

February 2018

LEA SERVICE AWARD

Mervyn Keller

**For services to Lutheran schooling
1997 – 2017**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Mervyn Keller to Lutheran schools for more than twenty years.

Merv commenced his service to Lutheran schools in 1997 when, as a new parent, he was voted onto the Victory Primary School Council at Wodonga Vic, as a Parish Representative. He served continuously as a council member until his death in January 2018. For sixteen years he served as the secretary and minute secretary of the Council. His expertise in finance was appreciated as a member of the Finance Committee which he also chaired for a short time. Up until 2017 he had missed only a couple of meetings. Merv was privileged to serve with all four principals of Victory.

Victory Lutheran College has been a passion of Merv's. He was an integral member of the Council which oversaw the extensive growth of the College, and he loved every minute of it!

Merv met with many BGA delegations in a bid for finance to build many of the buildings the College community enjoys today. He made sure that the College grounds and buildings were more than presentable for these visits, and ensured the dedication and opening services for new buildings occurred. Merv was on many teacher interview panels in the early years.

Merv took pride in working as a volunteer around the College. Whenever there was a working bee he was there with his unlimited energy and stamina. For sixteen years of College fetes he was always one of the first to arrive to set up and last to leave with the rubbish for the tip loaded onto a trailer. He was the master of the BBQ and he served on this stall each year.

Merv contributed a lot as a quiet worker behind the scenes. In the early days with no automated sprinkler system, he would come up every two hours on weekends in summer to move sprinklers in the hope of keeping some green play areas around the buildings. When Victory had paddocks where wonderful buildings now stand, he would spend hours on a little tractor mowing them. Before maintenance staff, every Sunday afternoon he would clean the paths and plaza area so that the College was presentable for the week. Many garden beds have been created and metres of turf have been laid by Merv, along with many holidays spent doing small maintenance jobs around the College.

Merv always had an enrolment information pack with him and was a scout for new students in many professional and social situations.

Merv was a people person and always up for a yarn. He endeared himself to many of the staff and College families with his passion both for people and Victory. His faithful and conscientious service to the Lutheran Church of Australia, throughout his service at Victory Lutheran College, 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