

November 2019

**LEA SERVICE AWARD**

*Helen Folker*

**For services to Lutheran schooling  
1989 – 2019**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Helen Folker to Lutheran education over a period of 31 years.

Helen commenced her service in Lutheran education in 1989 when she was appointed as an inaugural teacher at St John's Lutheran School, Kingaroy Qld. In her classroom Helen was known for her caring manner and her concern for each child's individual growth and learning journey. In June 2000, Helen took up the leadership role of Acting Principal before her appointment as Principal in January 2001. She served continuously at St John's until her retirement.

Helen's diligent service to Lutheran education in Kingaroy and the South Burnett has been appreciated and valued. In her role as Principal, Helen established many programs and activities, and also developed and improved a number of facilities such as new classrooms, playgrounds, the library, multi-purpose hall and administration building. Helen initiated a number of innovative solutions to the delivery of curriculum throughout the school. She made it a priority to understand what was happening in each classroom through regular meetings with teachers for planning and reflection. Highlights of her administration include the establishment of the Kindergarten and Junior Secondary campus. Under Helen's guidance and leadership, St John's grew from a single stream primary school to a school that double and triple streams in primary levels and includes a junior secondary stream up to Year 9.

Helen has built on the commitment of providing quality education in a caring, supportive Christian environment which endeavours to prepare children for the future. Her vision and hard work, along with the effort of those who have served with her have seen the school enrolment grow from less than 180 students to a vibrant co-educational cohort of nearly 430 students.

Helen will be remembered by staff and school families as a caring and understanding principal who always made decisions that reflect God's love and forgiveness. She took the time to listen and showed the utmost concern for the welfare of all in the school community. Helen demonstrated her faith in God and this always underpinned her decision making and relationships. Helen is an organised and efficient administrator who regularly supported other regional principals in their role through her actions, words of advice and prayer. She ensured St John's is well recognised in the broader community and is leaving the school well positioned for the next chapter of its story.

Helen's faithful and conscientious service to the Lutheran Church of Australia, through her service at St John's Lutheran Primary School in Kingaroy, has been outstanding and is humbly recognised through this Award

**Assoc Prof Lisa Schmidt  
Executive Director  
Lutheran Education Australia**

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