



The **ACES** Club

Our Monthly Newsletter: March 2023

President's Report

Dear friends and subscribers,

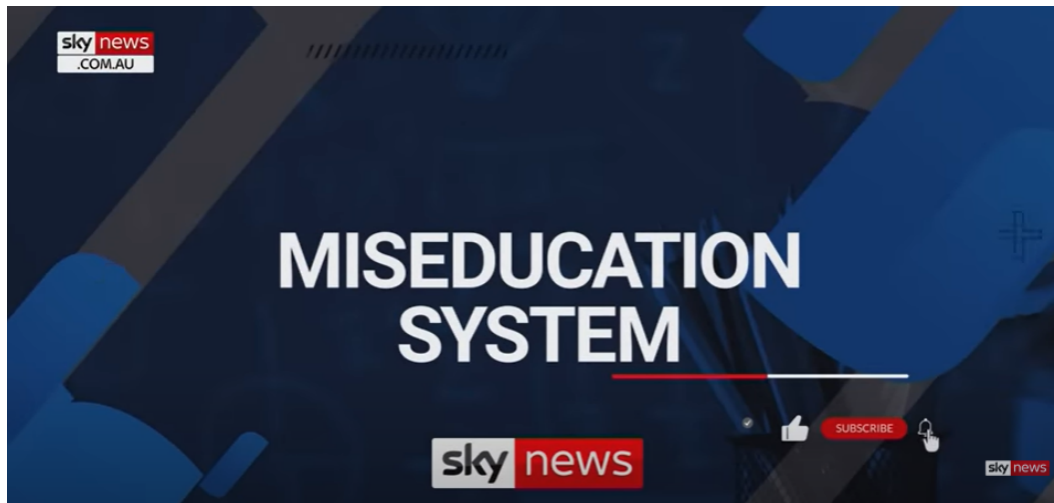
Welcome to the March edition of the ACES newsletter. As we approach April, I would like to remind each one of you of two very important events on the ACES calendar. The first event is the online mini-conference that is being organised on 1 April 2023. Adrienne Freas and Kieran Fiore will lead a four-hour PD on how to teach the Australian standards classically. Both presenters are very experienced in helping teachers develop lesson plans and units of work that align to states' curriculum guidelines while still adhering to the central tenets of a classical education. Please watch this [video](#) if you are still uncertain about the nature of this PD. The last day to register for this event is Thursday 30 March. To register and for further information please visit this [link](#).



The second event is the online CiRCE conference that will be occurring over two days: Friday 21 April and Saturday 22 April. A third Australian speaker, Ben Crocker, will join the other two speakers from this country (Michael Mendieta and Diff Crowther) in presenting on various aspects of classical education at a local level. Registrants will have the opportunity to select and attend any of the sessions and will also receive the links to the recordings of each session. This conference is free but if anyone wishes to make any donation to CiRCE that would be greatly appreciated.

Please register your attendance by clicking on this [link](#). The theme of the conference is "A Cultivation of Virtue: How to Renew Christian Classical Education".

Recently, Sky News Australia released on their YouTube channel a special report about the crisis in education titled "Miseducation: Brainwashed and Broken". This short documentary features Australian educationalists, notably Kevin Donnelly, and others like Jeremy Tate, President of the Classic Learning Test. The video can be viewed by clicking on the image below.



Although classical schools are mostly found in countries such as the United States and Canada they are also beginning to emerge in European countries, especially Britain. A new classical school called King Alfred School is Britain's first modern Christian classical school. It is very encouraging to see that parents and educational leaders around the world are committed to creating these schools. Follow this [link](#) to watch an interview that discusses the school and its aims.

As I have mentioned in previous newsletters, ACES is committed to offering professional development to teachers who aspire to become classical teachers and utilise their knowledge and experiences from these sessions in their existing classrooms. Many teachers teach classically without even realising it! To enable this to happen we need to learn from classical educators and leaders in America, where the movement is more robust and flourishing. I am very grateful to our many American friends who sacrifice their time to thoroughly prepare and offer rich and very meaningful sessions for Australian teachers. With time it is hoped that as more Australian teachers become classically educated and are moulded in the pedagogy, new classical schools will be created in our nation. I strongly urge every one of you to spread the word about the two professional development sessions being offered during April to your friends, family and colleagues, taking advantage of the networks and associations you have. The educational discourse here in Australia focuses mostly on the problems in education yet we don't often hear about any solutions. ***We at ACES are offering a solution and it's called classical education.*** It's the education that has stood the test of time, having been fruitfully employed for millennia before being assaulted by progressives since the 1920s. It is heartening that there are some classical schools emerging or already existing in Australia.

ACES is essentially the work of volunteers. Our executive committee is made up of

people who are scattered all over Australia. As the movement grows it is imperative that small robust hubs are established in each state and territory. These hubs can organise information sessions, meetings, seminar-type events, and so on. If there is anyone wishing to either join or create a hub in his or her territory, please email us at ACES: contact@classicaleducation.org.au. Regional hubs across Australia will help spread the word.

I look forward to seeing you at one or both of our April events. Keep remembering that current and future generations of Australians deserve a more enriching and beautiful education. Our students deserve an education that will help them flourish, order his or her loves, and acquire virtue and wisdom.

Yours sincerely,

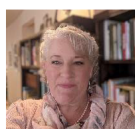
Kon Bouzikos
President of ACES

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.



BEAUTIFUL
TEACHING

Helping Educators Experience the beauty of good teaching!

For more information on their instructors & podcast, visit:

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

Or visit:

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

Articles of Interest

CALL TO LEADERSHIP: CLASSICAL CONVERSATIONS EXPERIENCE

What does it take to homeschool well? How do I find community for myself and my children? How can I give my children the education I didn't receive? What does virtue

mean and how do I teach my children's souls? What is Classical Conversations?

If these are some of the questions you have, join me, Cheree Harvey, on an Experience Classical Conversations online information call where we will wrestle with some of these hard questions and work together towards a deeper understanding of what it looks like to homeschool our children in a classical Christian community.

To find out more, visit this [website](#) or contact Cheree Harvey: charvey@classicalconversations.com.

AUSTRALIA'S EDUCATION CRISIS OF "DUMBED-DOWN TWADDLE"

Jemima Ayoub, a Year 12 HSC student, reflects on student disengagement and the absence of true learning from a typical Australian classroom. She writes:

"As the years progressed, and the curriculum proved to be intellectually baseless – void of engaging research opportunities and lacking any trace of wholesome substance – I came to the realisation that learning, flourishing, and developing into an exceptional human was a practically impossible task to complete in a school system designed to remove individuality from students."

Read the full article [here](#).

RECONCEIVING WESTERN CIVILISATION

In this online article for the ABC (found [here](#)), Simon Kennedy discusses the universal scope and applicability of Western civilisation based on its understanding of the human condition. Kennedy, lecturer in Intellectual History in the School of Liberal Arts at Christian Heritage College, Brisbane, first considers misconceptions of the West before tackling the various contributions of Western thinkers to conceiving the human enterprise. He is also the author of *Reforming the Law of Nature: The Secularisation of Political Thought, 1532-1689*.

THE EXPRESSION OF VIRTUE: CLASSICAL LEARNING, ART AND MORALITY

Jonathan Hili explores the way classical learning was understood and illustrated through the works of French neoclassical painter, Jacques-Louis David. He contends that David, as the beneficiary of classical learning and Enlightenment humanism, was able to call upon his education and creative skills to depict the socio-political and moral aspirations of his day, especially during the French Revolution. Read the essay [here](#).



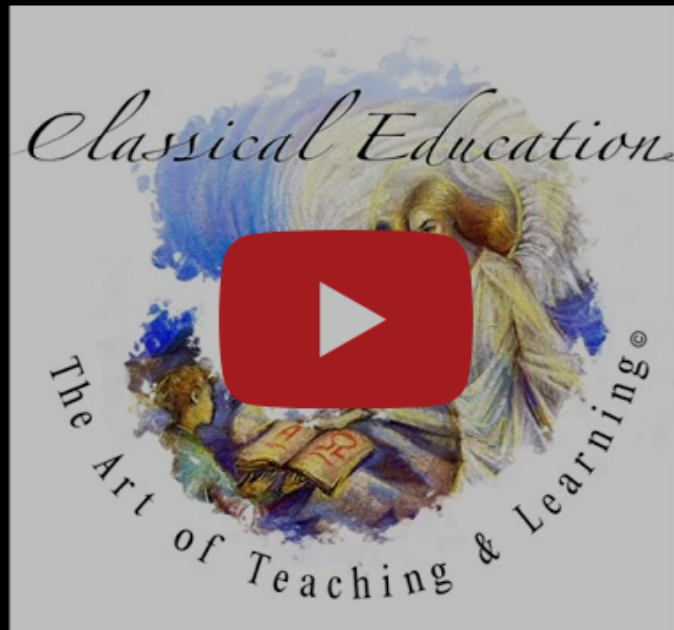
THE SEVEN PILLARS OF WESTERN CIVILISATION

Joseph Pearce's [post](#) for *The Imaginative Conservative* touches upon the seven foundational texts of Western Civilisation.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS



St John of Kronstadt is a Brisbane-based Orthodox classical school due to open its doors in 2024. An initial intake of students from Prep-Grade 3 will begin next year, with additional grades added on in subsequent years. The school is accordingly seeking expressions of interest from primary school educators. More information can be found [here](#), or you can contact Fr Stephen David directly: info@stjohnacademy.com.au or on 0415 936 696.



This enlightening podcast conversation is hosted by Adirenne Freas. Her guest is Kon Bouzikos, President of ACES. Their discussion focuses on spreading passion for educational reform across Australia. With great passion, Kon affirms that Australians need and want Americans who are immersed in the classical education movement to teach and help direct them. A number of important topics are raised that would be of interest to Australian teachers, students and parents.

RECOMMENDED VIEWING

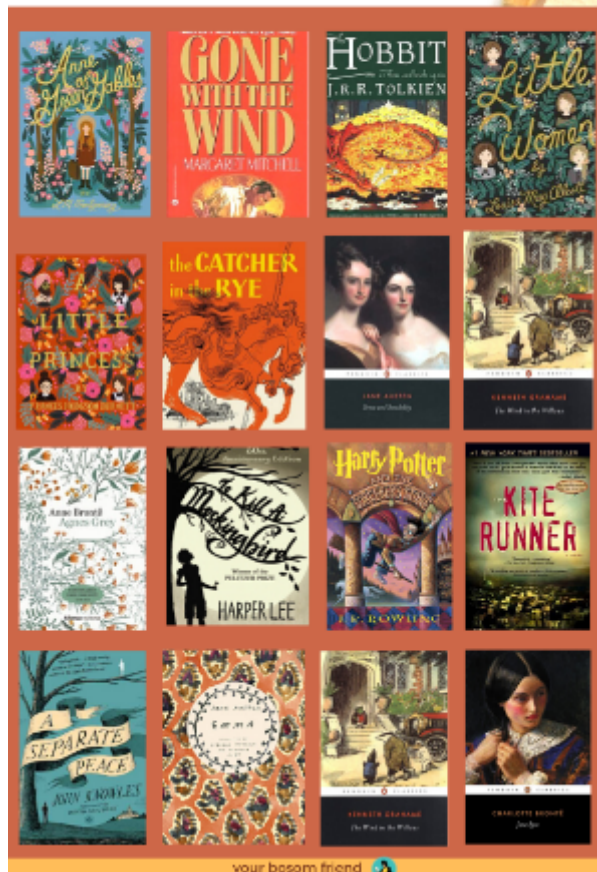
Challenges Facing Classical Education.

The National Symposium for Classical Education is designed to enrich our understanding of the classical liberal arts in both the theoretical and practical dimensions of curriculum and pedagogy. Beginning with curated presentations from select scholars and practitioners, they provide school leaders and master teachers with some of the best thought on the subjects under consideration.

Watch a Q&A session of the symposium [here](#).

Books of Interest

150+ CLASSICS BOOKS YOU SHOULD READ



Follow this [link](#) to access Christopher Perrin's reading list of essential books for classical educators... well, the top 55! Texts are divided into subject areas: introductory books; history of classical education; modern education; philosophy of education; maths and science; virtue and embodiment; scholasticism and contemplation; and pedagogy.

