

November 2017

LEA SERVICE AWARD

Rev Jim Strelan

**For services to Lutheran schooling
1975 – 2017**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Pastor Jim Strelan to Lutheran education for 43 years.

Pastor Jim commenced his ministry in 1975 and throughout his entire ministry he served in a Lutheran school or in a congregation that was closely connected to a Lutheran school. In 1975 Pastor Jim ministered as the Chaplain of five Lutheran schools in the Madang District of Papua New Guinea. In 1984 he returned to Australia when he accepted the Call as College Pastor at St Peters Lutheran College, Indooroopilly Qld. In 1991 he was called as Pastor at Good News Lutheran Church and school at Middle Park and in 2006 he became the Pastor at Living Faith Lutheran Church and school at Murrumba Downs. Since 2014 Pastor Jim has been the College Pastor at Grace Lutheran College, Rothwell and Caboolture.

It is with heartfelt gratitude that we acknowledge the contribution of Pastor Jim. In all of the settings in which he ministered, Pastor Jim has brought to life an inspiring engagement with Christian counselling, teaching and service.

His encouragement of all he meets to take up this same engagement has been sincere, thoughtful and challenging. Indeed, Pastor Jim presents, in carrying out his responsibilities, a wonderful mix of what could be described as 'happy provocation'.

In the world that Pastor Jim creates, and in the interactions that follow, are the embedded qualities of kindness, compassion and concern for all to have their spirits lifted and for all to share with others. As those who have met Pastor Jim will attest he has the consistent ability to initiate explorations that lead to building frameworks that assist inclusivity and restorative justice in the settings that surround him. This quality has also been noted in his highly valued contributions to District and wider church committees.

Pastor Jim has been, and continues to be, a 'spiritual coach' for those he meets at any level and in any circumstances. In this sense he has become a bridge for many to a higher, richer and more Christian life.

Pastor Jim's faithful and conscientious service to his Lord and 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**

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