

December 2022

LEA SERVICE AWARD

Dianne Eckermann

**For service to Lutheran education
1988 – 2022**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Dianne Eckermann to Lutheran education for 34 years.

Di joined her first Lutheran school in 1988 as a teacher at Concordia College before moving on to Immanuel College as Head of Middle School. Dianne remained at Immanuel College from 2002 to 2006. She then moved to Mt Gambier as Principal of St Martin's and remained at St Martin's until joining Lutheran Education Australia in 2018.

Whilst Di was Principal at St Martins, the College experienced a time of great growth and success. Di brought her experience in teaching and leadership in Lutheran education to build a culture of excellence and care for the F-12 college. There is always a danger that, as schools grow, they can lose what makes them distinctive and special, and Di was mindful of this as she nurtured what was already a strong community and culture in the College and embedded it deeply in the hearts of all involved with the College. She invested herself thoroughly into the community. Di's wonderful sense of humour and fun never detracted in any way from her professionalism and focus on the students which contributed to the success of the college.

Di worked with colleagues to create a vision for the "new" school which would grow the primary school to an F-12 college and worked diligently to bring this vision to life. The staff at St Martin's were committed to the shared vision and were actively involved in creating and living out the vision. Di's energy and passion inspired staff to always give their best for the students and their families.

As Director of Leadership at LEA, Di's achievements are many. She has reviewed the Leadership Development Program and ensured that the current offering provides school leaders with high quality learning around leadership in the Lutheran education context. Di produced a number of podcasts that have inspired staff in Lutheran schools and early childhood centres to consider leadership or to reflect on the way they lead. She has ensured that Lutheran education communities are safe places through the Valuing Safe Communities program.

Di's genuine, warm and generous nature has always shone through with staff, students, and colleagues. She has also been active in her church community and in the wider community.

Di is much loved and respected by all who have been fortunate enough to work with and encounter her during her career. Di has led from the front and kept Christ at the centre of her daily life. Her personal faith is evident in all that she does, but particularly in how she cares for others.

Di'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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