

7 March 2019

Rejoice!



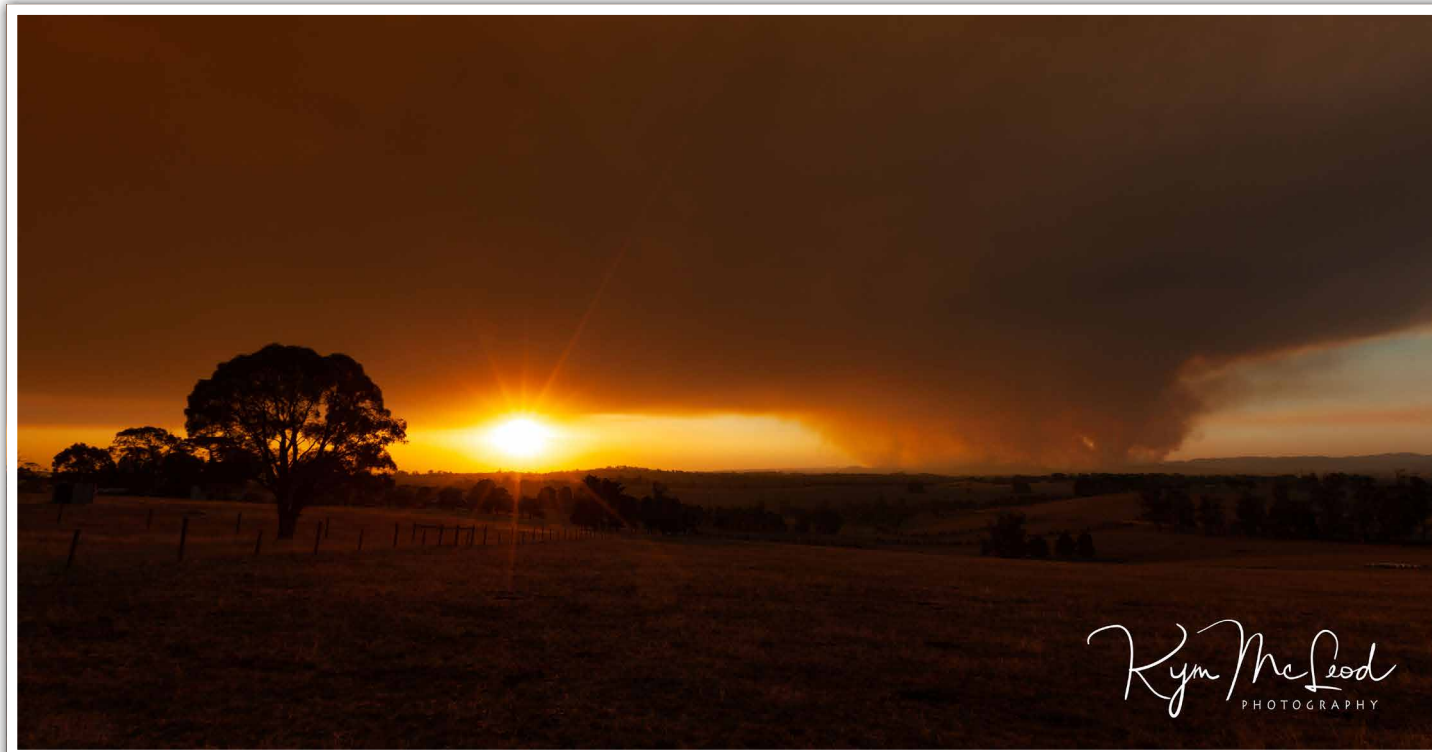
Tuesday morning was a wonderfully exciting time at the Leongatha Campus—the first day of Chairō Kinder!



Chairō
Christian School

*I will rejoice in the LORD,
I will be joyful in God my Savior.*

Habakkuk 3:18 NIV



SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

Over the past week, many of us have felt the effects of bushfire in the communities where we and/or friends and family live.

Some have been directly and seriously impacted, others have felt the fears and memories of Black Saturday return a decade on, and probably all of us have shared in the general anxiety about dangerous and changeable conditions with lives and property at stake.

We are so thankful that we are not aware of anyone from the Chairo community being physically harmed and that all our campuses have been spared from damage and loss.

However, we are in the process of seeking information from those within the school community who have experienced property loss, stock loss or other trauma and disruption. These needs will be shared appropriately as the information comes to hand, and we are confident that the Chairo community will respond with prayer, care and practical support. That's who we are!

We are interested to know if any particular families may need help ranging from short-term accommodation, childcare, food, relocation of animals through to work on their properties or other assistance. Children who have been impacted can access uniform and school supplies, as well as counselling if needed.

In one example of the school's response, we were able to 'host' over thirty horses from Mill Valley Ranch (instead of us sending our kids off to them, they sent their horses to us!).

Please contact Caroline Weatherhead via email (cweatherhead@chairo.vic.edu.au) if you need assistance,

or would like to recommend that we reach out to a particular family.

We also know that our local church communities have a lot to offer in helping those in need and we give thanks for the brave and hard-working firefighters who have prevented much greater destruction. They are a tremendous example to us.

Christian organisations such as Baw Baw Combined Churches Food Relief in Warragul are also ready to assist families that are in need of the basics.

The orange haze on our horizons and the smoke-filled skies have reminded us of creation 'subjected to frustration' (Romans 8:20), but that verse goes on to speak of 'the hope of liberation from bondage to decay into freedom and glory'. Pray that as a school community we can be hope-bringers to those around us.

Pete Wells, Acting Executive Principal

BOARD NEWS

The Board met at the Drouin Campus in February and will next meet at the Leongatha Campus on Thursday 21 March, when Board members will get to have a tour of the new Chairo Kinder facilities and receive an update from Anthony Collier about the campus.

Board members have also enjoyed opportunities recently to attend family barbecues at Leongatha and Traralgon, as well as coffee and dessert evenings for new parents at Drouin and Pakenham.

Parents are reminded that the Board always welcomes applications for full membership of the Association. More information is available on the Governance page on the school website.

DEEPER LEARNING

At the commencement of this school year, all teachers from across Chairo (there were around 160 of us!) spent time together grappling with the concept of how to achieve deeper learning in every classroom.

The day was facilitated well by leaders from our national association (Christian Education National) and provided opportunities for staff members to work in cross-campus teams to think about what deeper learning means for their subject or teaching area.

When we think about the term 'deeper learning', it is easy to think that it only refers to learning more, or learning more about a particular subject or topic. When we spent time together, we also grappled with how we could develop a deeper understanding of the learners that we engage with every day, and the purpose of their learning.

In light of this hope, here is a terrific definition of the concept of deeper learning:

Deeper learning helps all learners find their purpose within God's unfolding story: a story of intimacy, rebellion and brokenness, and an invitation from the cross to participate with the Trinity in restoring a fallen world. Deeper learning in Christian schools recognizes that the learner does not learn for advancement of self, but as a faithful response to co-create in establishing the kingdom of heaven—here and now. **Dan Beerens**

You can see, from this helpful definition, that going 'deeper' moves beyond the learning to the learners, and who they are as God's handiwork, made in His likeness. As image-bearers of God, we all (not just the students) are:

- *Created to worship* – We are made to worship God, to find joy, meaning, faith, peace and love in relationship with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Learning deepens when the process, the content and the application of all that we learn are guided by this call to worship
- *Created to connect* – We are designed for connection to God and others, reflecting the unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Learning deepens when it promotes relationships, is dependent on collaboration and connects our personal stories with God's story.
- *Created to create* – God's first role was Creator. Made in His image, we are made to create. Learning deepens when students are asked to apply knowledge and skills to create works of beauty, authenticity and service.
- *Created to engage* – We are designed to put the love that God has 'shed abroad in our hearts' into action. Learning deepens when we are engaged in school, in our communities, and in caring for God's creation.

As a Christian school exploring this concept of deeper learning, we will have these image-bearing characteristics at the foundation of our design, and we should therefore maximise every opportunity for everyone in the Chairo community to manifest them.

Simon Matthews, Executive Principal

WHY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION?

There is no doubt that education is important. Our children need to gain particular skills and knowledge if they are to obtain a job, raise their own children and contribute to society.

But why make this process 'Christian'? On the surface, it might seem that something as 'simple' as education should be neutral, unbiased and unaffected by the world, but we know this to be untrue.

Schooling is not and can never be neutral. Because schooling seeks to shape children with certain outcomes in mind of what it means to be an educated citizen, schools select resources, teaching methods and curriculum perspectives to pursue those objectives. **The Cause of Christian Education (Edlin)**

When you enter a room, you become part of it, breathe the air that it contains and change your behaviours to suit the situation. Without even intending to, you shape who you are and what you believe to accommodate the space.

Christian education is a way of building a new room, of taking education and offering it to God, of asking what His preferences are and how He would like it to look, and then obediently following.

In Christian education, to 'take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ' (2 Corinthians 10:5) involves examining the things that students need to know in light of where those things fit into God's big picture.

Foundational to Christian education is the knowledge that parents and guardians are ultimately responsible for raising their children, for their child's education, and for introducing their child to a loving relationship with God.

Christian schools partner in this responsibility, supporting parents/guardians and helping to reinforce what is taught at home.

In an era where knowledge has never been more accessible or easily downloaded, Christian schools work in partnership with families to help students develop wisdom and character, aiming to establish a worldview that is founded on the truth of Jesus Christ.

The first and foremost goal of Christian education is to bring glory to God, the Creator and Ruler of all things. **Shelly Beamish, Head of Teaching & Learning (Drouin)**

SIBLING ENROLMENTS

If you have younger children that you would like to enrol to commence at Chairo in 2020, 2021 or 2022—whether for Kindergarten, Prep or other year levels—please contact Tina Lewis on 5625 4600 (Drouin East and Drouin), Elise Groenewaldt on 5942 5632 (Pakenham), Wendy Nyhuis on 5662 4355 (Leongatha) or Tonya Russell on 5173 0500 (Traralgon), or send an email to enrolments@chairo.vic.edu.au.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Mark Cutchie – Board Member

Q. What is your main voluntary role at Chairo?

A. I am in my eighth year as a board member at Chairo and this has led to me also serving on the board of Christian Education National at state and national level.

Q. Why did you choose to serve at Chairo in this way?

A. I am a strong believer in the parent partnership model of education that Chairo is built on, and that there is no better way for my children to be educated with a Christian worldview. The model works best when parents give of their time, skills and experience to support the school and I felt that for me, the best way I could serve was on the board.

Q. What can you tell us about your family?

A. My wife Sharon teaches Art and Indonesian in Middle School at Drouin and our children Braden and Jamie-Lee are in Years 11 and 10 at the Drouin Campus. Sharon and I moved to the area at the end of 1996 when, fresh out of university, we both got teaching jobs at Chairo. We now live on 55 acres at Ellinbank with a large number of 'pets'.

Q. What do you do to earn a living?

A. I taught at Chairo for a few years before changing careers 17 years ago and becoming a paramedic. My current role has me mostly working in small country towns and remote areas around Gippsland and teaching professional development programs to paramedics.

Q. What do you do in your spare time?

A. Due to living on a farm, most of my spare time is spent enjoying the lifestyle that comes with it. I love having coffee on the back deck with Sharon, riding dirt bikes with Braden, horse-riding with Jamie-Lee and looking after the small herd of Herefords that we have.

Q. What are your favourite travel/holiday destinations?

A. We love to travel and, while exploring new places is always interesting, I particularly enjoy camping and four wheel driving in the Victorian high country and heading over to America. I lived in America for two years a while back and made some close friends that we still love spending time with.

Q. What sort of books do you like to read?

A. I am quite an avid reader and just finished *Everyone Communicates, Few Connect* by John Maxwell, but I also don't mind a John Grisham novel.

Q. Who is someone that you greatly admire or who inspires you?

A. I am blessed to have two older men in my life who are not particularly rich or famous. However, they inspire me because they faithfully serve God with their gifts and talents, love their wives well and have been very intentional fathers to their kids. They encourage and challenge me to do the same.



Q. Do you have a favourite Bible verse?

A. When I was sixteen, my parents challenged me with 1 Timothy 4:12, which says: 'Do not let anyone look down on your youth, instead, set an example to the believers in faith, life, love, speech and purity'. While I may not be young anymore, I believe it is still worth aspiring to!

Q. What is something that a lot of people might not know about you?

A. Sharon and I have renovated over ten houses and we are getting close to finishing our 'dream home' — a farm house built in 1902 that we literally took back to the frame.

PROMOTING CHAIRO

The benefits of a Christian education at Chairo are shared with the community in a wide range of ways, whether formally or informally. These include word of mouth, advertising, newspaper articles, website and social media, events, etc.

Various events provide wonderful opportunities for us to talk to people about what Chairo has to offer. These include our Open Weeks, which are happening soon (see flyers attached).

It would be greatly appreciated if families could help spread the word about our Open Weeks to friends and family members who might be interested in coming along for a tour.

Other upcoming opportunities include the following:

- Stands at Leongatha and Traralgon farmers' markets on the fourth Saturday of each month (providing free face painting)
- Leongatha Prep Info Night on Wednesday 13 March
- An Open Evening combined with the annual Music on the Lawn event at the Pakenham Campus on Friday 22 March
- Stand at Farm World at Lardner Park from Thursday 11 to Sunday 14 April (providing free face painting, popcorn and balloons)

CHILD SAFETY

Volunteer Application Process

At Chairo, we greatly appreciate the involvement of a wide range of people as volunteers in a variety of ways. Our volunteers include parents and guardians, grandparents, past students and others. If you are already one of our valued volunteers, thank you for your contribution!

We are delighted that our volunteer application process can now be completed online. If you would like to volunteer to be involved in any aspect of the life of Chairo, please complete the following steps:

- Visit the school website and select Community > Online Inductions > Online Induction and Training System.
- This will take you to a website that includes a yellow button labelled *Register* for first-time users. When you are given a username and password, record these somewhere so you can retrieve them if necessary. Once you have a username and password, you will be able to simply sign in on future visits.
- As a volunteer, you will have four tasks to complete, including OH&S training. Chairo will still need to contact your referees and verify your identity.
- Let Reception at your campus know when you have completed the process.

To avoid confusion, from Tuesday 12 March we will no longer be accepting hard-copy applications.

If you are unable to access the website for any reason, please don't hesitate to contact Reception to arrange to complete the application process at school.

Note: if you have already been approved to work as a volunteer at Chairo, you do not need to register on this new system until you renew your Working with Children Check or you need to update your volunteer OHS training.

FINANCE NEWS

Four-Year-Old Kinder Subsidy Form

The four-year-old Kinder subsidy is a Victorian Government allowance provided to families that have a child attending four-year-old kindergarten and hold an eligible Victorian government concession card (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 at the Drouin Campus.

CSEF (Camps, Sports and Excursion Funds)

The Victorian government funding for student camps, sports and excursions is available to parents with an eligible Victorian concession card. Families were sent application forms in November last year to apply for 2019 funding. If you hold an eligible concession card but have not yet completed an application form, please contact the finance office at the Drouin Campus.

BIBLICAL CHARACTER TRAINING

For the rest of this term, students will be looking at **gentleness** in their classroom devotions.

First things first: gentleness is *not* the opposite of weakness! Rather, the Bible teaches us that God Himself is a God of *power who rules with a mighty arm*, and who at the same time *gently leads those that have young* (Isaiah 40:10–11).

God is both strong and gentle. When we are gentle with each other, we are reflecting God's character.

Gentleness comes more easily when we trust in God's control and love. One of the most famous passages in the Bible reads:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6–7

But in the same breath, God's people are told: *Let your gentleness be evident to all* (Philippians 4:5). There is a link in the Bible between trusting God, and gentleness (see also Psalm 37).

When I'm anxious or stressed, I'm not gentle. When I'm not trusting in God, when I doubt God's goodness, when I doubt God's control, when I think that I'm responsible for making things right and when I think that it's all up to me ... at those times, I am *nothing* like gentle.

So we should be gentle because that reflects God's character, and because it is an expression of our trust and dependence on God.

But we should also be gentle because gentleness *works*! As we seek to help our children and others to grow in Christlikeness, being gentle is *far* more likely to have the desired effect.

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger (Proverbs 15:1; see also 1 Peter 3:15–16, 2 Timothy 2:25–26 and Galatians 6:1–2).

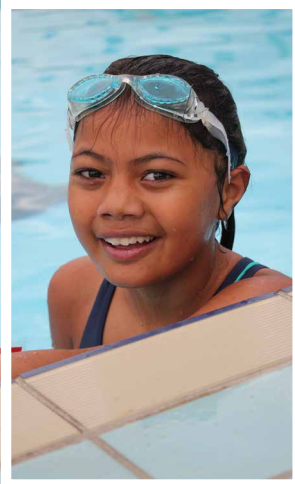
Again and again in the Bible, God's people are instructed to be gentle in our dealings with each other, because gentleness helps others to grow in godliness.

It's so easy for adults to not be gentle with children — after all, we can usually get away with it! But our children will then copy our lack of gentleness.

May God give the grace, trust, patience and joy for us to be gentle in our relationships and interactions with others.

Medon Loupis, Senior Chaplain

PAKENHAM







LEONGATHA Kinder Has Arrived!

Tuesday morning was a wonderfully exciting time at the Leongatha Campus—the first day of Chairo Kinder for our four-year-olds!

It was the culmination of an enormous amount of work, and I feel so thankful to God that we have got to this point. We also owe a debt of gratitude to a host of people who have made this project a reality. Well done, everyone!

The efforts of the Chairo maintenance team have been immense. Particular thanks goes to Des Wallace and Peter Wardle. The facility is beautiful and a credit to the team's extraordinary efforts.

Two other people who have worked tirelessly are Wendy Lowe (Head of Kindergartens) and Nickie Turner (Leongatha Kinder Coordinator).

I would also like to acknowledge the patience of our Kinder parents. Your flexibility and understanding are greatly appreciated. It is wonderful to have so many new families join our community through Chairo Kinder. Welcome!

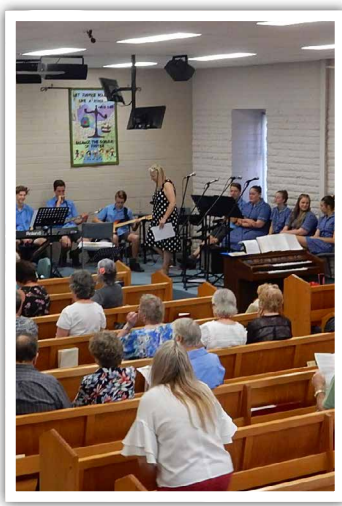
We are passionate about Christian education thriving in South Gippsland. For many years, people have dreamed of having a kindergarten at the Leongatha Campus.

We want as many students and families as possible to enjoy the blessing of being part of a Christian school. The Kinder will provide families with a new and unique entry point into the school.

Please join me in praying that the Kinder will bring honour and glory to God, and that the campus will continue to grow. Please also pray that God will unite and equip the Kinder staff members so that they can run the best program possible in that wonderful learning space.

Anthony Collier, Principal (Leongatha)







DROUIN & DROUIN EAST

Safety Before & After School

The safety of students on campus, including before and after school, is a top priority for us at Chairo.

Parents and guardians are asked to ensure that students do not arrive at school before 8.30 am or are present at school after 3.45 pm, other than by special arrangement or where school activities require attendance at such times

If, for any reason, students are present at school outside of these times, Drouin students are to report to the library for supervised study, while students at Drouin East will be taken to the office and parents/guardians contacted.

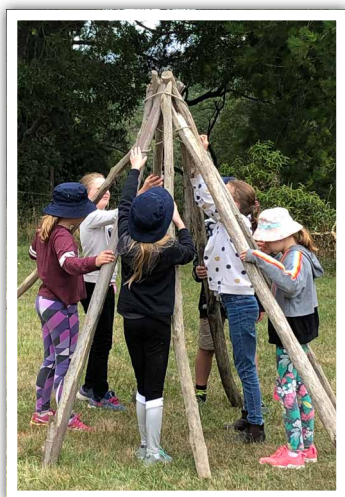
Please make sure that your children are aware of a safe pick-up point for after school. At Drouin, Middle School students should wait near Middle School, although Middle School students may wait near Senior School with older siblings.

Only those students travelling by bus should be waiting in bus areas.

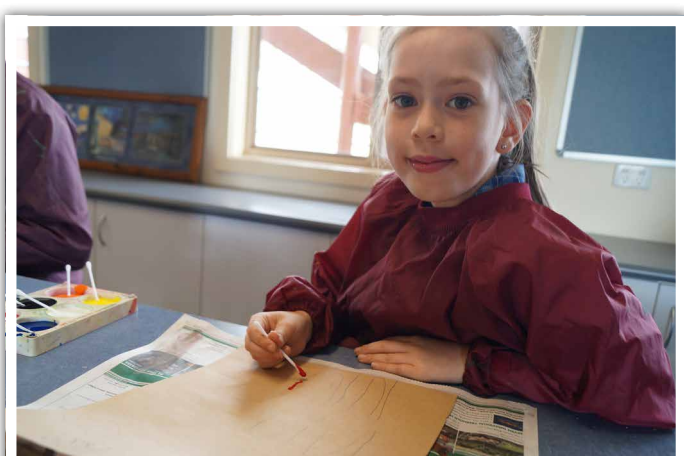
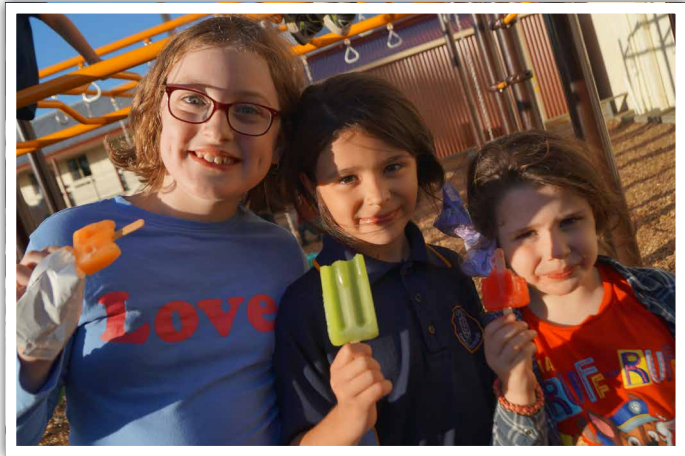
Finally, it would be appreciated if you could remind your children to take great care, and certainly not run, should they need to cross the carpark to your vehicle.

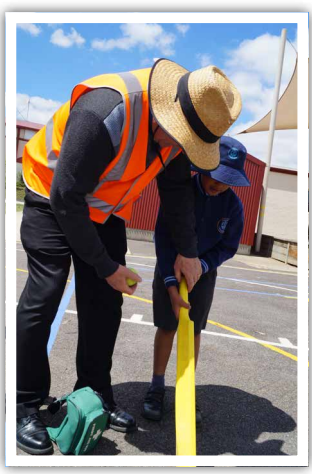
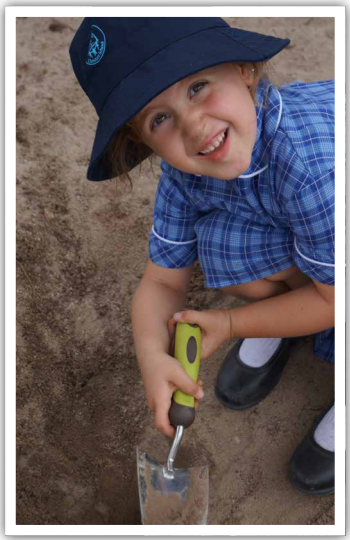
We greatly appreciate the partnership of our families. Please contact your child's Head of School if you have any questions regarding any of these expectations.





TRARALGON





Linc News

Stay informed by checking Linc News each day for important information. The most convenient way is to use the new Chairo App.

Outlook Magazine

Every family should have received a copy of *Outlook 2018*. If you would like an extra copy, please feel free to ask at Reception.

Contact Details

Has your address or any other contact details changed? It's important that the school has current information for all families.

Bus Seat Belts

Pleasingly, many of our buses now have seat belts. The expectation is that, where they are fitted, students will wear seat belts at all times.

Chairo App

Have you downloaded the Chairo App from your app store yet? It's a great tool for families.

Calendar Magnets

Do you have a Chairo 2019 calendar magnet? Would you like another one? We have spare magnets available at each campus.



Facebook

Are you following us on Facebook? We have pages for each campus, and regular posts provide a bit of a window into the school.



facebook.com/chairo.drouin

facebook.com/chairo.leongatha

facebook.com/chairo.pakenham

facebook.com/chairo.traralgon

Buy and Sell

Have you joined the Chairo Buy and Sell group on Facebook? bit.ly/chairobuyandsell.

NEW SCHOOL APP AVAILABLE NOW

for iPhone, Android & iPad



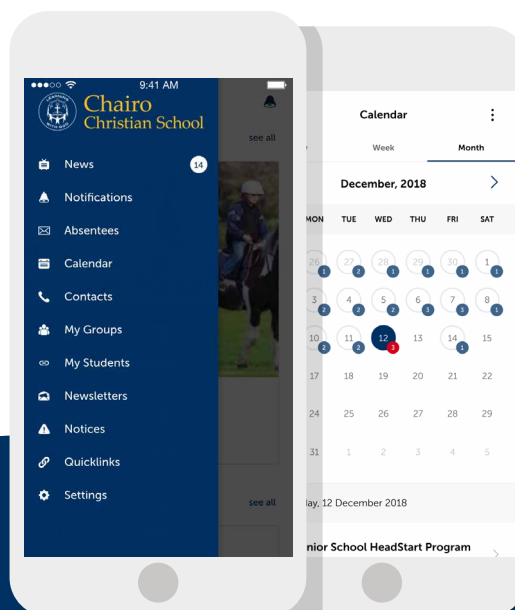
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Google Play



Download on the
App Store



Chairo
Christian School



Families are
invited to
visit us during

OPEN WEEK

Tuesday 12 to Saturday 16 March
11.00 am – 2.00 pm

2 Lansdowne Road, Traralgon

Christian education for boys and girls from Kinder to Year 8

Campuses also at Drouin, Leongatha and Pakenham



Chairo Christian School

Learning That Lasts a Lifetime

5173 0500 • enrolments@chairo.vic.edu.au
www.chairo.vic.edu.au

Families are
invited to visit
us during

OPEN WEEK

Monday 18 – Saturday 23 March
10.00 am – 2.00 pm

DROUIN EAST CAMPUS	<i>Kinder – Year 4</i>	435 Lardners Track
DROUIN CAMPUS	<i>Years 5–12</i>	76 Balfour Road
PAKENHAM CAMPUS	<i>Kinder – Year 12</i>	585 Bald Hill Road

Campuses also at Leongatha and Traralgon



Chairo Christian School

Learning That Lasts a Lifetime

www.chairo.vic.edu.au

Families are
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us during

OPEN WEEK

Monday 18 – Saturday 23 March

10.00 am – 2.00 pm each day

(also 5.00–7.30 on the Friday evening)

PAKENHAM CAMPUS (K–12)

585 Bald Hill Road, Nar Nar Goon



Chairo Christian School

Learning That Lasts a Lifetime

5942 5632 • www.chairo.vic.edu.au