



The **ACES** Club

Our Monthly Newsletter: December 2023

President's Report

Dear friends and subscribers,

Welcome to the December edition of the ACES newsletter!

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity and thank each one of you for your ongoing support of ACES. During 2023, ACES was once again involved in many initiatives and projects. In conjunction with the CiRCE Institute we organised our second annual online conference, "A Cultivation of Virtue", which included a few Australian speakers. We also continued offering professional development to teachers and parents by working with Adrienne Freas and her dedicated team at *Beautiful Teaching* in the USA. Our newsletter subscription has risen to over 500 and is continuing to rise. This clearly shows that more Australians are interested in learning about classical education. Further to this, the Executive Committee of ACES participated for the very first time at the Benedict Conference, which was held at ACU's Melbourne Campus. Other significant achievements this year include the creation of our own [YouTube channel](#), the hosting our very first ACES Book Club with Adrienne Fraes, and creating a curriculum team. The amount of visitors to the ACES website has also increased significantly.



In 2024, we are hoping to organise more conferences, further opportunities for professional development, and face to face gatherings at some of our nation's capital cities. Speaking of gatherings, Dr Kevin Donnelly, who has successfully organised two classical education forums

in the past two years, will be organising another forum in Brisbane in 2024! More details will be made available next year.

At our last AGM, nominations were made from people to join the ACES Executive Committee. I would like to thank and welcome our newest members: Mike Hall, Conor Ross, and Andrew Gall, and look forward to working with them in the further promotion and advancement of classical education in Australia. If any person wishes to join any of our subcommittees (curriculum, marketing and media, events and fundraising) please email ACES and I will respond to your inquiry.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, I kindly ask you to consider making an online donation to ACES. Your donation will help cover the costs for the following: annual journal, inviting international experts to visit Australia and work closely with teachers and parents in developing classical education resources, revamping our website, advertising our events in major Australian newspapers, offering discounted professional development opportunities, staging face to face conferences, just to name a few. Your donation will go a long way and will help us to continue our vital work.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a safe and peaceful new year. Please continue to visit the ACES website to stay up to date with events that will be happening. Continue to mention ACES to your families, work colleagues and friends and please send in your suggestions regarding the promotion of classical education in Australia. God willing our first newsletter will be made available during the month of February, 2024.

Feel free to get in touch if you would like to be involved or have any questions: contact@classicaleducation.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

Kon Bouzikos
President of ACES

Articles of Interest

CHRISTOPHER DAWSON SUMMER SCHOOL

From Monday 15 to Friday 19 January 2024, the Christopher Dawson Centre will host a summer school in Biblical Greek, held in Launceston or Hobart. The New Testament and Koine Greek school is for beginners who want to experience the excitement of reading parts of the Bible in the original language. Students shall read extracts from the Gospels and Epistles, as well as some important passages from the Septuagint (the ancient Greek version of the Old Testament), as well as some pieces from the early Fathers of the Church and the Liturgy of St John Chrysostom. Accommodation

at the Centre is available on request. The Emmanuel Centre is being trialled for the first time - it sounds ideal. To enrol, please go to this [link](#).



HELLENIC MUSEUM SUMMER SCHOOL

The Hellenic Museum Summer School will offer four short courses in January exploring ancient Greek and Roman literature and society. One course will explore how the different tragedians present myths about Oedipus and his family. Another looks at how love and relationships are discussed in different genres. Other courses look at the life of Socrates and the cities of the Greek and Roman world.

The courses can be taken in person at Melbourne's heritage-listed Hellenic Museum or online. All courses will be presented by Dr Christopher Gribbin, an Adjunct Lecturer at La Trobe University, who has worked on educational products with the History Teachers' Association of Victoria and the ABC. The Summer School can be a valuable experience for teachers or anyone looking to engage with ancient literature and society.

The Summer School will run from 8-12 January 2024. For more details, go to www.hellenic.org.au/summer-school or contact classicismelb@gmail.com.





ACTION, CONTEMPLATION AND THE LIBERAL ARTS

Which is superior: the life of action or contemplation? Join Jonathan Sanford, Jennifer Summit and Blakey Vermeule for a conversation about the past and present of this question, which appears in Plato and the Fathers of the Church as well as in conversations today about the “value” of the liberal arts, paid meditation apps, and the promise of finding peace in “deep work”.

RECOMMENDED VIEWING

Why Beauty Matters with Dana Gioia

This talk by Dana Gioia, poet and former NEA Chair, discusses the importance of beauty in our lives, not only for artistic professions but for all walks of life (even politicians). Watch the video [here](#).

Books of Interest

BEAUTY *for* TRUTH'S SAKE



On the Re-enchantment of Education

Foreword by Ken Myers
Stratford Caldecott

Based in the riches of Christian worship and tradition, this brief, eloquently written introduction to Christian thinking and worldview by Stratford Caldecott helps readers put back together again faith and reason, truth and beauty, and the fragmented academic disciplines. By reclaiming the classic liberal arts and viewing disciplines such as science and mathematics through a poetic lens, the author explains that unity is present within diversity. Now repackaged with a new foreword by Ken Myers, this book will continue to benefit parents, home schoolers, lifelong learners, Christian students, and readers interested in the history of ideas. The book can be purchased [here](#).

Felicem Natalem Christi / Merry Christmas

