

25 October 2019

# Rejoice!



BATS (business & technology students) from 2000 to 2019 attended a reunion to celebrate 20 years since the program began at the Drouin Campus.



Chairō  
Christian School

*The Greek word transliterated as 'chairō' means  
'to rejoice, to be glad, to be full of joy'.*

## PARTNERSHIP AT CHAIRO

It seems that Term 4 has only just commenced but so much has already happened at each campus, including the final day of formal schooling for Year 12 students at both Drouin and Pakenham.

It was wonderful to see so many parents/guardians, grandparents and other family members present on these special days, and to witness our graduating students celebrating the occasions in such fun, creative, thoughtful, inclusive and respectful ways.

### Values Videos

I'm not sure whether you have viewed the videos that we have been releasing since early last term via social media, the school website and Linc News. A number of staff members and parents from across the school have been sharing about Chairo's core values, and how they seek to understand and live them out in their daily lives.

If you haven't yet seen them, you can find them on our Facebook pages or by visiting our Youtube Channel ([youtube.com/user/ChairoChristian](https://youtube.com/user/ChairoChristian)).

### Partnering with Parents

One of my favourite videos is the one where two Chairo parents speak about what partnership means to them. Mark and Melissa reflected on what it means to partner together with the school in seeking to nurture and educate their children.

Partnership has a particular interest for us at Chairo, because that was a key element for those families who prayed, planned and sacrificed so much to start our school.

As committed Christian families, those pioneers realised that the task they had been given to train their children in God's ways, in every aspect of life, was not something they were capable of doing alone. They needed God's help, through His word and spirit, as well as the church and their close friends, to ensure that they had what they needed to undertake such a task.

That understanding remains within our school today, and it is captured well when we say that 'we partner with parents as they seek to fulfil their God-given responsibility for the nurture and education of their children' (Chairo Values Statement).

### New Brochure

The Board of our school has sought to describe partnership in even clearer terms by releasing a new brochure titled *Partnership at Chairo*. This document clearly and succinctly describes how we commit together to:

- show respect to each other in the way we act, communicate and respond to each other;

- communicate effectively and wisely, in a timely and appropriate manner;
- proactively and constructively seek to solve problems together;
- seek to be 'peace-makers' in all of our relationships;
- fulfil the responsibilities that we each have by doing what we say we will do;
- do our individual parts to support and enable students to fulfil the expectations set at school; and
- respect Chairo and its Christian foundations.

Why not take a moment to view this new document for yourself? Printed copies will be available soon and it's also on our website at [chairo.vic.edu.au/pdf/Enrolment/Partnership%20at%20Chairo.pdf](https://chairo.vic.edu.au/pdf/Enrolment/Partnership%20at%20Chairo.pdf).

**Simon Matthews, Executive Principal**

## CLAY TOPIC – MERCY

'Is your speedometer working?'

I hope you are *never* asked that question (as I was) by a police officer who has just pulled you over!

I had cancer, and as a result of that cancer I had lost my job and we had no income coming in. I'd had to hand back my work car and a friend had kindly lent us a 20-year-old car with a speedometer (I had only just discovered!) that was not exactly accurate.

I was driving to the hospital for my daily radiotherapy treatment. I was in a 100 kph zone and my speedo had been showing 100 kph. The police officer told me that I had actually been doing 120 kph!

And he let me off. To this day, I have no idea why. I hadn't even told him about my cancer or that I was driving to the hospital for treatment.

Students are currently looking at **mercy** in their homeroom devotions. Whenever I think about mercy, I think back to that afternoon on the freeway south of Perth.

But it's not quite right that I do that, because what happened to me that day is *not* the greatest mercy I have received—not even close. The greatest mercy that I have received is when *God, who is rich in mercy, made me alive with Christ even when I was dead in transgressions* (Ephesians 2:4–5).

Students are learning that God is a God of mercy (Exodus 34:6), whose mercies are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22–24), and whose ultimate act of mercy was Jesus' death on the cross for us who do not deserve it: *While we were still sinners, Christ died for us* (Romans 5:8).

And students are learning that God requires His people to be merciful in response. We are looking at everyday, specific ways that we can be merciful in attitude and in action.

*Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy* (Matthew 5:7).

**Medon Loupis, Senior Chaplain**



## SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING & LEARNING AT TRARALGON

In a year of many and varied activities and opportunities to extend learning, we are pleased to see students excelling in many areas at the Traralgon Campus.

One recent opportunity to celebrate was the school musical, *Seussical Jr*, where all students from Prep to Year 8 worked together to produce an entertaining and enjoyable show. It was wonderful to see students being extended while working in their different areas of interest and skill, such as helping to create props, queueing the audio and coordinating the back stage, as well as singing, acting and dancing on stage.

A key academic focus area for the campus over the past two years has been student literacy, with a particular emphasis on writing. In 2018, we introduced VCOP (vocabulary, connectives, openers and punctuation). All classroom English teachers have had professional development in the program, and this year we have been using VCOP throughout Junior School and Middle School.

The Prep students have been preparing and sharing their 'Big Talks', which has been a lot of fun. It is important for students with their 'Big Writes' to talk about these at home with their parents, often being encouraged to discuss the prompt and think about a number of ways they could engage with the writing topic.

This has also seen a flow-on effect to the 'Cold Writes' in Years 3–6, with students responding to a prompt without parents or teachers providing guidance, and also in the 'Warm Writes' in Prep to Year 2, where students are provided with support and guidance as they write their assessment pieces.

The confidence and aptitude of our writers has been growing, and we are very pleased to see the early impact of the VCOP program. We hope the continuity provided by VCOP, with regard to expectations and even daily terminology, will continue to help support writing development throughout each child's schooling.

We continue with the SMART Spelling program, and the results in standardised testing have shown continued growth. Parent support in discussing the spelling words, particularly their meanings, helps students develop their vocabulary. For many students, the daily practice of writing their word list out at home has an impact, not only on the weekly spelling test but on the retention of how to spell the word in future weeks and months.

As we look forward to 2020, we will continue to run these literacy programs, and we are researching numeracy programs as a focus for future support and development of our quality teaching and learning program at Traralgon.

**Naomi Bakker, Assistant Principal (Traralgon)**

## A HEALTHY UNDERSTANDING OF WRONGDOING

Child safety at Chairo is approached in various ways, ranging from providing information about reporting abuse, to strategies to minimise the likelihood of abuse within the school context, to educating children about both dangerous and wise behaviour.

In a recently released report by the eSafety Commissioner, there is some consideration given to the attitudes of those responsible for 'image-based abuse'.

Perpetrators downplayed their actions in several ways, including 'minimisation (e.g. *I only shared it with a few friends*), victim blaming (e.g. *they shouldn't have sent the image to me in the first place*), and, in some cases, outright denial'. They showed little remorse for their actions and little empathy for their victims.

Our society can send confusing messages about things that are right and wrong. For serious things such as sexual abuse, we want to be able to say categorically that this is wrong.

However, for many other examples of behavioural variations, we want to preserve the freedom of individual choice. We argue for the need for empathy and yet we don't want to jeopardise self-esteem by an unhealthy emphasis on guilt.

Over the past couple of years at Chairo, we have sought to grow in our understanding of what it means to be 'peacemakers'.

Peacemakers are people who choose peace making options (e.g. *I will choose to approach that person who spoke rudely and seek to make things right*) as opposed to peace breaking options (e.g. *How dare they say that; I will make them pay*) or peace faking options (e.g. *That was horrible; I don't want them to be my friend anymore*).

One of the key principles in being a peacemaker is choosing to reflect on the things that we may have contributed to a conflict or damaging situation. It is a conscious choice to identify the impact of our actions, attitudes or comments.

Having a healthy understanding of our own wrongdoing is something that we aim to teach students at Chairo through the words and example of staff members.

If students (indeed, all of us) learn to face up to unwise things done in the smaller actions of life, and to realise the effects of those things on God and others, the result will be a greater capacity to accept responsibility when confronted by their/our own more dangerous behaviour.

**Simon Matthews, Executive Principal**

## ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING

There will be an important general meeting of the Association that operates Chairo Christian School on Thursday 14 November. This will be held in the theatre (The Balfour) at the Drouin Campus from 7.30 to 9.30 pm, followed by supper for those able to stay longer. All parents/guardians and staff members are invited and encourage to attend.

Our guest speaker will be Michelle Dempsey, who is the CEO of CEN (Christian Education National). Michelle Dempsey is a great supporter of Chairo and has had a long-term involvement in Christian education. She has taught all ages and served as a Deputy Principal and Principal. Michelle is passionate about Christian education, and about seeing teachers and students finding God in their learning.

The agenda will also include a devotion by a local pastor, Steve Jones; a report about the CEN ITEC Conference; acknowledgment of some departing, long-serving senior staff members; an update regarding the school's current financial position; presentation of the budget for 2020; the election of Board members and a segment about partnership at Chairo.

This will be Jeff Calway's final general meeting as a Board member, having served for the past ten years as Chairman (and for a further seven years previously). Three Chairo parents have been nominated for election to serve on the Board for three-year terms:

- Justin Groenewaldt (previously Chairo's HR Manager),
- Louise Hood (currently our Board Secretary)
- Brian Tucker (previously a Board member from 2009 to 2018)

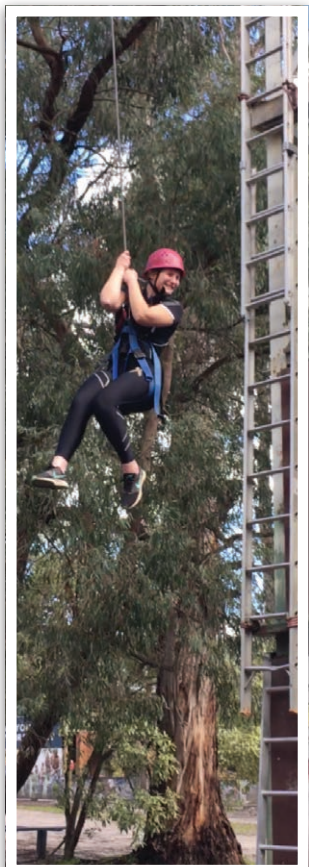
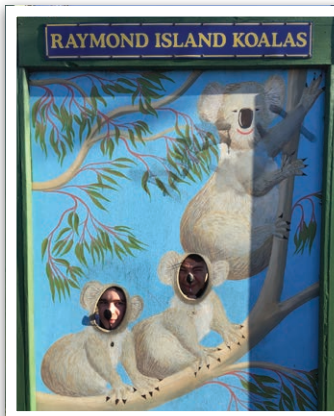
More information regarding the Board nominees, plus the agenda and other documents, will be distributed to all families and staff members by the end of October.

## SIBLING ENROLMENTS

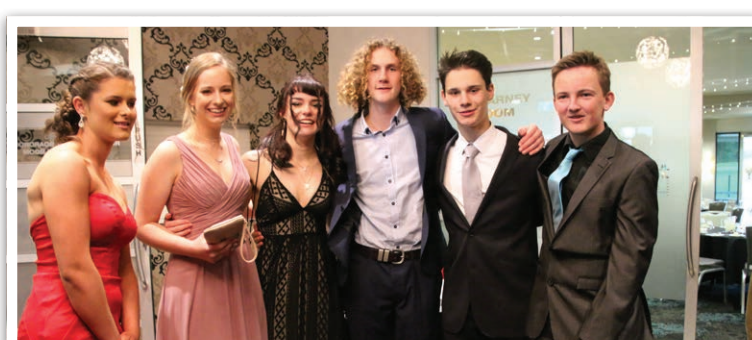
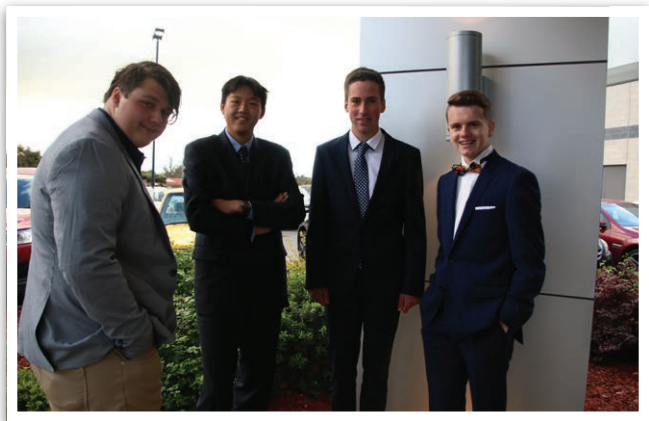
If you have younger children that you would like to enrol to commence at Chairo in 2020, 2021 or 2022—whether for K3 or K4 Kinder, Prep or other year levels—please email your enquiry to [enrolments@chairo.vic.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@chairo.vic.edu.au) or contact:

- Fiona Powell on 5625 4600 (Drouin East and Drouin)
- Hannah Sollberger on 5942 5632 (Pakenham)
- Wendy Nyhuis on 5662 4355 (Leongatha)
- Tonya Russell on 5173 0500 (Traralgon)

It is important that families do this as soon as possible so we can reserve a spot for you before offering places to new families.









## TRARALGON



### Operation Christmas Child

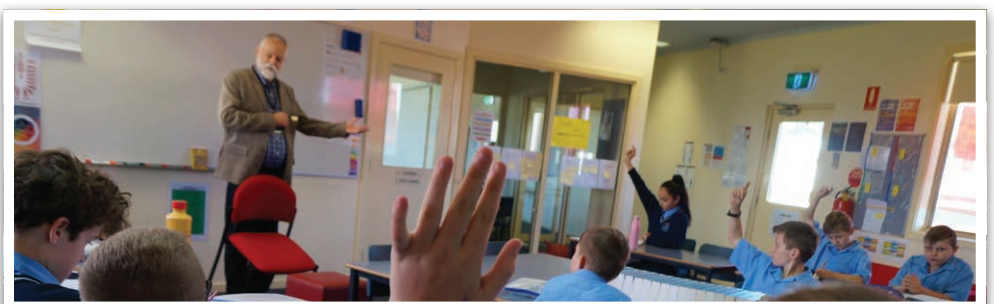
Chairo Traralgon took part in Operation Christmas Child this year, collecting boxes filled with gifts for international children in need.

A project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organisation, Operation Christmas Child's mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Sixteen filled shoeboxes were filled and sent off last week. Thank you to all the families who contributed to putting smiles on the faces of children around the world!

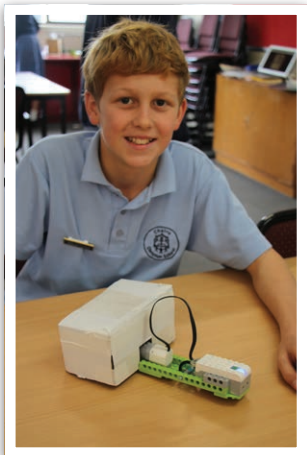








LEONGATHA







## Car Boot Sale & Market

Saturday 16 November  
8.30 am - 1.00 pm

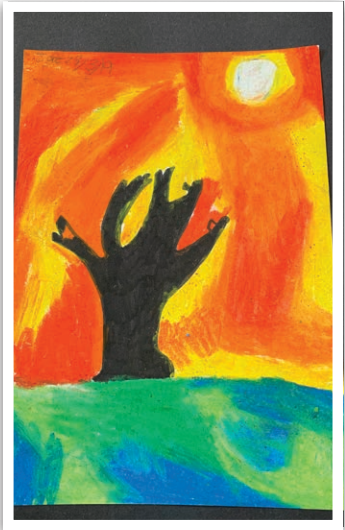
Chairo Christian School  
101 Horn Street Leongatha

Garage Sale  
**Trail**

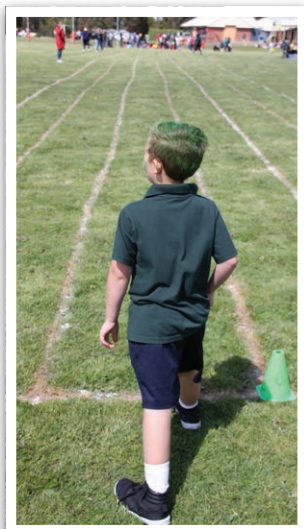
Free activities including jumping castle, fairy floss, popcorn and face-painting



PAKENHAM











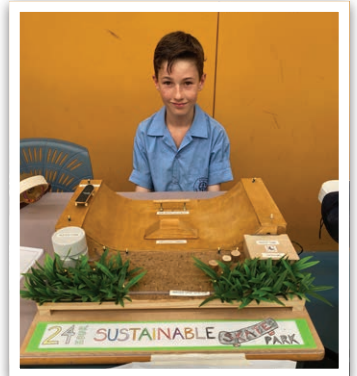
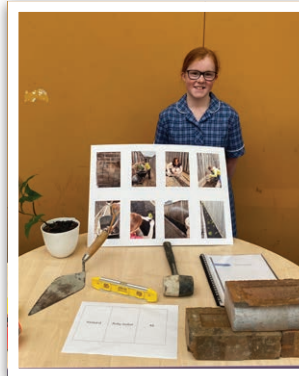
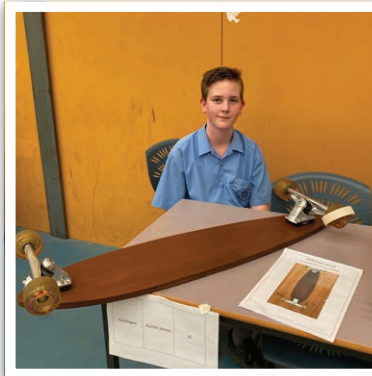














DROUIN & DROUIN EAST

