



The **ACES** Club

Our Monthly Newsletter: May 2024

Attention: Melburnians!

Melbourne



Last week we received news that St Philip's Primary School in Blackburn North has applied to the Catholic Archdiocese to transition into a classical primary school. To make this happen, the school needs to demonstrate that there would be sufficient enrolments to justify the change. If you live in Melbourne, have primary or near-primary school aged children and would consider sending them to St Philip's if it became classical or if you have any questions, please contact the parish priest, Fr Nicholas Dillon on (03) 9878 6597 or email: stphilipsblackburnnorth@gmail.com.

President's Report

Dear friends and supporters,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well! A lot of activity has occurred since our last newsletter. First of all, I would like to remind you that at the end of this month and in early June, Andrew Kern and Katerina Hamilton will be touring Australia for the very first time.

There will be many opportunities for people across the eastern states of Australia to listen to both of them. Please let all your friends, family members and colleagues at work know about this historic tour. A great deal of effort and preparation has gone into this tour and at ACES we certainly hope that news of these events will be captured by the Australian media and many other influential individuals both in academia and other spheres of work. The full details and locations of these events can be accessed by visiting this website: <https://www.classicaleducation.com.au/>.



Additionally, ACES recently held its first public information evening at the Religious Centre at Monash University. Many people attended and the Q&A during the evening left a very strong impression on myself and members of the ACES Executive Committee. If you would like to watch the sessions that were presented that evening, please go to the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49PFdT0cW9M>. You can also access the slides that were presented. I would like to thank, in particular, Fr Geoff Harvey for generously hosting us and Jonathan Hili, the secretary of ACES, for his excellent presentations on what classical education is and what it looks like in the classroom. ACES is hoping to offer more of these information sessions so that people throughout the community can discover the beauty of classical education. ***Our next session in Melbourne will be held on Tuesday 30 July at St John's College in Preston.*** A flyer is attached at the end of this newsletter.

During the month of May, I had the honour of meeting the founder and director of *Classical Wisdom*, Anya Leonard. In the March edition of our newsletter, Anya wrote an excellent article about the value of reading the classics. She is very committed to the classics and ACES will be working more closely with Anya in the years to come. Please visit her website <https://classicalwisdom.com/mythology/> and feel free to subscribe to the newsletter to be kept up to date with the activities she is organising.

Some other exciting news to share is that two new classical schools will soon be opening in Australia. I am referring to [St Benedict School](#) in South Australia and also [St John Henry Newman College](#) in Brisbane. I want to congratulate Jack Snelling and his team at St Benedict's and Diff Crowther and his team in Brisbane. These achievements prove to all that it is never too late nor impossible to start a classical school in any state or territory in Australia! As long as there is dedication, perseverance and strong leadership from groups of people, as well as interest from key stakeholders and parents, classical schools can be created.

In terms of professional development, Adrienne Freas and her wonderful team at *Beautiful Teaching* will be presenting their first online classical education conference. It will be held from 27 June till 29 June 2024. All 16 sessions will be recorded and Karen Glassm, who is a well known author, will be one of the keynote presenters. ACES continues to work with *Beautiful Teaching* in the area of professional development and curriculum development. To register for the conference please visit <https://beautifulteaching.coursetorm.com/course/2024-beautiful-teaching-conference>.

Finally, I would like to thank each one of you for your continued support of ACES. In the last couple of months I have received many emails from people across Australia who are interested in either learning further about classical education or starting a classical school.

The enthusiasm and strong interest shown to us by people is very encouraging and further motivates us at ACES to continue our work and activities, and to maintain our passion and commitment. If anyone has any news that they would like to share about classical education, please don't hesitate to email us at: contact@classicaleducation.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

Kon Bouzikos
President of ACES

Articles of Interest

REPORT FROM AUGUSTINE ACADEMY

Augustine Academy offers a year-long course in the liberal arts to students 16 years and older. Students study the early philosophers of Ancient Greece, as well as the great poets and historians of that period. The curriculum retains this integrated approach of the disciplines right up to the modern day. The course also includes theology, ethics, grammar, formal and informal logic, rhetoric, debating and drama. Furthermore, students learn many practical skills such as woodwork, agriculture and cooking. Each weekend, students are taken on an excursion to go canoeing, bush walking, mountain climbing, exploring water falls, etc.



Since the school's first year in 2016, it has consistently attracted a large number of interstate students. Students live on campus, where they enjoy a vibrant learning community environment, forging lifelong friendships and unforgettable memories. The school has experienced rapid growth in recent years, to such an extent that this year it will be relocating from its current site in Tumut (NSW) to a larger campus in Fitzroy Falls (NSW). This is a very exciting new step as with the larger campus the school will be able to grow to meet the increasing need for a classical Christian education.

At the beginning of 2025, Augustine Academy will be further expanding to offer a primary and middle school stream. Daily classes will be offered for students aged 6-15. These classes will extend beyond the scope of liberal arts and will include such subjects as mathematics, science, creative arts etc. as well as a number of hands-on skills.

Ben McCabe, the founder and director of Augustine Academy, runs the school with his wife, Eliza. The two of them will be embarking on a teaching tour this winter running liberal arts intensive classes in Perth, Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Newcastle, and Christ Church. For any information on their teaching tour, the Cert IV in Liberal Arts, or the Primary or Middle School Program, please contact them on 0450 729 077 or email: benmccabe@augustineacademy.com.au. Alternatively, visit the Augustine Academy website [here](#).

MONASH UNIVERSITY INFORMATION EVENING

Follow this [link](#) to access the slides from the classical education information evening presented by ACES at Monash University.



The image is a promotional graphic for a presentation. On the left, there is a circular logo for the Australian Classical Education Society (ACES). The logo features a central emblem with a book and a flame, surrounded by the text 'Australian Classical Education Society' and the Latin motto 'LUX ET VERITAS FLOREANT'. The background of the graphic is a faded image of classical architecture, including arches and columns. In the foreground, there is a bronze statue of a man, likely a philosopher, sitting and holding a scroll. To the right of the statue, the title 'Classical Education: What It Is, Why We Need It, And How It's Changing Australia' is written in a serif font. At the bottom, it says 'Presented by the Australian Classical Education Society (ACES)'.



How does art affect our souls? How did concepts of beauty shape early Christian society? How does the common good suffer when modern people neglect beauty or misunderstand it?

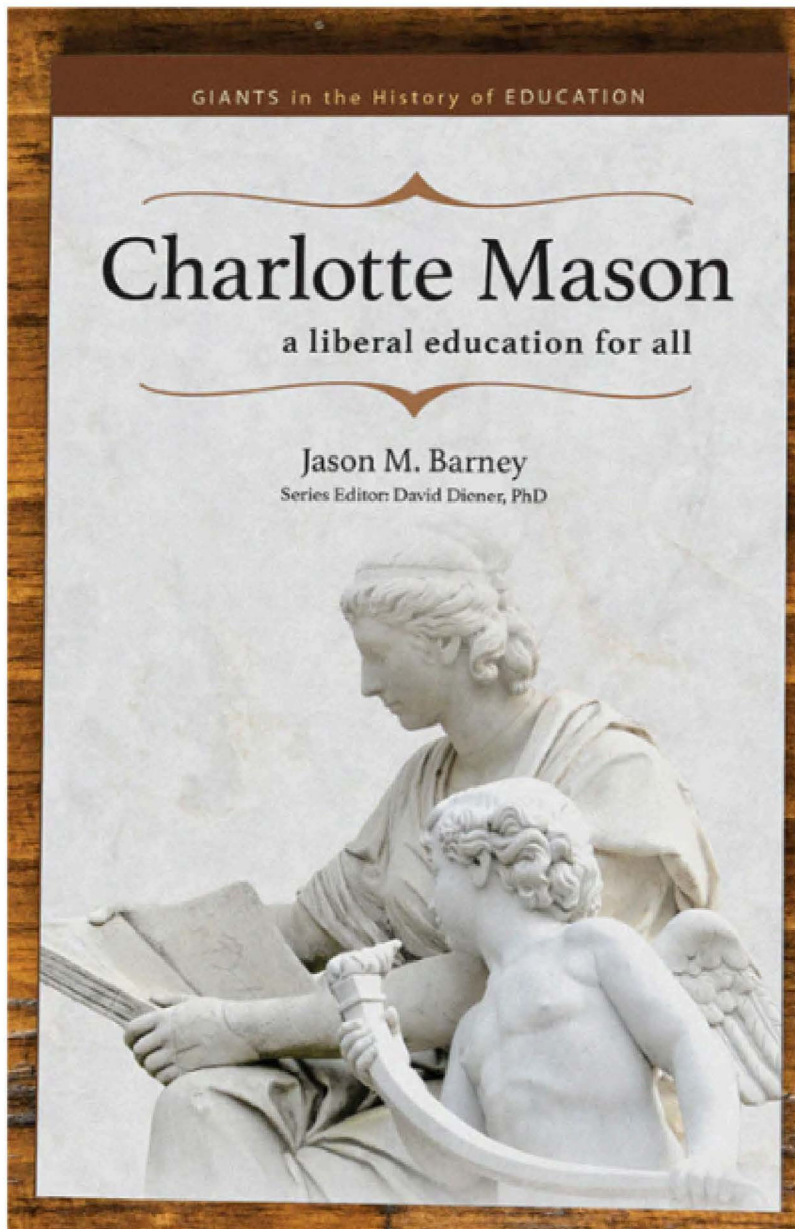
In this video, Margarita Mooney Clayton and Eric Metaxas discuss these important questions from Margarita's latest book, *The Wounds of Beauty: Seven Dialogues on Art and Education*. The book is available [here](#) at the Scala Foundation website.

VIA CLASSICA: FOSTERING WONDER AND CULTIVATING VIRTUE

Via Classica is delivering Australia's first classical curriculum for homeschoolers. Founded by veteran educator Elizabeth Matheson, *Via Classica* is committed to ensuring students have understanding and appreciation of the wisdom of the Western tradition through studies in literature, art, history and music.

"Logic – The Art of Argument" is *Via Classica's* newest course offering in 2024. Registrations are open now, though limited numbers apply. Head over to *Via Classica's* [website](#) for more information.

Books of Interest



A great way to celebrate the life and work of Charlotte Mason is to get the new book by Jason Barney, *Charlotte Mason: A Liberal Education for All*, published by Classical Academic Press.

"Through her biography and writings, Mason is shown to be a modern educational reformer uniquely in touch with the heart of the Christian liberal education tradition."

A devoted Christian and avid proponent of liberal education, Charlotte Mason developed a philosophy that became an international movement of parents and schools to reform education. This philosophy forged a synthesis between new and old educational approaches during a time of great educational upheaval and the birth of the progressive movement.

Through her biography and writings, Mason is shown to be a modern educational reformer uniquely in touch with the heart of the Christian liberal education tradition. Though at war with the modern scientism and utilitarianism of her day, Mason nevertheless embraced elements from the emerging fields of physiology and psychology as she advocated for a Christian liberal educational model that respected children as persons and embraced the riches of all knowledge for all children.

In this book, author Jason Barney situates Charlotte Mason's educational thought and practices within the context of her life and influences. He then explores Mason's philosophy of education under the main principles that she espoused in her writings: children are born persons; education is an atmosphere, a discipline, and a life; and education is the science of relations. Readers will see that, in dialogue with the past as well as the present, Charlotte Mason stands as one of the giants in the history of education.

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