

November 2017

LEA SERVICE AWARD

Gordon Rackley

**For services to Lutheran schooling
1981 – 2017**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Gordon Rackley to Lutheran education for 37 years.

Gordon commenced his service in Lutheran schools in 1981 when he was appointed to the teaching staff at St Peters Lutheran College, Indooroopilly Qld. In 1989 he moved to the Googa Outdoor Education and Retreat Centre where he served as Director. In 1996 Gordon was appointed to the staff of Grace Lutheran College, Rothwell Qld, where he served in various capacities including Sports Coordinator, Head of Sport, Head of Service and Activities, Head of Ministry and Service. Gordon served continuously at Grace until his retirement in 2017.

Gordon's commitment to Lutheran education through his work at Grace was rewarded in 2017 with him being deservedly selected as the recipient of the Rolph Mayer Award for Excellence in Teaching in Lutheran Schools.

Gordon has always had a passion for outdoor education. He shared this passion with young people, both at Ironbark and then as the founding Director of the Googa Outdoor Education and Retreat Centre. Students who attended Googa in the early days recall Gordon's vision and commitment to helping them develop the skills and attributes of independence, resilience and spiritual growth. Many hold Googa, with Gordon's influence, as the most significant experience of their lives.

When Gordon left Googa and moved to Rothwell, he took on the role of Sport Coordinator, later to become Head of Sport. As has always been Gordon's mantra, he wanted students to gain the benefits of physical activity and he set about creating every opportunity for students to become involved in as many different activities as possible. He was instrumental in the establishment of Grace Swimming, and was rewarded for his commitment over many years with life membership in 2017. He coached many students in many sports, always giving up his time after school to provide for their needs, particularly in the areas of athletics, softball, soccer and water polo. Gordon's commitment to the running of the Sunshine Coast South Zone was legendary.

When Gordon moved into the ministry area, he brought with him the same passion he displayed in all aspects of his teaching and interactions and was very happy to be able to share his love of his Lord with his students. He was committed to the Watoto cause and worked with others to continue to provide opportunities for student involvement in a wide range of service and ministry areas, always encouraging them to look outwards to what they could do for others. Gordon has been a great mentor for the youth chaplains within the Ministry Team and assisted the development of the Ministry Captains.

In everything Gordon has done in schools, he has done it to the glory of God, modelling his sense of Christian vocation throughout his career. His faithful and conscientious service to the Lutheran Church of Australia, through his service in Lutheran education, 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