

June 2017

LEA SERVICE AWARD

Heather McMahon

**For services to Lutheran schooling
1988 – 2017**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Heather McMahon to Lutheran education for thirty years.

Heather commenced her service in Lutheran schools when she was appointed to the staff at Holy Trinity Lutheran School (now known as Trinity Lutheran College), Mildura Vic. She served continuously at Trinity until her retirement in 2017.

Heather has been a loyal, dedicated and professional member of staff and undertook the roles of teacher and Art teacher. One could be forgiven for underestimating Heather's extensive involvement in the school, primarily because she always went about her work efficiently and unassumingly. On closer observation, however, her efforts are not only evident but also fundamental to the school's smooth operation. Her warm and welcoming personality will be missed when she leaves and the gap she leaves will become apparent when all the tasks she undertook so willingly and quietly in the past will suddenly not be automatically covered.

Always methodical and hardworking, Heather kept an eagle eye on the department's supplies, their storage and state of repair. Organising the practicalities of an art display and exhibition is time-consuming and arduous, yet Heather always rose to the challenge, and over the years, hundreds of students, staff and visitors have seen the results of her dedication. The legacy of her hand-sewn Christian banners will be on display for years to come.

Heather also fulfilled her obligations as Art teacher in a most capable, professional and creative manner. She had an excellent rapport with her students and their parents, as well as with her colleagues. Proactive and knowledgeable in her field, and a great classroom practitioner, she modelled and encouraged quality work through exhibiting and expecting high standards. She recognised individual strengths and differences, and brought out the best in her pupils. Heather explained things clearly and was always kind and supportive, taking great pride in her students' achievements. Her calm, approachable and considerate manner endeared her to many. Heather is sociable and a team player by nature.

Heather's Christian values have been clearly evident in all her relationships at the college and also as an active member of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church community. Her warmth, discretion, serenity, supportiveness and flexibility have made her the consummate colleague, teacher and friend to all who have come into contact with her.

Heather's faithful and conscientious service to the Lutheran Church of Australia through her service in Lutheran schools has been outstanding and is humbly recognised through this Award.

**Stephen Rudolph
Executive Director
Lutheran Education Australia**

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