

December 2019

LEA SERVICE AWARD

Neil Schiller

**For services to Lutheran schooling
1978 – 2019**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Neil Schiller to Lutheran education over a period of more than 40 years.

Neil commenced his service in Lutheran schools in 1978 as a teacher at St Paul Lutheran School, Blair Athol SA. In 1982 he moved to Queensland when he was appointed Principal of Peace Lutheran Primary School, Gatton. Four years later in 1986 Neil moved back to South Australia to take up the Principal role at Our Saviour Lutheran School, Aberfoyle Park. In 1989 he joined the staff at Bethany Lutheran Primary School, Raceview Qld, as a senior teacher and was appointed as the Principal at Bethany in 1996. Neil served continuously at Bethany until illness in the early part of 2018 necessitated him taking extended leave until his retirement in 2019.

During his time at Bethany, Neil led the team which oversaw the rebuilding of the school to rectify problems detected with the foundations.

Neil's contribution extended beyond the school in which he served as he became involved on many local congregation and district committees. Neil also served on the working committee set up to investigate the setting up of a Lutheran Principals Association in Queensland. He was the secretary of the association many years before taking up wider challenges and responsibilities as the inaugural chairperson of the national Principals Association for Lutheran Schools (PALS) in 2007. He held this position until the association was renamed Lutheran Principals Australia (LPA).

Neil will be remembered by his colleagues for his knowledge of Lutheran education in Australia, his spiritual leadership and his commitment to, and support of, partnerships between congregations and Lutheran schools. Neil worked tirelessly to provide leadership to his schools. He also enthusiastically encouraged people to consider the perspectives of others in all areas of planning for the future in schools as well as within the general church. In 2002 Neil completed his Masters of Education and his passion for building community within Lutheran schools was a focus of his studies.

Neil'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**

ACN 143 905 373

197 Archer Street
North Adelaide SA 5006
T 618 8267 7318
F 618 8267 7320
E lea@lutheran.edu.au
www.lutheran.edu.au