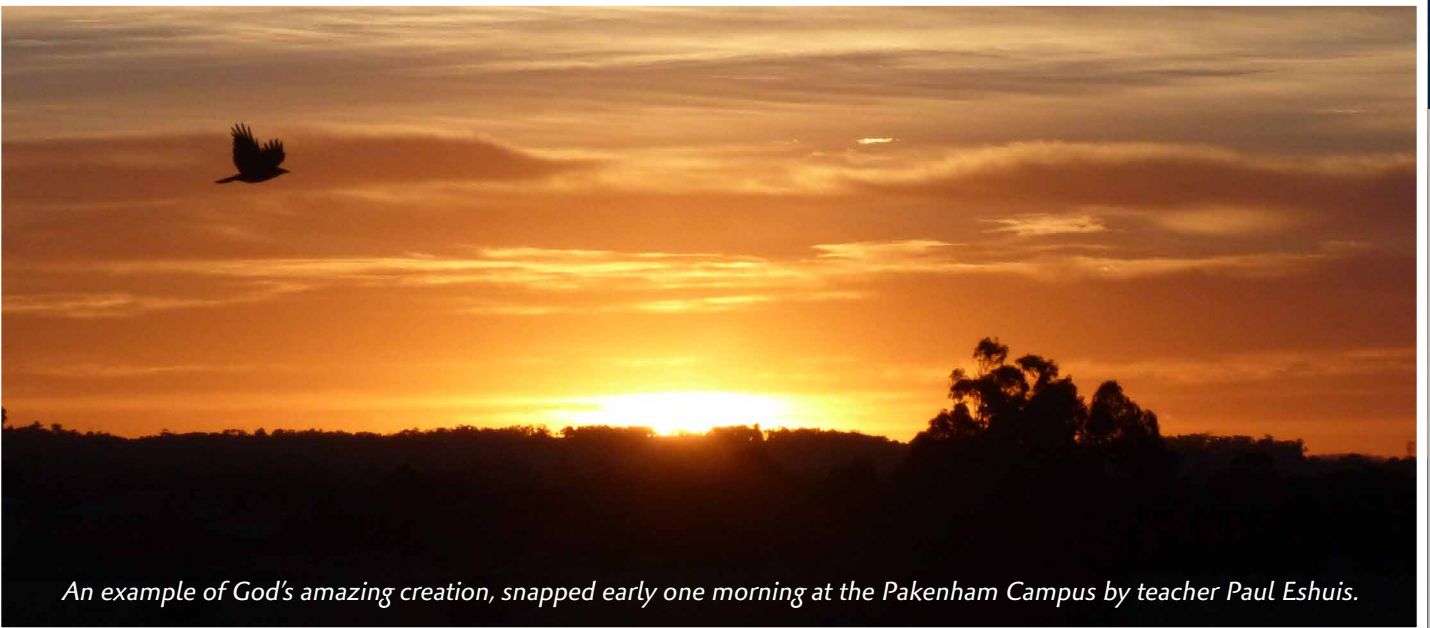


4 April 2019

# Rejoice!



*An example of God's amazing creation, snapped early one morning at the Pakenham Campus by teacher Paul Eshuis.*



Chair of  
Christian School

*He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.  
Come and see the place where he lay.*

**Matthew 28:6 NIV**

## THE PROCESS OF LEARNING

I spoke in the previous edition of *Rejoice!* about Chairo's exploration of deeper learning. This is an idea that moves beyond students simply learning content and skills to seeing how their God-given character shapes who they are and how they respond to learning and life.

An American scholar and philosopher, James K. A. Smith, asked this question of the process of learning:

*What if (Christian) education was primarily concerned with shaping our hopes and passions – our visions of the 'good life' – and not merely about the dissemination of data and information as inputs to our thinking? What if the primary work of (Christian) education was the transforming of our imagination rather than the saturation of our intellect?*

Smith sees that the teaching and learning practices found in most schools have a deeper purpose than just the transference of 'data and information'. He would say that the purpose of learning, and the process of learning, is rooted in finding our role in God's Story.

### 1. Curriculum: *the content of what we teach.*

Learning deepens when students discover the Creator's truth present in reality—in God's creation. Learning experiences are designed to provoke complex thinking, inspire beautiful work and form students into the character of Christ.

### 2. Instructional Practices: *how we design and organise learning experiences.*

Learning deepens when students are engaged as active participants—having rigorous conversations, making creative connections and constructing meaning together in accord with God's word.

### 3. Assessment: *what evidence of learning we choose to gather and how we gather it.*

Learning deepens when students are challenged to assume responsibility for their own learning. They work as if for God, and not for marks. Regular opportunities for reflection on work and character deepen our understanding of ourselves, our need for others and for God's grace.

### 4. Culture: *how we establish our values and practice them together in community.*

Learning deepens when the mission of the school is reflected in every aspect of school life. Practices are designed to continually focus and remind everyone in the community of the purpose of our being together: to love the Lord with all our hearts and to love our neighbour as ourselves. The classroom learning environment – the relationships, the arrangement of space, the celebration of student work—reflects this purpose.

It is our hope that you and your family are able to experience learning in this way at Chairo.

**Simon Matthews, Executive Principal**



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### David Grant – grandfather to the McLaren family

**Q.** What is your main voluntary role at Chairo?

**A.** I have just started helping with some maintenance jobs at the Traralgon Campus, particularly some refurbishments for the junior cubby. Mrs Duke approached me to see if I could help to make it a bit more practical for the students.

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

**A.** I have four grandkids at Chairo: three at Traralgon and one at Drouin. I have always liked to help out by volunteering and I currently volunteer weekly at the Baptist Church in their playgroup.

**Q.** What can you tell us about your family?

**A.** I have two kids, Tara and Daniel, and seven grandkids. This year my wife and I will celebrate our fiftieth wedding anniversary!

**Q.** What do you do to earn a living?

**A.** I have been retired for seven years, but before that I worked for 19 years as an Emergency Services Officer at Loy Yang.

**Q.** What do you do in your spare time?

**A.** I own a yacht and love to go sailing. I also like kayaking, running and photography. I help out each year with the ESA sailing camp.

**Q.** What are your favourite travel/holiday destinations?

**A.** I love Australia as there is so much to see. We have done a few caravanning trips around Queensland, Tasmania, South Australia and Victoria.

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

**A.** My former pastor, Charles Lazaro, is a brilliant man and strong Christian.

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

**A.** I was in the merchant navy for a few years in my teens. I am from Lewis, an island of the Outer Hebrides archipelago in Scotland. I migrated from Scotland by myself when I was twenty.

## PARENT PARTNERSHIP

If you have been involved at Chairo for any length of time, you will have come across the phrase 'partnership with families'.

These words are embedded within our mission statement and it's a phrase that I often use when talking with parents and guardians. But what does it mean to provide education in *partnership with families*?

Historically, the school's founding parents were looking to create a school that held parent involvement at its core in two key ways:

- They believed that God has given parents the responsibility to raise and educate their children, but they understood the benefits of having professional teachers, combined resources and the opportunities that a community of learners could give. Therefore, they started a school where Christ was at the centre of education and they could be intrinsically involved.
- They wanted to create a school that was as an extension of the home, where the values and beliefs taught at home would be upheld and promoted at school.

Chairo still holds to these core concepts. We value and promote parent involvement and partnership. We rely on parents keeping us up-to-date with medical and personal details, we seek assistance in classes and on camps and excursions, we are governed by a parent board via our association, we request assistance with homework, and we want our parents to talk to us about any issues or concerns.

Of course, Chairo also has its role to fill in the partnership. We endeavour to provide excellence in Christ-centred education. We aim to communicate with families in a timely manner through reports, news items and parent/teacher interviews.

We also seek parental support in relation to learning and behavioural needs. We will get you involved in discipline issues because we know that issues are best resolved when home and school are on the same page.

On a day-to-day basis, there are lots of ways to partner with us and help your child reach their full potential. These include:

- Reading. Yep, those readers and sight words that come home daily are super important—nothing beats practice. As your child grows older, continue to read. Exposure to words helps build vocabulary, comprehension and their own love of reading.
- Setting up for success. It might seem obvious, but it can also be tricky. The little routine things like packing a healthy lunch, reading notices to stay informed and encouraging good sleeping habits make a world of difference to learning.
- Critiquing words. At times, it is tempting to reassure our children with words like, 'I was never any good at that either'. But what might this be saying without us

realising it? That I don't think my child can accomplish this? Please be assured that teachers seek to set work that is meaningful and appropriate for your child, so perhaps try 'struggling together'. On the way to soccer practice, play around with story ideas or brainstorm words for Big Write. And if it is tricky, try words like, 'Let's see if we can conquer this tough one together'. Then, of course, celebrate the success!

- Volunteering. Are you signed up as a Chairo volunteer? To ensure our children are safe, Chairo requires parents to become registered volunteers before they can enter a classroom or go on a camp or excursion. The process isn't difficult and we would love to add to our bank of parent helpers.
- Communication. Please come and see your child's classroom teacher if you have any questions or concerns. Often big issues can be avoided with a timely conversation or heads up.

There are dozens of ways that you could be involved with your child's education. We look forward to partnering with you on this journey throughout 2019.

**Christine Hibma, Head of Teaching (Leongatha)**

## 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](mailto:enrolments@chairo.vic.edu.au).

## 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.

## WRITING SKILLS

Writing is such an important skill to develop. Amongst other things, writing:

- is an artistic endeavour that provides an outlet for your God-given creativity;
- prompts readers to think, imagine, explore, critique and empathise;
- is portable and permanent, and makes your thinking visible;
- helps readers move easily among facts, inferences and opinions without getting confused;
- fosters the ability to explain a complex position to readers, and to yourself;
- preserves ideas so you can reflect upon them later;
- stimulates you to extend a line of thought beyond your first impressions or gut responses; and
- can be used to express the complexity of who God has created you to be.

(adapted list from Marquette University: [marquette.edu/wac/WhatMakesWritingSoImportant.shtml](http://marquette.edu/wac/WhatMakesWritingSoImportant.shtml))

Writing is important and loads of fun, but it is also a complex skill. Formation of ideas, structures of different writing styles, grammar and punctuation ... these are all sub-skills required to write well.

And like other complex skills, such as playing the piano or learning to swim, writing is something that requires lots of practice. Thankfully there are plenty of tricks and tools that can be taught, along with programs like VCOP and Big Write that provide opportunities to gain that necessary practice.

This term, the SOAR program at the Leongatha Campus has been designed to supplement and extend the Big Write narrative tools of students with Ten Tools for Making Your Writing Great. Unique voice, similes, metaphors, contrast, specific sensory detail, use of symbols, character, structure, technique and surprise are all tools that have been added to their Writing Tool Kit.

Here are some examples from SOAR using the 'tension' tool. The idea is to describe around a given object; holding tension by 'showing not telling'. Each piece describes the same thing. Can you guess the object?

*It sits there, shifting between rage and calm. It passes over, voice booming, and then collapses in upon itself.*

**Stephen, Year 7**

*Swamps of water rolling in, drowning towns in darkness. The barrier between the known and the unknown. Black horses prance trampling all below, but swept away within a moment.*

**Tash, Year 10**

*It wisps away like a forgotten dream. None will be the same. It can never be replaced. Unpredictable like the future.*

**Amaya, Year 9**

*A cold diamond, changing the summer with memories – trapped and sad.*

**Ben, Year 3**

*A cold, wistful shape of memory and imagination.*

*A shape-shifter; a castle, a dragon, a land of your own.*

**Meg, Year 4**

*A dragon soaring weightless in its natural habitat.*

*Ever-changing, as soft as its prey, then becoming the prey. Now a ram... soon something else. Breathing out soft, cold diamonds.*

**Ben, Year 6**

(If you said 'a cloud' ... top marks.)

More examples of exemplary writing from Big Write and SOAR, along with Mr Collier's attempt at a Big Write, are currently on display in the administration foyer.

Have a look, and be inspired!

**Christine Hibma, Head of Teaching & Learning (Leongatha)**

## CANBERRA CAMPS

This term, students from three Chairo campuses (Year 7 at Pakenham and Years 7 & 8 at Leongatha and Traralgon) have undertaken education tours of our national capital. Year 7 students from the Drouin Campus will be travelling to Canberra early in Term 2.

During their time in Canberra, the Pakenham, Leongatha and Traralgon students were involved in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit our national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist with the camp costs, the government is contributing \$30 per student (paid directly to the school) under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program.



## DROUIN & DROUIN EAST

### Noah Carmody

Last year we started our fundraising for Noah's mobility needs. We wish to say thank you to the Chairo teachers and wider school community for your support and generosity. Noah is now settling well into his new-found freedom and dignity. With his new chair and new vehicle, he now has access to the community and his quality of life has been lifted.

**Chris & Shauna Carmody**







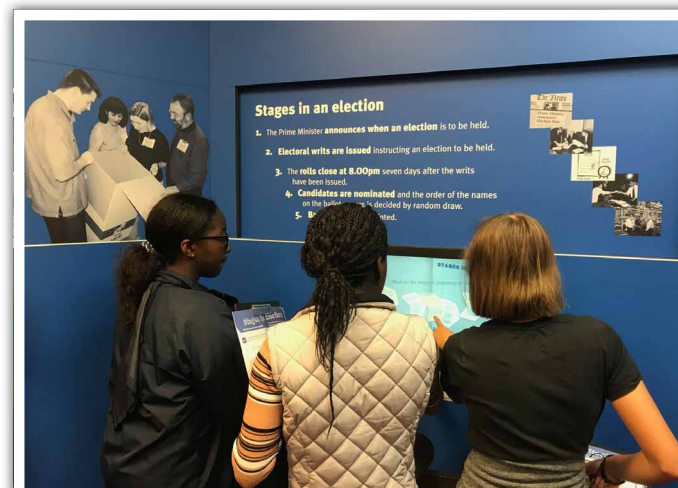
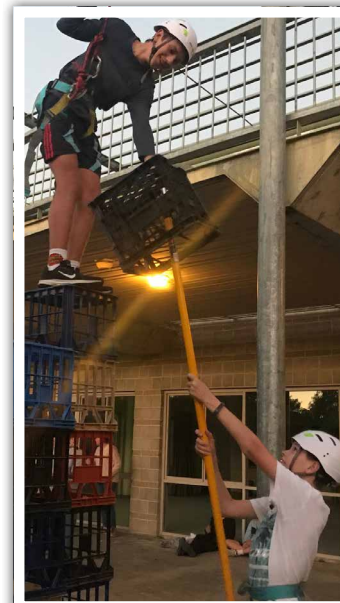


## TRARALGON

### GRIP Leadership Conference

Jesse, Sidney, Maddi and I attended the GRIP Leadership Conference recently. I think that it was a great learning experience for us as leaders. Our main focus was that being a leader isn't about position or power but more about the people and getting to know them. Attending the conference increased my knowledge of how to be and become a better leader.

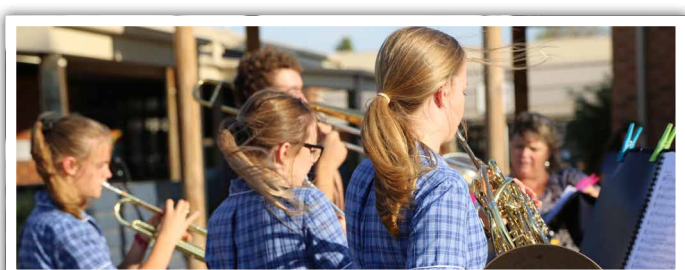
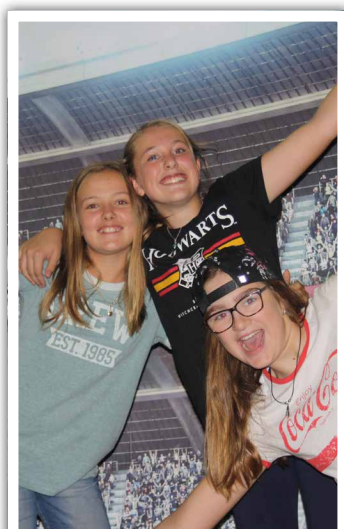
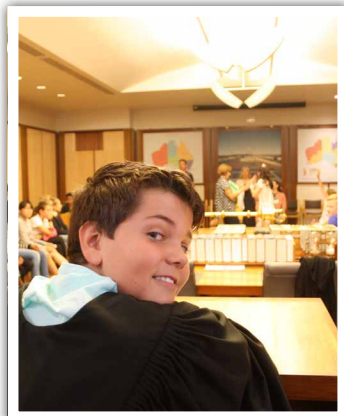
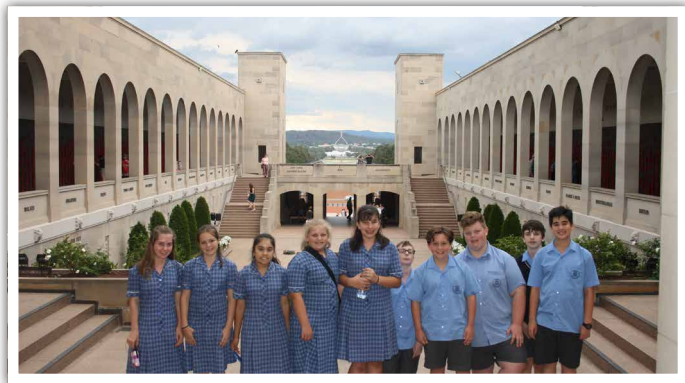
Allie, Year 8



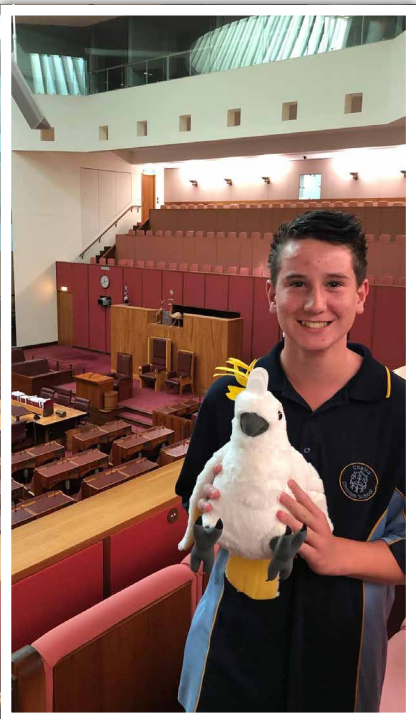


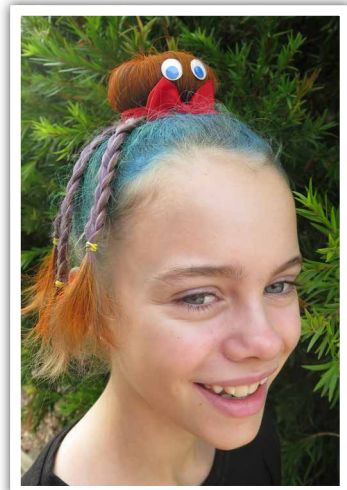
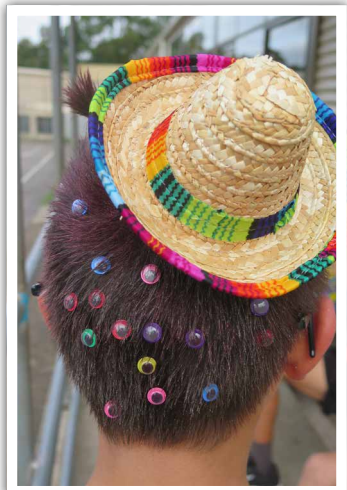
PAKENHAM





LEONGATHA





## 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](https://facebook.com/chairo.drouin)

[facebook.com/chairo.leongatha](https://facebook.com/chairo.leongatha)

[facebook.com/chairo.pakenham](https://facebook.com/chairo.pakenham)

[facebook.com/chairo.traralgon](https://facebook.com/chairo.traralgon)

## Buy and Sell

Have you joined the Chairo Buy and Sell group on Facebook? [bit.ly/chairobuyandsell](https://bit.ly/chairobuyandsell).

# NEW SCHOOL APP AVAILABLE NOW

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