

November 2021

**LEA SERVICE AWARD**

*Deborah Cottrell*

**For services to Lutheran schooling  
2002 – 2021**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Deborah Cottrell to Lutheran education for 20 years.

In 2002, Deborah started teaching as a year 6 teacher at St Paul's Lutheran Primary School, Caboolture after working across the road at Tullawong State High School for two years. Tullawong had offered her a position, but she had applied for the position at St Paul's, and she liked the feel at St Paul's. She was high school trained but enjoyed year 6; loved the age and the challenges of the curriculum.

Deborah spent 17 years teaching year 6. Fourteen of these years was with the same teaching partner, John Smith. She completed another 2 years as a year 5 teacher and a final year as a relief teacher.

Deborah enjoyed the many school camps, tenting in zero-degree temps, 14km hikes through Carnarvon Gorge with sometimes very tired students. She has fond memories of the year 6 trip to Longreach, riding on a Cobb & Co stagecoach on a dusty track and having dust blown off by a vacuum at end of trip.

Deborah always presented with a calm nature and approached her dealings with others in a gentle manner. This helped her build powerful leverage, influence and rapport. The students in her care appreciated her honesty and kindness.

Deborah possessed strong organisational skills. Her classroom ran smoothly and productively due to the high level of organisation. She provided her students with a structured atmosphere in order to learn effectively.

Deborah's faithful and conscientious service to her Lord and the Lutheran Church of Australia, through her service in Lutheran education, has been excellent and is humbly recognised through this Award.

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

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