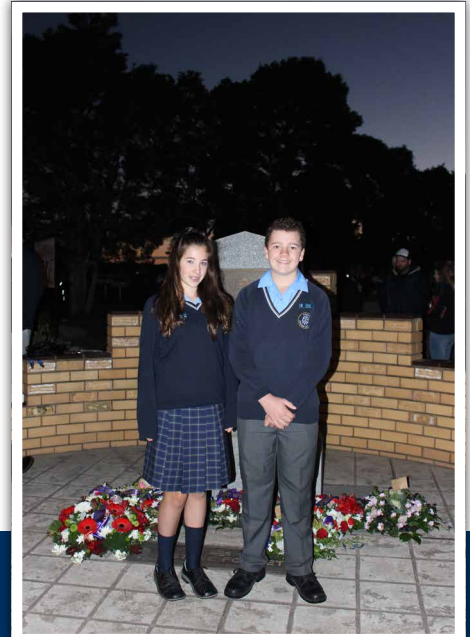


2 May 2019

# Rejoice!



Chairo  
Christian School

*Greater love has no one than this:  
to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

**John 15:13 NIV**

## HEADING TO THE POLLS

Welcome back to Term 2. I trust that you and your family had an opportunity for rest and re-creation over the term break.

I also trust that you were able to celebrate afresh the good news of Easter—the truth that God loves us and this world so much that He chose to give His Son to make us and all things new!

You will be aware that Australia is heading to the polls. Later this term, on Saturday 18 May, we will have another opportunity to elect people to represent us nationally, and to lead our country politically.

While this might cause you to groan, and perhaps consider less-than-gracious responses, there are some things that we can celebrate as this event draws near.

Firstly, as Christians, we can participate fully in this process with hope and assurance. We can do so, not because of our country, or form of government, or quality of politicians, but because we believe that there is a power and authority higher than our government—God! In the words of Colin Buchanan, we believe that Jesus is the boss!

God's story, the Bible, tells us clearly that He is the Lord of all the world, and of everything and everyone in it (take a look at Psalm 24 if you want to be assured of this).

We can participate in the upcoming election knowing that God reigns and rules over it, and over anyone who is elected. This is a wonderful assurance!

Secondly, we can be thankful that we live in a country where we are invited to participate in free and fair elections. Pew Research Centre ([pewresearch.org](http://pewresearch.org)) claims that nearly six-in-ten governments across the world are democracies, and that this is a post-World War II high. That's good news, but it also means that over one-third of countries do not allow their citizens to play an active and just part in electing those who rule over them.

As Australians, we might feel that 'we are always at the polls' or that we don't like what we get when we do have elections, but let us instead rejoice that we live in a country where we can fairly and rightly participate as citizens in this vital process.

Finally, let's be encouraged that we have such free and ready access to information about those people and parties that we are asked to consider as part of the election. There are any number of means by which we, as enquiring citizens, can access information about the policies and preferences of those running for election.

What a privilege—and responsibility—we have as Christians in Australia, to find out this information, seeking to make choices that are consistent with who God calls us—and all creation—to be.

As this important date draws close, let's be proactive in rejoicing that God reigns, that He allows us to live in

a democratic country, and that we have the opportunity and privilege to wisely cast our votes.

Over the remaining editions of *Rejoice!* this term, I look forward to exploring further with you how governments of all persuasions impact our ability to provide Christian education in a faithful and consistent manner.

**Simon Matthews, Executive Principal**

## CLAY TOPIC: HOSPITALITY

For the first half of Term 2, students will be looking at **hospitality** in their classroom devotions.

Hospitality is acceptance in action. In the Bible, hospitality involves sharing a meal with others in our house. And even today, there's something supernaturally powerful about the simple act of sharing a meal with people who we would not be sharing a meal with if it were not for Christ's work in us.

Nevertheless, we will not teach students *how* to practise hospitality because that is up to individual families and parents. Rather, under God we will be seeking to give our students a *heart* for hospitality—a love for God, for God's people and for the lost that results in a desire to practise acceptance in action.

The Bible gives four reasons why God's people should practice hospitality:

- Our hospitality to others is a reflection of God's hospitality towards, and acceptance of, us. *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.* **Psalm 23** (see also Luke 14:14–24)
- Our hospitality to others is an act of worship towards our God. In Isaiah 58:5–7, God makes clear that the *acceptable* service He requires is that His people *share their food with the hungry and provide the poor wanderer with shelter, clothe the naked and not turn away from their own flesh and blood.*
- Hospitality is a reflection of the reality that in Christ, all God's people are in the same family. The Apostle John, writing about Christians, says: *We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people so that we may work together for the truth.* **3 John 8**
- We practice hospitality with outsiders and strangers in order to demonstrate and model God's compassion for the lost. Jesus tells His people to *invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.* **Luke 14:13–14**

In today's world of social 'media and virtual 'relationships', face-to-face hospitality models to our children what real relationships can and should be. And it models the power and the joy of face-to-face interaction.

May God equip (and embolden!) us all to practice hospitality, to His glory.

**Medon Loupis, Senior Chaplain**



## THE IMPORTANCE OF SPEAKING UP

A study called Our Safety Counts was commissioned and funded by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

As part of this study, children and young people were asked who they might turn to if they were confronted by a scenario where an adult or another young person was demonstrating grooming-like behaviour, or behaviour that made them feel uncomfortable.

The four most frequent responses to this question were friend (59%), mother (54%), father (34%) and teacher (26%).

The fact that such a large percentage would tell a friend raises the question of what a friend might do when one of their peers talked to them about something like this. If you are a parent, what would your child do if they were the friend?

There are good reasons why children and young people would tell a friend, but their friends are probably not the best people to ensure that appropriate action is taken.

We would like to think that every student at Chairo, when told something as serious as this by a friend, would say some combination of the following:

- That is very important. We have to tell someone; we can't possibly keep it a secret.
- That is very important. Come with me now and we'll talk with a teacher (or Head of School, Principal, Chaplain, etc.).

In times like this, the safety of a child is at stake. The seriousness of the situation is such that other children and young people should not be expected to keep the information confidential and carry it themselves.

Please encourage your children to do the above if one of their friends talks to them about a situation where their safety could be in jeopardy.

If you or your child needs to talk with a Child Protection Officer, here are their names and contact details:

<b>Whole School</b>	Michelle Sharp	0472 845 156
<b>Drouin</b>	Judy Linossier	0407 958 062
	Mandy Smith	0427 003 345
	Peter Stebbins	5625 4600 ext 174
<b>Drouin East</b>	Judy Linossier	0407 958 062
	Di McAllister	0407 287 643
<b>Leongatha</b>	Anthony Collier	0412 490 724
	Larissa Hipwell	5662 4355 ext 126
<b>Pakenham</b>	Peter Wells	0484 081 805
	Di McAllister	0407 287 643
	Peter Stebbins	5942 5632 ext 367
<b>Traralgon</b>	Keryn deBruyn	0408 527 027
	Di McAllister	0407 287 643

If a child is in immediate danger, the police should be called immediately on 000.

## MANAGING SCREEN TIME

Should there be limits on how much screen time our children have? Does school work count as screen time? These are just some of the questions that parents are asking. There is more to managing screen time than just turning off a device. How can we ensure that the time our children spend on devices (or in front of the television) is time well spent?

*The Digital Invasion*, written by Dr Archibald D Hart and Dr Sylvia Hart Frejd is a great resource for parents who want to read more about the subject of how the abundance of digital access is shaping us and our relationships. In this book, there are six main themes to consider in raising young people to use technology with discernment.

- **Be Alert.** Know what your children are engaging with. Talk to them and learn from them. Don't always assume that they will make wise decisions when it comes to choices regarding technology. Be aware of the tell-tale signs of too much media use—tiredness, sore neck/wrists, and irritability when asked about their online habits.
- **A Safe Home Environment.** Regularly have discussions with your children about these important issues. Let them know that they can talk to you about anything. It is important that they trust you to take their concerns seriously and are able to chat with you regularly.
- **Establish Good Media Habits.** Set a good example and model discernment based on your biblical perspective and attitude towards media and technology. Remember that you are the parent and are able to set the rules and limits on screen time.
- **Keep your Children Accountable.** Have your children within eyesight when using technology. Don't allow devices or televisions in their bedroom. Have them share their passwords and be their 'friend' on social media platforms.
- **Have Guidelines and Stick to Them.** Don't be afraid to set some rules around screen time and then follow through. Have the discussion as a family as to what constitutes screen time and consider the use of apps that block accessibility.
- **Have Alternatives.** Ensure children are involved in other recreational activities. Sports, hobbies, books and board games are some of the alternatives to playing video games and surfing the net. Enjoy time as a family.

Like most things, screen time can have both positive and negative consequences. The challenge is to set the boundaries and find the balance in what works for you and your family.

**Jane Ward, Head of Teaching and Learning (Pakenham)**

## NAPLAN & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

It can be challenging to see how something such as NAPLAN (National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy) is relevant in a Christ-centred education.

First and foremost, it is important to remember Romans 13:13, which says: 'Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.'

We choose to honour the testing that has been put in place by our government, knowing that by honouring the government we also honour God. But there is more to NAPLAN than just obedience.

NAPLAN provides us—both parents and teachers—with a helpful snapshot of how students are progressing, allowing us to better identify how God has made them. This allows both parents and teachers to be more intentional in the way they engage with and equip students.

Parents receive their child's results, telling them how (in comparison with the average) their child has performed. It is helpful to know what areas your child excels in and where they are finding the learning harder.

Teachers have confidential access to this information, plus data that shows how Years 5, 7 and 9 students in their classes have grown since the last time they sat NAPLAN. This helps teachers identify areas of learning that may need more or less attention, and to respond accordingly.

However, it must be remembered that NAPLAN results reflect a single test that happens on a single day. Performance can be impacted by things such as not feeling well, not having slept well the night before, experiencing test-day nerves, or even just having an 'off' day.

NAPLAN is not the final word on who the child is. Rather, it gives us another way of asking 'who is this child that God has given us?' as we seek to see our students transformed.

**Shelly Beamish, Head of Teaching & Learning (Drouin)**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The agenda and other information regarding this year's AGM will be distributed tomorrow by email to all Chairo families and staff members. The AGM will be held on Thursday 23 May, commencing at 7.30 pm, in the theatre within the brand new Chairo Cultural Centre at the Drouin Campus.

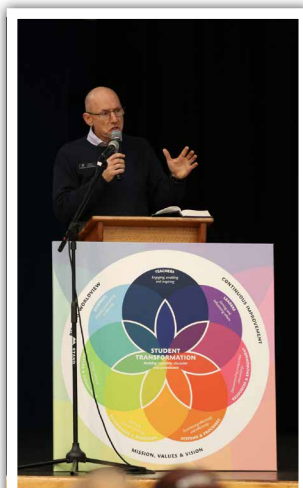


## FARM WORLD

Thank you to the students and staff members who served on the Chairo stand at Farm World during the recent school holidays. In addition to speaking to interested families about Chairo, and providing literature about our various campuses, we were able to provide free popcorn, balloons and face painting.

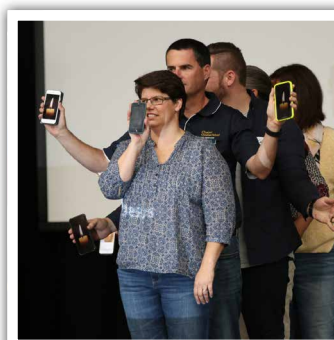






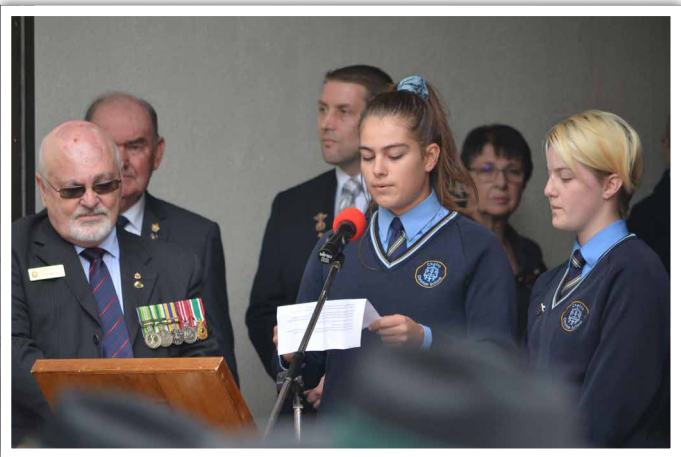
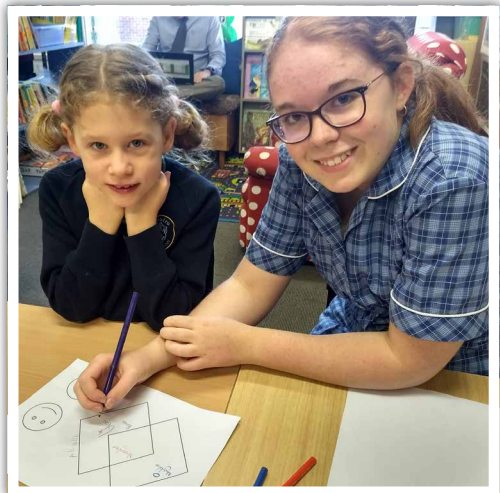
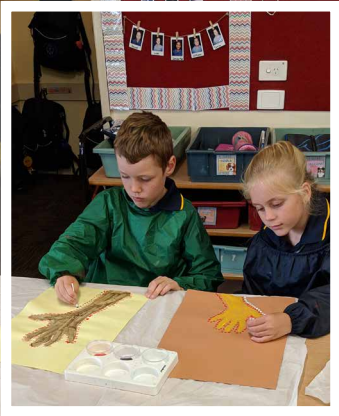
## STAFF TRAINING

The day prior to students returning for Term 2, staff members from across Chairo participated in a full day of biblical teaching and training in the hall at the Drouin Campus. *Bible in the Belly of the School* was delivered by Dr Rod Thompson, Principal and Senior Lecturer at the National Institute of Christian Education.



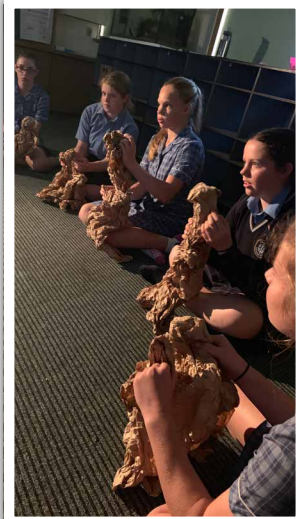
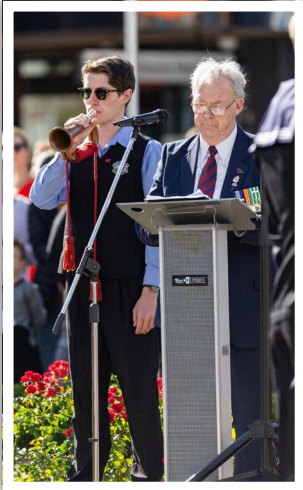


LEONGATHA



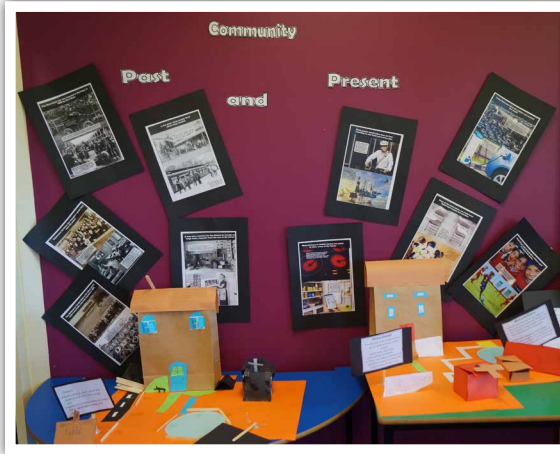


DROUIN & DROUIN EAST





## TRARALGON



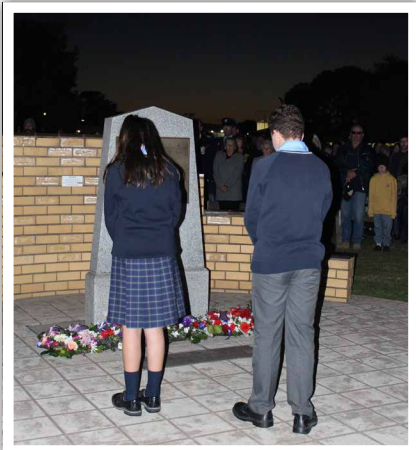
Josh Wright, who graduated in 2017 and participated in the Australian Defence Force's GAP year program last year, shared with students at our Anzac Day service last week.

'It's always a fantastic opportunity to teach younger generations about the importance of the Anzac spirit and some of the defining moments in our country's history', said Josh. 'I was greatly humbled and honoured to be asked to talk on such an important day.'





PAKENHAM



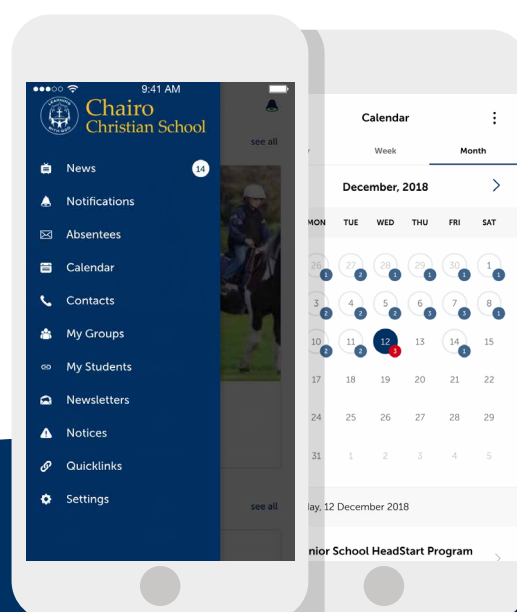


# NEW SCHOOL APP AVAILABLE NOW

for iPhone, Android & iPad



**Chairo**  
Christian School



## 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), Hannah Sollberger 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.

## Buy and Sell

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

## Linc News

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

## Contact Details

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

## 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)  
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