

December 2021

LEA SERVICE AWARD

James Gerhardy

**For service to Lutheran education
1979 – 2021**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of James Gerhardy to Lutheran education for 43 years.

James commenced his employment with Concordia College in January 1979 as a Mathematics and Science teacher Years 8 – 11.

Over the years James has taught Science and Mathematics for Years 8 and 9, and Chemistry and Mathematics for Years 10 – 12. In 1997, James became the Head of Science until 2002, again in an Acting position in 2004, and also for a term in 2008.

James has been the consummate teacher, ensuring that every student in his classes understood the subject and grew to love it. He was influential in the development and increased profile of Chemistry as a subject within the College through activities such as The Chemical Analysis Competition, National Chemistry Quiz, Chemistry Spectacular presentations and Gifted and Talented Chemistry evenings. He always sought to encourage through making lessons interesting and accessible – his Chemistry lessons would be remembered by students forever.

James was involved in every aspect of school life supporting an amazing range of activities giving students choice and opportunity. For ten years James was Interschool Chess Club Coordinator and supervisor. Students planned, practised and then competed. James was Stage Manager for two College musicals and crewed backstage, including bumping in and out, for many more. He willingly assisted with the Valedictory Services. He was Chairperson of the College Carnival Committee, Coordinator of the Chemical Analysis Competition, Computing Clubs, Locker Coordinator, Football Coach, Drive Tennis Supervisor, Squash Coordinator, Volleyball Coach and Supervisor.

James loved attending camps and was the Year 11 Deep Creek Camp organiser. These experiences built relationships through spending time with students in different environments.

As Highgate House Coordinator for an astounding 35 years, he was instrumental in the development of a more comprehensive House Competition in the College through introducing lunchtime House Activities. These included Netball, Volleyball, Table Tennis, Theatre Sports and others.

James immensely enjoyed the fellowship and interaction with other staff members and families. James was Chair of the Staff Guild Executive which supported staff and arranged activities.

James added to the richness of life in the College and contributed time, energy and passion. He has always been humble in his endeavours, never seeking praise while making an extraordinary difference to the lives of many.

James' faithful and conscientious service to our 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**

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