because students will engage with the great literary works of the past and present. They are also more likely to advance in mathematical and scientific thinking. This is because mathematics and science are taught as ways to critique, engage and to imagine oneself and the world, including one's place in it. Your child will be a free and responsible thinker.

### INTEGRATED THINKING:

All great thinkers, all great leaders, all those successful in life and who made a lasting difference understood how to synthesise what is learnt. They developed wisdom and understanding. Classical education follows the principle that there is a unity of knowledge. No one subject is seen more important than the other. All areas of knowledge, in their own unique way, flow out and into the other. This is how wisdom is formed.



Education is a tree with roots in knowledge. - Roman Curia



The best purpose of a liberal arts education is to develop the human being, so that he or she can be a person for the future. - Barbara M. Wilson



As for our mind, the greatest is to understand. - Albert Einstein

## Articles of Interest

### THE POWER OF POETRY

Denise O'Hagan from *Black Quill Press* explores the power and beauty of poetry, which is an important component of a classical education. Enjoy reading her marvellous article [here!](#)

***"Poetry traditionally occupies a unique position, a threshold between worlds, a liminal state in which their writers are beholden to no one or anything other than expression itself. From narrative to lyric poetry, from the ode to the satire, from the epic to the limerick - poetry in all its many and varied forms offers an inexhaustible well of delight for both our minds and senses."***

### MATHEMATICS AND CLASSICAL EDUCATION

The Quadrivium forms an important component of a classical education. Arithmetic, geometry, astronomy and music all play a fundamental role in the holistic and liberal spirit of true learning. James Franklin, an honorary professor at the University of New South Wales, is the author of "Proof in Mathematics: An Introduction and an Aristotelian Realist Philosophy of Mathematics". Enjoy his rich insights [here!](#)



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## THE VALUE OF THE CLASSICS IN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Karl Schmude, who is the co-founder of Campion College and long-time President of the Australian Chesterton Society, has written a brilliant piece where he explains the vital importance of studying Latin and the study of a Christian culture based on the insights of Christopher Dawson. You can read the article [here](#).

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## A PLEA FOR CLASSICAL LEARNING

In this opinion piece, Jonathan Lethbridge argues against the mechanisation of the progressive system of education. He underscores key virtues of classical learning that are missing in contemporary education and gives reasons why they should be adopted. Read the article [here](#).

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Thomas Velasco, a lifelong learner, Humanities teacher, and pastor, delivers a talk on classical education and the formation of a student *telos*.

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## THE POWER OF STORY WITHIN THE ENGLISH CLASSROOM

Natale Kennedy, the Head of Senior English at Northside Christian College, has written a brilliant article about the power of story. She discusses the impact of storytelling in the classroom, in addition to their aesthetic and philosophical qualities. Read the piece [here](#).

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## ANTIGONE



Steven Schwartz discusses the power of the Antigone story in this [article](#). He reflects on the tale's timeless themes and its influence on modern politics and society.

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## PIETAS - FOUNDATIONS OF COUNTERCULTURE

Sarah Flynn explores the significance of the virtue of piety in this [article](#). She writes: "...for the pre-Christian Greek and Romans, from whom the term is passed, it was a cultural glue that pointed one's attention away from service of self toward service of family, community, country and gods."

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## EDUCATION TO TRANSFORM THE SOUL

In this piece, Jonathan Hili briefly explores the role education has in transforming the soul of a person. Following Aristotle, he contends that knowledge is the internalisation of perception, information, skills and experience through habit, so that learning becomes intimately part of the student and changes who she is. Read the article [here](#).

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## NEWS FROM CAMPION COLLEGE - WESTERN CIVILISATION COURSE



Campion College have introduced a short online course covering the essentials of Western Civilisation. This study exposes students to some of the great literary, philosophical, and theological texts in the Western canon that grapple with big questions, including:

- *Is freedom the most important political value? Is it compatible with social order?*
- *What is the meaning of life?*
- *Is reason the sole guide in navigating life's challenges or should we rely also on divine revelation?*

Find information on the course [here](#).

Paul Morrissey, the President of Campion College, also engaged former PM John Howard in a discussion on the value of a liberal arts education. This is a worthwhile interview and explores key elements of why institutions like Campion are championing the cause of genuine education in this country. Watch the interview [here](#).

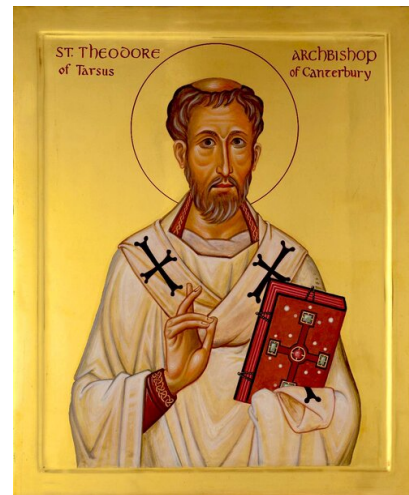
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## ST THEODORE OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC GRAMMAR

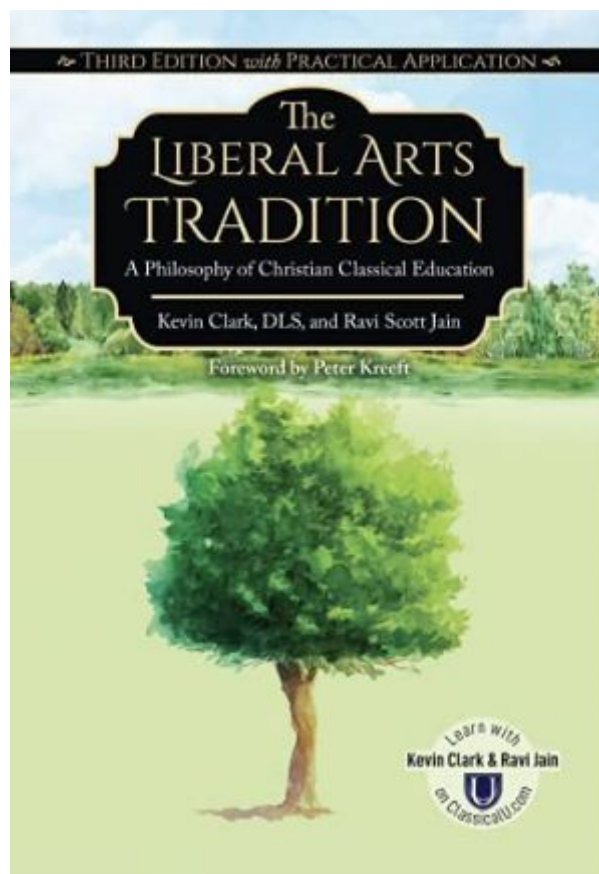
St Theodore of Canterbury Catholic Grammar School needs Angel Investors to come to the party! Let's work together to get classical Catholic learning off the ground in Perth, WA. The plan is to start off by opening a day care centre - a preschool - which will then expand year by year to become a full Pre-K to 12 College in the years ahead, for children aged 3 and up.

To begin this excellent initiative, the school requires \$1.5 million as collateral for loan approval, to guarantee loan repayments for 12 months, and to build the necessary first group of buildings. Currently, they are trying to purchase a site in a new residential development which has been set aside for a school.

The organisation has the ideas and motivation but needs the financial assistance to help get them established. If you can provide any support whatsoever, please contact Nigel McBain at [office@sttheos.org](mailto:office@sttheos.org) or on 0456 102 000.



## Books of Interest



Since the publication of the first edition of *The Liberal Arts Tradition* in 2014, this book has been read and circulated by thoughtful educators around the world who are interested in what great education once was and might be again. Assigned in college classes, read by school faculties, and studied in homeschooling communities, it has been widely reviewed and recommended by many scholars, bloggers, and experts.

The authors thoroughly revised the text in 2019, expanding and deepening their presentation of the core elements of the liberal arts tradition, which include piety, music, gymnastic, liberal arts, philosophy, and theology. In this latest release, they have taken a step further, suggesting practical ways to begin implementing the educational philosophy discussed. This is a must-read for educators desiring practical ways to further the recovery

of classical education.

The book can be found [here](#).



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