

March 2024

LEA SERVICE AWARD

Les Barnard

**For service to Lutheran education
2003 – 2024**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Les Barnard to Lutheran education for 21 years.

Les began his journey in Lutheran education in 2003 when he was appointed as Finance Manager at Living Faith Lutheran Primary School. Throughout his tenure, Les has exemplified integrity and provided invaluable guidance, consistently prioritising the well-being of the school and its community. His adept navigation of challenges with grace and wisdom has established a standard of excellence that will endure as a legacy for Living Faith Lutheran Primary School. His steadfast dedication, forward-thinking leadership, and tireless commitment have profoundly influenced Living Faith, shaping it into the vibrant and contemporary learning hub it is today. Les brought a fervent dedication to education, coupled with a compassionate leadership style, which ignited inspiration among his colleagues and positively impacted countless students and parents.

Over the course of his 21-year tenure at Living Faith Lutheran Primary School, Les has spearheaded numerous pivotal projects, including the construction of the school oval, tennis courts, sports centre, kindergarten, administration building, terminal, adventure playground, The Cubby and Treehouse Precincts (Prep to Year 3), and most recently, the refurbishment of the new library and Student Wellbeing Precinct. In addition to his contributions to construction and master planning, Les played a pivotal role in transitioning from a two-stream P-7 to a three-stream P-6 school, refurbishing all classroom spaces to support contemporary education in the 'Living Faith way', and preparing for the proposed introduction of secondary education and the establishment of Living Faith Lutheran College.

Beyond his service at Living Faith Lutheran Primary School, Les has dedicated 13 years to serving the wider Lutheran Education sector, contributing to finance and development committees with Lutheran Education Queensland. For the past four years, he has also served as a School Council member at Grace Lutheran Primary School and participated in interview panels for executive appointments across numerous Lutheran Schools.

Lutheran Education Australia recognises Les's longstanding dedication to Living Faith Lutheran Primary School and the broader Lutheran education community, offering prayers for a season ahead filled with immense joy, relaxation, and fulfillment that is so richly deserved.

Les's faithful and conscientious service to his Lord and the Lutheran Church of Australia, through his service in Lutheran education, has been outstanding and is humbly recognised through this award.

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

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