

August 2017

LEA SERVICE AWARD

Valerie Linden

**For services to Lutheran schooling
1992 – 2017**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Valerie Linden to Lutheran education for more than 25 years.

Valerie began her journey at Immanuel Primary School, Novar Gardens SA, in 1991 when her children were enrolled at the school. As a school parent, she volunteered to help out wherever she was needed. In May 1992 she was offered a part time position as a library assistant which later became a full time role. Valerie served continuously at Immanuel until her retirement in 2017.

Valerie's first task in the library was to change the borrowing process from a card system to a computer system which was a huge task requiring the entire library to be re-catalogued. Over the years, she worked with a number of librarians and, in the early years, also served as a Student Support Officer with the Reception and Year 2 classes. The library grew considerably during Val's time at the school and she saw it move in 2011 from the area now known as the 5K classroom to its current location.

Val's cheery and friendly personality has endeared her to the students and staff she has worked with. She has been an integral part of the library and her knowledge and love of children's literature has enabled her to support thousands of students to find new and exciting books to read. It also enabled her to assist staff to select engaging and relevant texts to use with their class.

Val's knowledge of library administration ensured the library was always well ordered and everything was clearly catalogued and easily accessed. She was a walking catalogue, always able to put her hand on resources staff and students needed, without needing to look them up.

Val was involved in many in many aspects of school life including Book Week celebrations and managing the Book Fairs. She had a keen interest in the netball program and umpired the primary school competition games. Val also contributed to many functions through her love of cooking and her preparation of many tasty morsels was greatly appreciated. For a number of years Val was also a valued staff member of the school's After School Care program. She enjoyed working with students in this less formal setting, caring for them after school and helping them with homework. She developed wonderful relationships with these students.

Val remembers the fun and laughter, the many changes that have occurred at the school and the immense joy she received as she worked with the students and staff who walked through the library doors. It is this personal interaction that she will dearly miss, and the school community will greatly miss Val's laughter, her recommendations for a good read, and her sense of fun.

Val's final six months at Immanuel turned a full circle as she once again worked in the library and as a SSO in the Reception classes.

Valerie's faithful and conscientious service to the Lutheran Church of Australia through her service at Immanuel Primary School has been outstanding and is humbly recognised through this Award.

**Stephen Rudolph
Executive Director
Lutheran Education Australia**

ACN 143 905 373

197 Archer Street
North Adelaide SA 5006
T 61 8 8267 7318
F 61 8 8267 7320
E lea@lutheran.edu.au
www.lutheran.edu.au