

October 2018

LEA SERVICE AWARD

Stephen Rudolph

**For services to Lutheran schooling
1976 – 2018**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Stephen Rudolph to Lutheran schools for 43 years.

Stephen commenced his service in Lutheran schools in 1975 as a teacher at Grace Lutheran Primary School in Redcliffe Qld, and after two years began his career as a Principal as a 23 year old at St Peters Lutheran School, Dimboola Vic. Since then he has been a Principal and Director also serving at Wagga Wagga Lutheran Primary School in NSW (as Founding Principal), Immanuel Primary School, Novar Gardens SA, Luther College, Croydon Vic (where he attended for his secondary education) and St Peters Lutheran College, Indooroopilly Qld (including Springfield and Ironbark). Since 2011 Stephen has held the position of Executive Director of Lutheran Education Australia Ltd.

Stephen has served the LCA more broadly as a member of the Board for Lutheran Education Australia, the Luther Seminary Academic Advisory Committee, Board of Pensions and LCA Queensland District Church Council. He has also served on numerous independent school bodies including the Independent Schools Queensland and the Association of Independent Schools SA boards. During the past seven years in his role as LEA Executive Director, Stephen has contributed to the work of the LCA through many of its working groups including the LCA Royal Commission Taskforce and the LCA Domestic and Family Violence Committee. He has also served on the Board for the Asia Lutheran Education Association and is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Stephen is one of the few leaders in Lutheran education who has served across all three regions, led schools in four states and successfully moved from primary to secondary education. He oversaw many developments in the schools in which he served as he strove to grow strong, vibrant and confident learning communities. Establishing a new school at Wagga Wagga required oversight of construction work – buildings, sporting fields and gardens. During his six years at Immanuel, enrolments more than doubled due in part to the commencement of double streaming which resulted in the need for new classrooms and other creative spaces. At Luther, Stephen was instrumental in changing the core culture by helping the community understand that it could be both a school of the church and a school which strove for excellence. Several significant developments at St Peters were undertaken during Stephen's time at Indooroopilly including the establishment and opening of St Peters Lutheran College at Springfield, and also the creation of Shop 45, a sophisticated and uniform shop. In the Lutheran Education Australia office he empowered staff to perform their role and took every opportunity to affirm and celebrate the service and achievements of staff throughout Australia. His achievements have been outstanding.

Stephen has an ability to surround himself with highly capable co-leaders, committed teachers and support staff. A charismatic, astute and selfless leader, Stephen never loses focus on the pursuit of altruistic goals. He is a true servant leader, an encourager and a consummate relationship builder. He has natural affinity for people and this epitomises his leadership style. He has often said leadership is about *relationships, relationships, relationships!*

Stephen will be remembered for his love of history, particularly the history of Lutheran schooling and can quite readily cite names of leaders and locations – both current and historical – of schools across Australia over several decades.

Stephen has always acknowledged the unfailing support of his wife, Janelle. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated a genuine and passionate commitment to the Lutheran Church of Australia and believes Lutheran education is an integral part of the mission and ministry of the LCA. His dedication and commitment to Lutheran education is unquestioned. His faithful and conscientious service to his Lord and the Lutheran Church of Australia, throughout his service in Lutheran education, has been outstanding and is humbly recognised through this award.

N Highett
Chair – Board of Directors
Lutheran Education Australia Ltd

Serving Australian communities through Christ centred quality education.

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