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# The **ACES** Club

Our Monthly Newsletter: July 2024

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## 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](mailto:stphilipsblackburnnorth@gmail.com).

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## President's Report

Dear friends and supporters,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well! First of all, I would like to thank each person who attended any of the events with Andrew Kern and Katerina Hamilton. All events attracted large crowds and there was a lot of enthusiasm. I would like to thank John

Smyth and Cheree Harvey for all the effort and hard work they both put into this tour. As I mentioned to Andrew Kern and Katerina Hamilton, this is the first time that leading experts in classical education have visited Australia. I can also reassure you that this will not be the last time that we see such leading figures in the classical education movement from the US visiting our fair shores.



During the Melbourne visit, Andrew and Katerina both spoke at the Australian Catholic University. The talk was recorded and the link can be found [here](#). My considerable thanks goes to Terence Lu from the ACES committee for all his editing and final production of this video. Furthermore, Andrew Kern was interviewed by former Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson during his visit in Sydney. It is a truly fascinating and very insightful conversation which I encourage you all to watch and share, which you can find [here](#).

Secondly, ACES is organising its second public information evening at St John's College, Preston (Victoria) on 30 July. Our first information evening occurred in May this year and was very successful; we are hoping to offer additional similar sessions throughout this year and beyond. Since the committee members involved in these talks are from Melbourne, this is where we are beginning, and anyone here who is aware of venues for future events and is willing to help ACES can send an email. However, it would be great if individuals living in different states could also organise similar public information evenings about classical education. The vast majority of Australians have never heard of classical education so it is imperative that we raise awareness amongst the general population. I would especially encourage principals from classical schools to support this initiative!

In terms of professional development, Adrienne Freas and her wonderful team at *Beautiful Teaching* continue to offer excellent online sessions for all educators and parents. Attending book clubs is an important aspect of one's professional development. An online book study on the text: *Beauty for Truth's Sake* by Straford Caldecott will be offered during the months of September and October this year. This 8-week course is led by Aaron Mitchell from the *Beautiful Teaching* team. Aaron has been teaching various disciplines in classical schools since 2012. He received his BA from Cornell College with a triple major in Classics, Philosophy, and Religious Studies. Upon graduation, he began teaching at Great Hearts Academies in Phoenix, Arizona. While there, he taught middle and high school Latin, History, and Music. In 2017, Aaron was privileged to return to St Peter's Classical School, his high school alma mater, as a faculty member. The cost for this course is US \$40 or AUD \$60. That is a great bargain! All the sessions are interactive and will be recorded and made available to participants between 48-72 hours after the course. Please take note that the cost is non-refundable. The Australian dates for this course are consecutive Saturdays: 7, 14, 21, 28 September and 5, 12, 19, 26 October, from 10am-11am (AEDT/AEST). Please register [here](#). The book *Beauty for Truth's Sake* can be purchased through this [website](#).

Finally, I would like to encourage you to continue telling others about classical education and suggesting to people that they visit the ACES website to learn more

about classical education. ACES also has a curriculum team and if any person would like to be part of this team, or would like to contribute to the newsletter in any capacity, please send an email: [contact@classicaleducation.org.au](mailto:contact@classicaleducation.org.au). ACES would like to create its own podcast channel and could use your involvement. Once again, I commend each one of you to use your talents to further spread this movement.

Yours sincerely,

Kon Bouzikos  
President of ACES

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## Articles of Interest

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### *A TREATISE ON THE EDUCATION OF POOR MONGRELS* By Connor Ross

Old Lady Manning had a dog, so simple and small  
that would sit and pant outside with the family all.  
The Manning family hobby was wholesome and sweet,  
It was to wait for a full moon and hold a porch meet

And talk with delight of this or of that,  
to smoke a pipe or count passing bats.  
They would play crack-a-jack and stretchy nose  
and games plenty else that nobody knows.

Yet a problem would arise with the moon full bright  
For the dog would not gaze at that lunar light.  
Old Man Manning always saying what he always said,  
"If th' dog won't look at th' moon, I'll shoot him dead."

The dog would look here and look there,  
The dog would sniff there and sniff here.  
He would play with a ball, or a knotted rope tie,  
but never looked anywhere but Lady Manning's eyes.

"If th' dog won't look at th' moon, I'll shoot him dead."  
Old Man Manning always saying what he always said.  
And this time meant to do it, and went to get his gun.  
But out stepped with a grin, the Young Manning Son.

Old Man Manning let out a sigh and held off for a mo'  
while Young Manning Son gave dog training a go.  
"To tame a beast, it takes force and thunder,"  
said the son, wrestling the dog around and under.

With the dog in headlock he spun towards target  
but wriggling away the dog wouldn't have it.

So he pinched its sides, to turn it like a ship's rudder  
and it kept twisting one way, being pinched on t' other

Then the Son had a bright idea (that was really quite dim)  
foiled by the fact that he had a set number of limbs,  
to centre his aim he pinched both sides with glee,  
but the dog was not held, and with a yelp shot free.

Laughter erupted as the dog ran to Lady Manning's side,  
leaving the Young Manning Son red faced and wide eyed,  
who started a-yelling, "Bad dog, how dare you defy me!  
I'll flog you, I'll mince you, I'll hang you up a tree!"

Old Man Manning again arose, "Son you gave it a go,  
But now this dog has got to reap what it did sow."  
He got his rifle, and walked it back loaded with lead,  
the dog none the wiser when it was aimed at his head.

Then Daughter Manning spoke, "Oh Father put down the rifle,  
training takes subtly and support, for me it shan't be a trifle."  
So father relented to give his darlin' daughter a try,  
he sat his rifle down, then himself with a great sigh.

Daughter Manning had confidence in her style of lesson,  
that worked not by force but by the power of suggestion.  
She put on a velvet glove, that shone and shined,  
bejewelled with exotic gems, so diverse and refined.

She gazed upon that velveted hand, in loving conceit,  
with delicate movements she took hold of a dog treat.  
The dog's eye was caught by the sparkle of the jewels,  
and when its nose got scent of food it began to drool.

In a stupor, the dog watched the strange dance  
that Daughter Manning performed as if in a trance.  
Slowly and surely she danced towards the moon,  
and the dog began to pant, following the tune:

"Oh doggy, doggy - Oh doggy, doggy,  
Watch me and copy, watch me and copy.  
We must scaffold, to support every step,  
we must cajole, to weave a spider's web."

And sure as sure can be, the dog followed the hand home,  
provided with treat after treat, its eye dared not roam.  
Finally in a flourish, Daughter Manning gave a twirl  
and caressed the moon as if it were a precious pearl.

"By golly it's true, it's true. The dog gazes at the moon!"  
said the Young Manning Son, jumping up like a baboon.  
But Old Man Manning's eyes, as poorly as they were,  
observed a crucial fact and thus could not concur.

For as soon as Daughter Manning had returned to her seat,  
the dog went bounding after looking for another treat,  
Daughter Manning could not escape, try as much as she might  
for the dog would not quit - to her hand his eyes glued tight.

"Yes the dog looked where me daughter had wanted,  
'tis true, the hand and the dog had been bonded.  
But still, there's no love in tis' dog for night's lantern.  
It wouldn't know Moon from Sun or from Saturn."

Sapped of his strength the son cheered for the shoot,  
the daughter, her techniques trampled, would not dispute.  
With just a shared look they made a careful alliance,  
a happy agreement to let the dog die for its defiance.

So Old Man Manning decided to finish the job he had begun.  
Meanwhile the dog, broke its trance, left daughter and son,  
and sat next to the Old Lady Manning in a swoon  
staring at her face illuminated by the full moon.

She'd not the strength of her son nor the tricks of her daughter,  
How could she save her dog? The question gnashed and gnawed her.  
Silently, she begged her dog to yield to that waltzing woman of the night  
but to no avail, so she prayed and prayed for her to increase her light.

Old Man Manning walked closer, yet the moon seemed not to care,  
he aimed his gun at the dog's head, the Lady doubled her prayers,  
her eyes pouring out onto the moon. The dog soon to meet its fate  
poured his own eyes into hers with a fear deep and innate.

Old Man Manning with a grunt pulled back the heavy bolt,  
his finger on the trigger - but what he saw made him halt.  
In the dog's eye, a small shard of that silvery bone  
thrice reflected in eyes - and now entering his own.

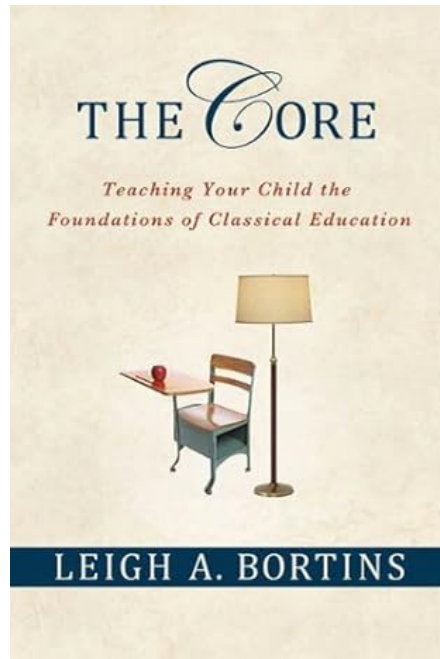
The Old Lady, without looking away, spoke the words wise  
"As the moon poaches from the sun, so this dog from our eyes."  
So there was no shooting of dogs on that full moon or the next,  
and the Mannings learnt well — 'tis love that teach best.

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## NEWS FROM CHEREE HARVEY

In this [article](#), Cheree Harvey reviews *The Core: Teaching Your Child the Foundations of Classical Education* by Leigh Bortins. She provides a comprehensive account of the text and reflects on what she has learned from it.

Cheree Harvey is the country co-ordinator of *Classical Conversations* Australia and New Zealand. To find out more about *Classical Conversations* and how it can help equip you to educate your children at home, or to purchase a copy of *The Core*, head to [classicalconversations.com.au](http://classicalconversations.com.au) or email: [charvey@classicalconversations.com](mailto:charvey@classicalconversations.com).



*In this interview, John is joined by classical education advocate Andrew Kern. They explore the transformative potential of classical education, highlighting its respect for humility, heritage, and the importance it places on cultivating wisdom and virtue. Kern addresses the challenges posed by modern technology, and the increasing trend of homeschooling, promoting the integration of Christian values with classical education principles to create coherent and harmonious learning environments.*

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 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, homeschoolers, lifelong learners, Christian students, and readers interested in the history of ideas.

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

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*Shouldn't education be based on time-tested methods  
rather than social and political fads?*

*Don't our children deserve to learn truth, goodness and beauty  
over competing relativistic claims?*

*When will schools develop flourishing human beings  
instead of mass produced employees?*

There IS an alternative to the educational crisis we face:

## CLASSICAL EDUCATION

Come along to this free information and Q&A session! Learn about:

- \* the philosophy behind this pedagogy
- \* how it works in the classroom
- \* the growing educational movement being rediscovered in this country!

Tuesday 30 July 2024, 7PM-9PM  
St John's College Sports & Arts Centre  
1 Blanch Street, Preston, VIC 3072



*Kindly hosted by the Greek Orthodox  
community at St John's College, Preston*



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

