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# The **ACES** Club

Our Monthly Newsletter: February 2023

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## President's Report

Dear friends and subscribers,

Welcome to the February edition of the ACES newsletter. First of all, I would like to bring to your attention two important events that will be happening over the next two months. On **1 April 2023 from 9AM-1PM AEST**, ACES in conjunction with Beautiful Teaching will be offering our second mini-conference to all Australian teachers and principals. The theme of the online mini-conference will be: *"Teach the Australian Standards Classically"*. During this four hour online conference each participant will learn from expert classical educators about how to use traditional, standards-aligned curriculum and transform those objectives to cohere with the wonder and beauty of a classical education. Practical examples, interactive practice, and actual lesson plans will be included. An opportunity not to be missed! For more details, see the advert below. Please register and make payment by clicking on this [link](#). Once again, we thank Adrienne Freas and Kiernan Fiore for their time and eagerness to work with Australian teachers.



The next item I would like to bring to everyone's attention is the second annual conference that will be organised by the CiRCE Institute in conjunction with ACES. Last year during April we held our first online conference which saw over 100 Australians attend and hundreds of Americans. Due to the success of that conference we are pleased to announce that the second online conference will occur over two days: Friday 21 April and

Saturday 22 April. The theme of the conference is "A Cultivation of Virtue: How to Renew Christian Classical Education". We are privileged to have Michael Mendieta as one of our Australian speakers. He is the Chief Executive Officer of Hartford College, a school in the liberal arts tradition which was officially opened only a few weeks ago! Our second Australian speaker will be Diff Crowther, who needs little introduction and has been championing the creation of classical schools in this country for some time; he also offers consultancy to schools wishing to transition to a classical school model. Both speakers are excellent communicators and very passionate about classical education. I wish to especially thank Andrew Kern and his team at CiRCE for organising this conference. Andrew is so pleased to hear that our movement is slowly growing in Australia. Please register your attendance by clicking on this [link](#) and see the advert below.

ACES is committed to offering ongoing professional development and teacher training to any teacher who wishes to be classically trained. We offered some professional training last year and would like to continue this year. I am kindly asking each one of you to take some time and fill out the survey that has been created so we can identify the current needs in Australia and offer suitable teacher training that will best serve your needs. The link to the survey can be accessed [here](#).

During the Summer holidays Sarah Flynn O'Dea (from Logos Australis) and I were given the opportunity to be interviewed by Jemima Ayoub, who is studying in her final year for her secondary studies. The YouTube video of this interview is embedded below or can be linked to [here](#). Please support her laudable efforts to raise the consciousness of Australians regarding classical education and the liberal tradition.

To conclude, we at ACES are hoping for another big and successful year. We will continue to offer professional development for any teacher wishing to teach classically and always advocate the case for classical education. We are making inroads in many ways but kindly ask each of you to support us either financially by making an online donation, attending our various conferences, contributing written articles for our blog posts, and by simply spreading the word. To assist us and supporting classical education in this great nation, please visit our [website](#). As more and more Australians become disillusioned with modern progressive education and the great harm it has caused the solution that we are offering becomes more widely heard in many corridors.

As always, if you would like to contribute a short article to our monthly newsletter or have any enquiries, please feel free to contact ACES at [contact@classicaleducation.org.au](mailto:contact@classicaleducation.org.au).

Yours sincerely,

Kon Bouzikos  
President of ACES

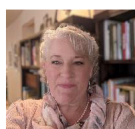
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# Classical Pedagogy

*mini-conference in conjunction with  
Beautiful Teaching*



**Join ACES for immersive classical pedagogy sessions with practical classroom application.**



**Saturday 1 April 2023, 8AM-12 NOON (AEDT; 7AM AEST – QLD)**

\$100 AUD per person

This conference is offered only to Australian-based participants with a 30-person attendance cap, so register early. Registrations close March 28.

## Teach the Australian Standards, Classically!

Learn how to use traditional, standards-aligned curriculum and transform the objectives to align with the wonder and beauty of a classical education.

Practical examples, interactive practice, and actual lesson plans are included.

### About the Instructors:

Kiernan Fiore and Adrienne Freas have extensive experience working with schools that require standard-aligned curriculum. They have successfully developed curriculum and instruction in classical methods for dozens of schools that have state-requirements.

**Payments can be made through ACES: BSB 063-132 Account No. 1163 3884. Please include your name as the reference with bank transfers.**

For more details, please email ACES: [contact@classicaleducation.org.au](mailto:contact@classicaleducation.org.au).



BEAUTIFUL  
TEACHING

**Helping Educators Experience the beauty of good teaching!**

For more information on their instructors & podcast, visit:

[www.classicaleducationpodcast.com/](http://www.classicaleducationpodcast.com/)



Join the second ACES-CiRCE online conference! Over two days, learn from skilled and knowledgeable CiRCE staff, and alongside participants from throughout the world, experience what it means to cultivate a humane, Logos-centred education, a pious heart, and a coherent mind. Speakers include US classical experts like Andrew Kern and Christopher Perrin, as well Australian locals Michael Mendieta and Diff Crowther.

The conference is FREE (donations welcome) and all registrants receive access to the session recordings.

#### APRIL 21 FRIDAY

##### AUS - Eastern Time

9am - Plenary 1 - Andrew Kern  
11am - Q&A Panel - TBD  
1pm - Breakout Session 1  
Greg Wilbur  
Tim McIntosh  
Michael Mendieta  
3pm - Breakout Session 2  
Wes Callihan  
Diff Crowther

#### APRIL 22 SATURDAY

##### AUS - Eastern Time

9am - Plenary 2 - Christopher Perrin  
11am - Breakout Session 3  
Katerina Kern  
Dr. Joseph Wysocki  
Dr. Matthew Bianco  
1pm - Breakout Session 4  
Karina Hepner  
Heidi White  
3pm - Closing Remarks - Andrea Lipinski



For more information, email: [contact@classicaleducation.org.au](mailto:contact@classicaleducation.org.au)

Or visit:

<http://circeinstitute.org/events/a-cultivation-of-virtue-online-conference/>

## Articles of Interest

### MORAL PHILOSOPHY VERSUS SOCIAL SCIENCES

The *Liberal Arts Tradition* is a foundational work that provides an excellent overview and insight into how the classical education movement can bring to life educational traditions and principles

in the 21st century. This week our book club continued with our discussion of Part III of the book, dealing with Philosophy as it sits above the seven liberal arts. Read the article by Sarah Flynn [here](#).

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## ONLINE BOOK CLUB

Kerry Letheby, who recently completed a paideia pedagogy certification course with Dr Robert Woods from Kepler Education, is offering an online book club for children. The purpose of "The Good Books Book Club" is for children to read and discuss good books in small groups with a facilitator, seeking the riches of the true, the good and the beautiful that can be found within the pages of such literature. A love for good books will pave the way to the great books in the future.



# The Good Books Book Club

An online book club in the classical tradition for children aged 7 - 11



"In the case of good books, the point is not to see how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through to you."  
Mortimer Adler

As one of the members of the Australian Classical Education Society who recently completed a three-month training for Paideia Pedagogy Certification with Dr Robert Woods through Kepler Education, I want to put this training to work by starting an online book club for children (ages 7 – 11).

The purpose of **The Good Books Book Club** is for children to read and discuss good books in small groups with a facilitator, seeking the riches of the true the good and the beautiful that can be found within the pages of such literature. A love for good books will pave the way to the Great Books in the future.

Sessions will be conducted in a style consistent with classical education methodology, in particular the Socratic seminar style. This approach aims to help children to learn to read well, to think well and to speak well – tools of learning that will assist them in any other area of study.

Please contact me for further information and to express your interest at [kaletheby@iinet.net.au](mailto:kaletheby@iinet.net.au)

Philippians 4:8 "...whatever is true, whatever is right, whatever is noble, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things."

## ONLINE INTERACTIVE LECTURE SERIES IN ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY

This online five-week course examines the thoughts of the ancient thinkers: the Pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and Marcus Aurelius, for their impact on the formation of Western thought. It compares and contrasts their views of reality focusing particularly on concepts such as teleology, being, the soul, virtue, the social and creative nature of persons, and how we ought

to live. The lectures explore theories of human nature, human behaviour and instincts, ethics, personality, and identity. For more information or to enrol, please follow this [link](#).



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## WHAT IS CLASSICAL CONVERSATIONS?

Cheree Harvey introduces classical conversations in this way:

***As our children mature, they learn more through conversation than recitation. They need good books to contemplate and good conversations with peers and trusted adults. There are certain books that all people should read so they can enter the conversations that began at the dawn of human history. Thinking humans have always asked: Who is man? Who is God? What is man's responsibility to other men? What is man's responsibility to God? How can we find truth? How can we communicate truth to others? The best authors have a lot to teach us about the answers to these questions. The beauty of educating through Classical Conversations is in its simplicity.***

To learn more, [email](#) Cheree or visit this [link](#).

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## PUBLIC LECTURE BY GREG SHERIDAN

Join us for a public lecture with Greg Sheridan, foreign editor at *The Australian*. His most recent book: "Christians, the Urgent Case for Jesus in Our World", became a best seller weeks after publication. It makes the case for the historical reliability of the New Testament and explores the lives of early Christians and contemporary Christians.

Hosted by Campion College, this lecture will take place on 29 March 2023, beginning at 6PM. It focuses on the letters of Paul and their past and continued influence, both as theological works as well as significant literature to emerge from the Western tradition. More information can be found [here](#).

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The sixth episode of *The Next Candidate* podcast, hosted by Jemima Ayoub, features Kon Bouzikos and Sarah Flynn-O'Dea as guests speaking about classical education. They discuss the virtues of this mode of education and its implementation in an Australian context.

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### RECOMMENDED VIEWING

#### Recovering Classical Christian Education: Digging for Truth Episode.

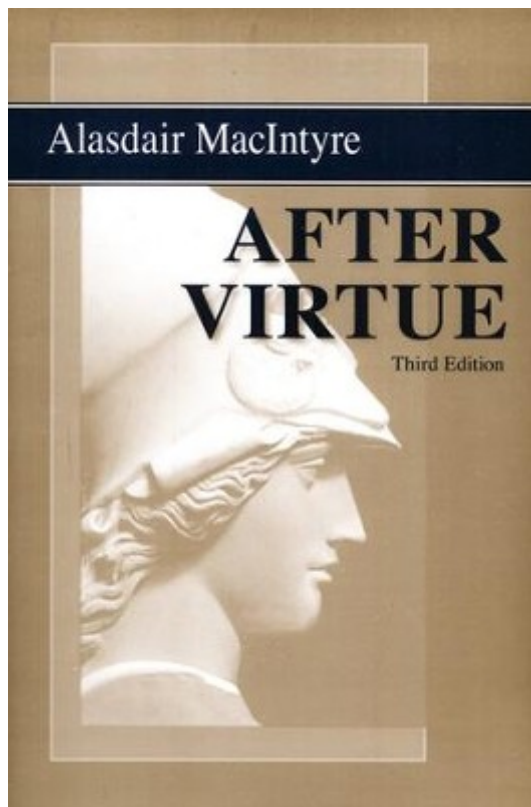
To say that Western society is destroying itself from within might very well be the understatement of the century. Our public educational institutions have played a significant role in the spiritual, moral, and intellectual demise of western culture. Public education is now steeped in a worldview that is deeply antagonistic towards the Creator, His moral law, and the Gospel of Christ. Christian parents seriously committed to the Gospel are deeply concerned about the impact these institutions are having on their children. Is there a better way to educate these precious ones who have been give to us by God? Mr. John Mark Niehls of Coventry Christian Schools in Pottstown, PA joins us to talk about a Gospel-centred and time tested alternative: Classical Christian Education. Click [here](#) to view the interview.

Another worthwhile presentation is by Dr Zena Hitz, tutor at St John's College in Annapolis, MD and winner of the Hiett Prize in the Humanities. Zena is also the author of *Lost in Thought: The Hidden Pleasures of an Intellectual Life*. Watch the interview [here](#).

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### Books of Interest





In this classic work, Alasdair MacIntyre examines the historical and conceptual roots of the idea of virtue, diagnoses the reasons for its absence in personal and public life, and offers a tentative proposal for its recovery. While the individual chapters are wide-ranging, once pieced together they comprise a penetrating and focused argument about the price of modernity. In the Third Edition prologue, MacIntyre revisits the central theses of the book and concludes that although he has learned a great deal and has supplemented and refined his theses and arguments in other works, he has “as yet found no reason for abandoning the major contentions” of this book. While he recognises that his conception of human beings as virtuous or vicious needed not only a metaphysical but also a biological grounding, ultimately he remains “committed to the thesis that it is only from the standpoint of a very different tradition, one whose beliefs and presuppositions were articulated in their classical form by Aristotle, that we can understand both the genesis and the predicament of moral modernity”.

