

May 2021

LEA SERVICE AWARD

Louise Farr

**For services to Lutheran schooling
1987 – 2021**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Louise Farr to Lutheran education over a period of 33 years.

Louise Farr commenced her employment at Grace Lutheran College on 24 August, 1987, serving as a college receptionist.

After almost seven and a half years working on reception, Louise moved into the dual roles of Headmaster's Secretary and minute secretary for Grace Lutheran College Council, roles which she filled until her retirement on 31 March, 2021. As minute secretary to college council, Louise worked very closely with Mr John Gerlach, recently retired chair of council, a work relationship lasting more than twenty-six years. In all, Louise Farr served with distinction at Grace College for 33 years and seven months.

These are not the only roles that Louise undertook at Grace. She also served as minute secretary to the Googa Management Committee, oversaw the college archives, and played a key role in college enrolments and marketing for many years. In her spare time Louise volunteered for many tasks at Grace, that simply cannot be quantified. She assisted with the various versions of open day and consultation days. She would follow up any Grace community members (staff, students and parents) who needed help or comfort. If something needed shifting or cleaning, and she knew about it ...and had time ...Louise would volunteer to help. Louise also regularly prayed for the needs of Grace College and specific needs for members of the Grace community.

Louise's expansive connectivity across Grace was a special blessing for Grace as the college leadership changed across her three decades of service. As the founding headmaster, Mr Fred Stolz retired, Louise was of great assistance in transitioning the new principal, Mrs Ruth Butler. Louise's knowledge and commitment to Grace also assisted the current Head of College's move into college leadership. There is no doubt that, simply through this aspect of Louise's service to Grace, Grace has been provided with significant stability as it has grown and changed.

Louise has demonstrated a loyalty and belief in Grace College as a place that grows, develops and fosters love for individuals and groups because of God's presence. She has demonstrated this commitment by also having been a parent of Grace, and in the near future, a grandparent of Grace.

In her time at Grace, Louise Farr has made hundreds of friends and literally thousands will remember her warmth, humour, and deep Christian faith. Even as a casual visitor to Grace, if one crossed paths with Louise, it was impossible to miss her pleasant, bubbling personality.

For over three decades Louise Farr didn't just work at Grace, Louise dedicated herself to Grace and all the Christian aspects that Grace College tries to live by as a community. Louise Farr absolutely should be regarded as one of the giants who helped build Grace Lutheran College in its early decades. She will be missed.

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

**Assoc Prof Lisa Schmidt
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