

6 February 2020

Rejoice!



Students at all campuses were excited about starting or returning to school.



Chairo
Christian School

*Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.*

Psalms 96:11 NIV



WELCOME TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

Welcome to a new school year and the first edition of *Rejoice!* for 2020. This occasional whole-school newsletter is designed to complement Linc News and the Chairō App as we aim to share important information in a timely manner with families.

New families may not be aware that Chairō is a Greek word meaning 'to rejoice'. In its wider form, it relates to 'being filled with joy, and taking pleasure in something'. At the start of this new school year, we have much to celebrate and be pleased about.

I trust that each Chairō family had some opportunity to be rested and renewed over recent weeks, and perhaps enjoyed some memory-making experiences together.

Of course, I am conscious of the disruption and upheaval that the bushfires around Australia have caused people, particularly those to the east of us. Whether we (or our friends or relatives) were directly impacted, or we simply watched the troubling scenes on our TVs, phones or computers, recent events certainly have an impact.



There were no doubt members of our school community fighting fires, defending properties and actively involved in other ways. I am aware that one of our teachers, who is in the army reserve, was called upon to serve as part of the relief effort. Thank you to every such person for your selfless service to others.

Despite the bushfires, I trust that you and your children were able to prepare for the start of school, and for a year of learning and growing. Whether it is your first or twenty-first year at Chairō, welcome! We are pleased you are with us!

If you've had a chance to visit the school in recent days, you will have seen that much work has gone into preparing for the new year. Across Chairō, we have had people working tirelessly since school concluded last year to build paths, develop playgrounds, refurbish buildings, paint, plant and publish.

There is also a lot of work that has gone on that may not be so obvious. While many of us have been enjoying a break from school, faithful staff members have been managing new enrolments, preparing publications, undertaking training, ordering new resources, setting up new computers and other technology, and more.

I wish to thank every person who has been committed over recent weeks to preparing our grounds, buildings and other resources so we can enjoy a fresh and friendly start to the school year. Their work and commitment are greatly valued!

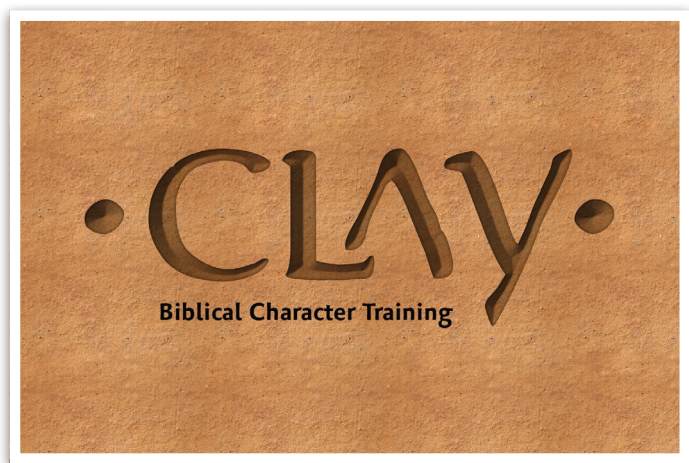
If you were a Chairō family in 2019, you will recall that we launched a new document titled *Partnership at Chairō*. If you have not yet had an opportunity to review this helpful pamphlet, I would encourage you to do so. It can be found on our website and is available at chairo.vic.edu.au/pdf/Enrolment/Partnership%20at%20Chairo.pdf. This document succinctly captures what we are committed to at Chairō—working in partnership to nurture and educate your children.

Each person at Chairō is looking forward to fulfilling that commitment throughout 2020. Whatever role we have at Chairō, we look forward to partnering with you as parents and guardians in the provision of Christ-centred education.

Simon Matthews, Executive Principal

Contact Details

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



CLAY TOPIC—IMAGE-BEARER

When I read the Bible [for the first time], I expected to be reprimanded. Instead, I was crowned.

Anna McGahan, *Metanoia*

One of the pillars of Chairo is Clay, our classroom devotions program. We want to teach our students not only Christian doctrine but Christian *character*, and our devotions program takes students through the Bible's teaching about two aspects of Christian character each term.

This year, we are starting with *image-bearer*. The Bible's glorious teaching is that, unlike everything else in all creation, humans—male and female, equally—are *like* God.

That, of course, is what an image does: it shows us something *about* the subject of the image. To be in God's image is to display to the rest of creation and each other, something about what God is like.

Students will learn that to be in God's image involves *relating* to one another and to God in love. It involves having the ability to *create* stunning things. And, under God, being in His image means that we are entrusted to *rule* over God's creation—under God, in ways that glorify Him and display His priorities and character.

But an image can be good or bad. A high-definition close-up photo is a more faithful, accurate image of me than a three-year-old's attempt at a portrait. In the same way, we can image God well (e.g. by using our God-given ability to *relate* in a way that helps others and points them to Jesus) or badly (e.g. by using our ability to *create* in a way that displeases God).

So, our students will be challenged to be *faithful* image-bearers: image-bearers who trust in Jesus and live, create, relate and rule in the way that God wants.

Ultimately, it is only through Jesus Christ that we can be fully and perfectly in God's image. In Christ, we are *transformed into God's image with ever-increasing glory* (2 Corinthians 3:18). May God enable and equip our students to be increasingly-faithful image-bearers in a world that so desperately needs to know Him.

Medon Loupis, Clay Editor

CHAIRO APP AND PARENT LOUNGE

Chairo App

Have you got the Chairo App yet? It can be downloaded at no cost from your App Store and works on Android and iOS devices.

The Chairo App is a convenient way for parents/guardians to access information, notify the school about absences, update contact details and medical information and provide approval for camps and excursions.

While anyone can download the Chairo App, only Chairo parents/guardians will be able to see information relating to their children, classes or groups.

To streamline access to multiple school systems, including the Chairo App, parents/guardians are able to use their school username to access all Chairo systems.

All new families should have received an email that explains how to set up a new password and provides the Parent Linc Quick Start Guide. If you have not received this email and/or cannot access the Chairo App, Linc or Parent Lounge, please contact the ICT Team.

ICT support for those using the Chairo App is available on 5625 0118 (8.30 am – 4.30 pm, Monday to Friday) or support@chairo.vic.edu.au.

Parent Lounge

All Chairo parents/guardians have access to Parent Lounge via the Chairo App and Linc. It is through Parent Lounge that families are able to update contact details and medical information, provide approval for camps and excursions, and make bookings for parent/teacher interviews.

Camps & Excursions

Parents/guardians are required to give permission through Parent Lounge for all camps, excursions, etc. You will receive an email notifying you when approval is required for an event.

While the Chairo App presents parents and guardians with convenient online access to information and permissions for each camp and excursion that their child is involved in, it will also be possible to access camps and excursions via Linc.

To access camps and excursions via the Chairo App:

- select Parent Lounge in Quicklinks; and then
- view Tours/Excursions from the Parent Lounge home screen.

To access camps and excursions via Linc:

- select Parent Lounge from the left side menu; and then
- view Tours/Excursions from the Parent Lounge home screen.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Rob Bruce – Board Chairman

Q. Why did you choose to serve at Chairo as a Board member?

A. Chairo has been part of our lives for over thirty years. My wife Jemima started at Drouin East back in the early-ish days and then our own daughters started at Chairo in 2009 when we moved back to the area from Albury. Several years later, Steve McAllister asked me to join the Board and, after much conversation and deliberation, we felt that this was a way that we could contribute to the school.

Q. What can you tell us about your family?

A. Jemima and I met at Leongatha Christian School (now Chairo Leongatha) and have four beautiful daughters: Emily, Olivia, Amy and Jessica. Emily completed Year 12 at Pakenham last year and will be studying Paramedicine at Monash this year. The other three girls transferred from Pakenham to Drouin this year as we are building and moving to Drouin during 2020.

Q. What do you do to earn a living?

A. I run my own business as a Network Solution Architect, designing data centres and networks for large corporates. Keeping up with the pace of technology and hackers is one of my ever-present challenges!

Q. What do you do in your spare time?

A. I have had a long interest in astronomy, having built a few telescopes from my teen years. I used to play trombone in my teen years, but these days I enjoy playing bass and drums.

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

A. The people who inspire me are the ones who will help out at the drop of a hat, are genuine and will be there for you anytime, anywhere. Oh wait, I think I just described my wife ...

Q. Do you have a favourite Bible verse?

A. My favourite Bible verse is Romans 10:9, which says '...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and

believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved'. I love the simplicity of the gospel and to me that spells it out.

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

A. When I originally built my 29.3" telescope (29.3 wide and about 8 feet tall) back in 2002, it was amongst the ten largest amateur telescopes in Australia.

GOVERNANCE NEWS

Board Members

The Association that operates each campus of Chairo is governed by Board members who are elected by and from the full members of the Association. The Board this year consists of Rob Bruce (Chairman), Melissa Rumble (Vice Chair), Louise Hood (Secretary), Marcus van Heijst (Treasurer), Mark Cutchie and Justin Groenewaldt, plus Simon Matthews (Executive Principal) and Roger Simons (Business Manager) as ex-officio, non-voting members.

Board Meetings

The first Board meeting for the year will be held on Thursday 13 February at the Drouin Campus. Throughout the year, the Board will meet at each campus. Board members would greatly appreciate the prayer support of the school community as they meet and make important strategic and financial decisions during 2020.

General Meetings

Chairo holds two Association general meetings each year. The Annual General Meeting to be held in The Balfour at the Drouin Campus on Thursday 28 May and all parents/guardian and staff members are encouraged to attend. Minutes of the general meeting held in November last year are available at chairo.vic.edu.au/pdf/dl/Chairo-GM-Minutes-Nov-2019.pdf.

Full Membership

Current Chairo parents/guardians who are Christians and have had at least one child attending the school in Prep or above for six months or more are invited to consider applying to become full (i.e. voting) members of the Association. The process involves completion of an application form and then a short interview with a couple of Board members. Please email Caroline Weatherhead (cweatherhead@chairo.vic.edu.au) if you would like an application form.

Governance at Chairo

Confused about membership, the Board and how Chairo is governed? There's a helpful booklet on the Governance page of the school website at chairo.vic.edu.au/pdf/Enrolment/Governance%20at%20Chairo%20Booklet.pdf.



SCHOOL PORTRAIT PHOTOS

All families with children in Prep to Year 12 should have received an email regarding this year's portrait photos of students, with an attachment that gives details of dates, packages and ordering process. If you haven't received this email, please contact Reception at any campus.

For this year's photos, we have decided to use Tenielle Murray Photography. A mum at our Pakenham Campus, Tenielle is a lifestyle photographer with a passion for working with children and families.

Taking photos of every student across our five campuses is a significant undertaking but we are confident that Tenielle will achieve excellent results for families this year. Her desire is to take all photos outdoors (weather permitting) and she is committed to capturing the best possible image of each student.

Tenielle's packages are simple and not expensive, and she is offering high resolution downloads as part of some packages or as a stand-alone option.

Families wishing to have a sibling photo taken are asked to note that the cut-off date for these orders is earlier than for the individual photos. Those families with children at multiple campuses may choose the campus at which they wish to have a sibling photo taken.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

As announced recently via Linc News, it is now recommended that parents and guardians should ensure that any family member returning from mainland China (not just Hubei Province), who was there on or after 1 February 2020, be isolated at home and should not attend school until 14 days after they were last in mainland China.

If any members of your family meet the above criteria, you and your children should not attend school or enter school property (including campus uniform shops) until 14 days after you were last in mainland China.

If you have any questions related to the coronavirus, please call the Department of Health and Human Services on 1300 651 160. If you have any questions regarding Chairo's position in relation to the virus, please do not hesitate to contact the office at your child's campus.

Thank you again for your support in ensuring that Chairo remains a safe and healthy school community.

FAMILY ZONE

All parents and guardians should now have received an email from the Family Zone Team inviting you to activate your account. For assistance, contact Family Zone's Support Team at support@familyzone.com or refer to Chairo's Cyber Safety Hub hosted by Family Zone at familyzone.com/chairovic.

CHILD PROTECTION OFFICERS

At Chairo, we have Child Protection Officers at each campus. They are available to staff members, students, families and external agencies to discuss concerns for the safety and wellbeing of any of our students.

They support the person disclosing the concern and the student involved, and also assist agencies as requested during any investigation. It is not the job of a Child Protection Officer to investigate allegations and determine outcomes, but rather to report concerns to the appropriate agency.

Any member of the Chairo community who has concerns relating to the emotional, physical or sexual abuse or neglect of a Chairo student should make contact with any one of our Child Protection Officers (regardless of the campus at which they work). If the first one you attempt to contact doesn't answer, please try another.

Note: if a child is in immediate danger, please call the police immediately on 000.

Whole School	Michelle Sharp	0472 845 156
	Judy Linossier	0407 958 062
	Mandy Smith	0427 003 345
	Peter Stebbins	5625 4600 ext 174
Drouin East	Judy Linossier	0407 958 062
	Di McAllister	0407 287 643
Leongatha	Christine Hibma	0490 027 206
	Larissa Hipwell	5662 4355 ext 126
	Shelley Hermens	0402 114 616
Pakenham	Peter Wells	0484 081 805
	Di McAllister	0407 287 643
	Peter Stebbins	5942 5632 ext 367
Traralgon	Keryn de Bruyn	0408 527 027
	Larissa Hipwell	5173 0500 ext 214

OUTLOOK MAGAZINE

Outlook 2019 is currently at the printers and will arrive soon. Watch out for your copy to come home via a school bag in the next week or so.

CANTEENS

Menus and price lists for 2020 for canteens at Drouin, Drouin East and Pakenham, plus the lunch order menu for Traralgon, are available at chairo.vic.edu.au/canteen.

Linc News

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

DUXES FOR 2019

Congratulations to all students who completed Year 12 at Chairo last year. We pray that each one will have a successful 2020, whether that involves study, work, travel or other pursuits. Jacob York and Grace Van Rossen were the duxes of 2019 at Drouin and Pakenham respectively.

Jacob York (Drouin)

Jacob York was pleasantly surprised to discover that he was the 2019 dux at Drouin. With good results in all subjects, including scaled scores of 45 in Physical Education and 43 in Indonesian, Jacob achieved an excellent ATAR of 94.35.

A key to Jacob's success was making sure that he put in lots of work throughout the year, rather than having to learn content during the exam period.

When asked what advice he would give to other students about tackling the VCE years, Jacob offered: 'Take a day off each week. For me, I didn't do any school work on Sundays, regardless of what exams or sacs I had coming up. It was a day that I looked forward to and gave me an opportunity to take a break and be refreshed.'

Principal Judy Linossier explained: 'Jacob's very impressive results are testament to his diligence, commitment, excellent study habits and eagerness to learn. He is a student of high integrity who served our school

community well and displayed a selfless attitude. Jacob demonstrated a balanced approach to his schooling.'

Grace Van Rossen (Pakenham)

Grace Van Rossen was up early and feeling quite anxious about her VCE results on the day they were released. However, her anxiety soon turned to relief when she discovered that she had achieved an excellent ATAR of 95.75, and that she was the 2019 dux at Pakenham.

Grace studied English, English Literature, Art, Visual Communication & Design and History. Commenting on her achievement, Mr Wells said, 'Grace has been an exemplary student—dedicated yet balanced, ambitious yet humble. She is a creative student, and it's great to see that students of the Arts can achieve such terrific results.'

While completing her studies to such a high standard, Grace also worked casually in retail and maintained her friendships throughout the year. Her tips for other students completing their VCE include being confident and 'knowing you can do this', but also taking on every piece of feedback offered. She said, 'Even when it's harsh, it will help you.'

Grace also acknowledged how supportive and understanding the teachers at Chairo were, really appreciating the opportunities that she was given by the school.



Facebook

Are you following us on Facebook? Regular posts provide a bit of a window into each campus. We also have a Chairo Buy & Sell group on Facebook that is excellent for buying and selling secondhand uniform and text books.



facebook.com/chairo.drouin
facebook.com/chairo.leongatha
facebook.com/chairo.pakenham
facebook.com/chairo.traralgon
bit.ly/chairobuyandsell