



The **ACES** Club

Our Monthly Newsletter: July 2023

President's Report

Dear friends and subscribers,

Welcome to the July edition of the ACES newsletter!

First of all, I would like to thank all the teachers and parents who attended the two online professional development sessions held during May and June. Adrienne Freas and Kiernan Fiore led a small group of teachers and parents on how to implement Socratic dialogues and Socratic seminars, both in the classroom and at home, using examples from Australian literature. Any person who missed out and would like to view this four-hour session can do so for a cost of \$20 and by emailing ACES. The Committee at ACES will continue to work with Adrienne Freas and her team in providing teacher and parent training in classical learning. We encourage you all to visit their new website: <https://www.beautifulteaching.com/>. Additionally, it would be worthwhile subscribing and listening to their "[Classical Education Podcast](#)"; past guests include Christopher Perrin and Joshua Gibbs. Adrienne has conducted excellent interviews with teachers and leaders in the classical renewal across America.



Secondly, I would like to share some great and exciting news! The Non-State Schools Accreditation Board in Queensland recently approved the St John of Kronstadt Academy. This new Orthodox classical school will open its doors in 2024.

Any person wishing to offer any financial support to this school can do so by making a donation at their [website](#). Let us all keep St John of Kronstadt Academy and its founder, Fr Stephen David, in our prayers that this huge project will come to fruition. Diff Crowther recently conducted an [interview](#) with Fr Stephen that is worth hearing.

[Logos Australis](#) has many books that can be purchased by parents and teachers who are interested in exploring classical education. I would suggest that one begin by reading books from the series "Giants of Education". One short-term goal of ACES is to offer free online book study groups based on these books during September and October. If you are interested being part of these free online book clubs, please email us at ACES. The groups will run on Saturday mornings for about an hour, beginning in September 2023. Further details will be made available in our next newsletter. Find the "Giants of Education" series [here](#).

Again, as mentioned in our previous newsletter, any Australian can now receive 25% off all purchases at [Cana Academy's online shop](#), including more than fifty guides for seminars on classic texts. Simply use the Discount Code: **AUSTRALIA25** at checkout.

Finally, I would like to encourage each one of you to inform other Australians about ACES and let them know about our online newsletter. We also want to focus on creating curricula, lesson plans and units of work for the new classical schools that will be opening both next year and in the future. Creating high quality sequential lesson plans for all year levels and associated individual tasks that align with the Australian standards is a considerable project that will require paying Australian teachers who are experienced and passionate about classical education to create these invaluable resources. If you own a thriving business (as difficult as it may be in the current economic climate) or know of someone who does and wants to support classical learning, prayerfully consider donating to ACES. This is a noble and urgent cause and, unfortunately, there are not many players in the game in Australia. ACES, along with a few other individuals and organisations, are working to promote classical education in this country, and we do need your help. We are also hoping that in the next one-to-three years we can organise a major national conference in Australia and invite prominent and high profile leaders from the US in classical education to Australia. ACES is a not-for-profit organisation and we rely on donations to be able to offer bigger and more enriching projects.

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

Yours sincerely,

Kon Bouzikos
President of ACES

Articles of Interest

SAINT JOHN OF KRONSTADT ACADEMY

Opening in 2024, this Orthodox classical school is based in Brisbane. Initial intake will be for students in Prep-Grade 2.

From the school's website: *"The Academy aims to provide our children with a classical Orthodox curriculum that will nurture the child's soul, mind and body, develop Orthodox wisdom and virtue and will be steeped in Orthodox faith and liturgical tradition."*



More information can be found [here](#), and an introductory video by Fr Stephen David, the school's founder, [here](#).

THE PLACE OF POETRY IN THE HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM

In this [article](#), Professor Barry Spurr reflects on the significance of poetry in Australian schools. He comments on the problematic reality of contemporary students (even those who major in English Literature) being unfamiliar with poetic giants like Milton and Chaucer, and the ideological currents that promote such ignorance. Professor Spurr then outlines several important reasons for why poetry has such an important place in Australian curricula and any child's learning.



Classical education and the great books of the Western world are a gateway to the "Great Conversation". But what is the "Great Conversation", and how does

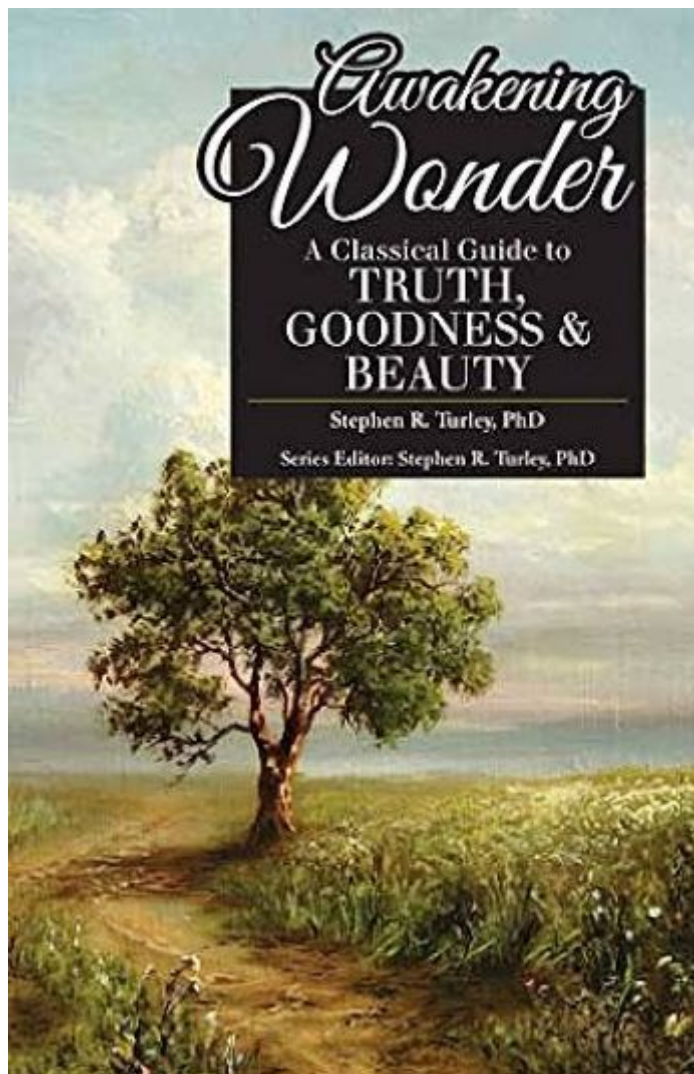
a classic reading list of history's greatest books inspire us to think big and strive in personal growth and wisdom? Watch this video to find out!

RECOMMENDED VIEWING

Educating for Beauty

Dr Margarita Mooney Clayton of Princeton University and the Scala Foundation discuss the history of liberal education - a pedagogy of utility and industry - and the aesthetics of its most viable alternative: classical education. Watch the talk [here](#).

Books of Interest



In his masterful work, *The Abolition of Man*, C. S. Lewis observed how modern education was changing our conception of what it means to be human. By cutting off students from the transcendent values of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty, modern schools ceased cultivating virtue in students and instead communicated a mechanistic vision of the world that viewed students as products to be engineered. Lewis believed that in seeking to

control nature, modern conditioners would also seek to control humans and remake them according to the preference of the conditioners, since any appeal to Truth, Goodness, or Beauty had been rejected. Lewis argued that we must recover these transcendent values in order to prevent the dehumanising tendency in modern education and renew the cultivation of virtue in our students.

With *Awakening Wonder*, Steve Turley demonstrates that it is precisely such a recovery that is at the heart of the current classical education renewal. Once again, Truth, Goodness, and Beauty are celebrated as those objective values that are essential for cultivating students as flourishing human beings. In these pages you will discover the history and development of these transcendent values and how they redeem our senses and sanctify our imaginations. Teachers will also learn how to incorporate these values into their teaching to awaken awe and wonder in both themselves and their students.

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



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