



Chairo  
Christian School

# TRARALGON NEWS

Thursday 1 February 2018



*Welcome to Chairo Traralgon for 2018!*

## Dates to Remember

### February

Tuesday 6	Student Devices Parent Info Session
Thursday 15	Welcome Barbecue
Mon 19 – Fri 23	Years 7–8 Coolamatong Camp

### March

Monday 12	Labour Day Public Holiday
Saturday 17	Open Day
Thursday 29	Term 1 Concludes

## Traralgon Campus News

### Absentee Line

If your child is to be absent from school for any reason, please call the absentee line on 5173 0501 prior to the day, or on the morning of the absence.

### Facebook Page

The Chairo Traralgon Facebook page is now live! If you don't yet follow it, head to [facebook.com/chairo.traralgon](https://facebook.com/chairo.traralgon) and give it a like! It's a great way to keep up to date with what's happening around the campus.



## Whole School News

### Welcome to 2018

Welcome back to a new school year. I trust that over recent weeks, you and your children have had an opportunity to be prepared for the exciting and challenging year that lies ahead.

I wish to particularly welcome students and families who are starting at Chairo for the first time. We are so thrilled to have you as part of our school community, and we trust that you are blessed and a blessing in our special community.

Of course, 2018 is an especially momentous year for us because of the long-awaited launch of our campus in the Latrobe Valley. A big Chairo welcome is extended to each and every person at Chairo Traralgon. It is exciting to have been presented with this wonderful opportunity to continue the good work of Flinders Christian Community College, and we pray that everyone will quickly feel accepted, valued, encouraged and supported as members of the Chairo community.

As I welcome you to the start of another school year, I am very pleased to share briefly about the results of those who completed their education at Chairo at the end of last year.

Having completed VCE at our Pakenham Campus, or VCAL or VCE at our Drouin Campus, 2018 will be an exciting year of opportunities and challenges for about 75 young adults who graduated in 2017.

'We are proud of all of our graduating VCAL and VCE students', said Drouin Principal, Judy Linossier. 'They are a fine group of young people who led our campus well, and we are confident they will now transition successfully into the next stage of life'.

Pakenham Principal, Pete Wells, commended the many students who worked diligently to satisfactorily complete their VCE, enabling a 100% completion rate at the campus. He said: 'We are pleased to see our students graduating with many possibilities for further study, work and service'.

As many members of the Chairo community will already be aware, including from posts on our Facebook pages and reports in local media, our duxes for 2017



were Esther Battersby (95.30 ATAR) at Pakenham and Jacob Smeaton (98.85 ATAR) at Drouin.

Congratulations to both Esther and Jacob on achieving such excellent results. Ranking in the mid to high 90s is a significant achievement and only comes as the result of a deliberate commitment to make the most of every opportunity during the VCE years.

It is pleasing that Esther and Jacob completed all of their schooling at Chairo. They have both been involved in a wide range of extra-curricular activities over the years, and have each been excellent contributors to their respective campus communities.

Esther's advice to other students undertaking their VCE is to get as much done as they can in class, and to find help when necessary to make sure they understand everything being taught along the way.

Jacob reflected that completing more than 65 practice exams had been instrumental in ensuring that exam conditions became second nature to him and there were no major surprises when he sat his final exams.

As Esther, Jacob and the other members of their cohorts leave us, my hope is that they will each find that they have been well-prepared through their years as Chairo students for the opportunities and challenges that will come their way during 2018 and beyond.

Regardless of academic results, and offers of further study or work, let us pray that we see Christ's redemptive impact in the world through the capability, character and commitment of our 2017 graduates.

**Simon Matthews, Executive Principal**

*That I may know Him* **Philippians 3:10**

## The Ruddock Review: Religious Freedom

In December 2017, the Prime Minister announced that Phillip Ruddock would head up an Expert Panel that would examine whether Australian law adequately protects the human right to freedom of religion. This review is on a quick time-frame as submissions are due in by Wednesday 14 February. More information can be obtained from: [pmc.gov.au/domestic-policy/religious-freedom-review](http://pmc.gov.au/domestic-policy/religious-freedom-review)

Chairo parents are encouraged to write to the Expert Panel (or email [religiousfreedom@pmc.gov.au](mailto:religiousfreedom@pmc.gov.au)) and explain why Christian education is important to you.

Additionally, on behalf of the school, I will be writing to the panel to tell our story of why Chairo was first established; how faith shapes our educational expression; and why religious freedom provides the essential framework for the realisation of those goals.

**Simon Matthews, Executive Principal**

## From the Senior Chaplain

Welcome to 2018 at Chairo, and a special welcome to those families who are joining our school community.

All our students take part in daily classroom devotions, led by their class or home group teacher. Our devotions program is called Clay: Biblical Character Training.

Isaiah 64:8 says: *Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.* Our aim, and our prayer, is that under God we will help all our students to be 'the work of God's hand' — moulded and formed into the people God wants us to be.

Each term, there are two Clay topics. The first topic this term is ACCEPTANCE. Romans 15:7 says Christ has accepted you. So accept one another in order to bring praise to God.

What the Bible means by 'acceptance' is what we would call 'inclusion'. God's people are to 'include' one another, in order to bring praise to God. No matter who we are, we are precious to God—He created us, and He died for us. In fact, Jesus died for us so that we could be included into His presence and His community (Ephesians 2:11–22). So God's people are to include those whom God has included.

Our commitment is that every student at Chairo will be included. We want every student to feel 'at home' here, to know that they are loved by God and by the staff members and students in the Chairo community.

Please join me in praying that Chairo will be, more and more, an accepting community, in which every member knows that they are loved, valued, accepted and included.

**Medon Loupis, Senior Chaplain**

## Finance News

### School Fees – Statement of Accounts

Accounts have been sent out to families this week.

Please note:

- Quarterly payments will be deducted 8/2/18 (cards) or 9/2/18 (bank a/c)
- First monthly deduction is from 22/2/18 (cards) or 23/2/18 (bank a/c)
- Yearly-in-advance is due 2/3/18

### Four-Year-Old Kinder Subsidy Form (Blue Form)

The four-year-old Kinder Subsidy is a Victorian Government Allowance provided to families that have a child attending four-year-old kinder and hold an eligible Victorian Government concession care (e.g. Health Care Card). If you think you may be eligible and have not applied or for further information, please contact the Finance Office.

### Camps, Sports and Excursion Funds (CSEF)

The Victorian government funding for student camps, sports and excursions is available to parents (or students aged 16 or over) with an eligible Victorian concession card.

Families were sent application forms in November to apply for 2018 funding. If you hold an eligible concession card but have not yet completed an application, please contact the Finance Office.

### School Payment Commitment and Conveyance Forms

The School Payment Commitment form carries over each year. If you want to change the way you pay your school fees, you will need to contact the Finance Office as soon as possible.

Conveyance forms for car or bus travel also carry over each year unless there have been changes to your circumstances.

Please contact the Finance Office if you have changed address or travel arrangements, or if you don't believe you have filled out a Conveyance form.

### Finance Office Contacts

Phone: 5625 0117

Email: [schoolfees@chairo.vic.edu.au](mailto:schoolfees@chairo.vic.edu.au)





**All Chairo Traralgon families are warmly  
invited to a welcome BBQ at the  
Traralgon campus  
on**

**Thursday 15 February  
6pm-7:30pm**

A note will be sent home to all families with more details soon