

Welcome to 2018

Dear principals

On behalf of the Lutheran Church of Australia and the Board for Lutheran Education Australia, I extend to you God's blessings and best wishes as each one of you leads and serves in your unique and local communities.

LEA also wishes to particularly welcome regional staff and principals new to the role, as well as principals who have taken up new challenges at a different Lutheran school in 2018.

- **Kaylene McClure**, St Paul's Lutheran Primary School, **Henty NSW**
- **Adrian Wiles**, Concordia Lutheran College, **Toowoomba Qld**
- **Paul Weinert**, Concordia College: Concordia Campus, **Highgate SA**
- **Cassie Kopias**, Lobethal Lutheran School, **Lobethal SA** [Acting for 2018]
- **Robyn Teakle**, St Martins Lutheran College, **Mount Gambier SA** [Acting for Semester 1 2018];
Alan Connah, St Martins Lutheran College, **Mount Gambier SA** [Principal from Semester 2 2018]
- **Stephen Jude**, Navigator College, **Port Lincoln SA**
- **Damian Pietsch**, Sunshine Christian School, **Sunshine Vic** [Acting for 2018]
- **Kelly Crowley**, Living Waters Lutheran College, **Warnbro WA** [Acting for 2018]
- **Julian Denholm**, Executive Director, **Lutheran Education Vic, NSW, Tas**
- **Ian Marks**, Interim Director for Leadership and School Improvement **LEVNT** [Semester 1 2018]

LEA also welcomes **Mrs Dianne Eckermann** into the role of **LEA Director of Leadership**. Di's immediate focus this year has been the Quality Schools project, LDP7, the NLT Leadership Project and supporting LPA in its planning and administration. Please feel free to contact Di as follows:
Email: dianne.eckermann@lutheran.edu.au : Mobile 0490 888 770 : Tel: 08 8267 7318

National School Resourcing Board

Stephen Kroker, LEA Business Manager, and I have been preparing an LEA submission to the federal government's National School Resourcing Board. After consultation with the regional offices, it is expected this will be submitted by 20 February 2018.

A group of eight leading education, finance and demography experts have been appointed to the National School Resourcing Board. Minister for Education and Training, Simon Birmingham, said the Board would be an expert body with members nominated by the Commonwealth, states and territories and the non-government sectors to review and recommend improvements to the way Commonwealth school funding is distributed across Australia. 'This Board will provide a level of independent oversight of the spending efforts of the Commonwealth, states and territories,' Minister Birmingham said. 'The National School Resourcing Board was a recommendation of the 2011 'Gonski Review'.' [Click here to read the full media release.](#)

Stephen Rudolph
Executive Director
Lutheran Education Australia



LEA Executive Director

The Board for Lutheran Education Australia recently announced the retirement of Stephen Rudolph, LEA Executive Director, at the end of 2018. The LEA Board of Directors has commenced the process of appointment of a new Executive Director to commence in 2019. The position is currently being advertised through a variety of channels. The advertisement, position description and selection criteria are available at:
<http://www.lutheran.edu.au/executive-director/>

[Dr] Neville Highett
Chair, Board for Lutheran Education Australia

Leadership Quality Schools

Thank you to all principals for sending your survey dates to RADII for this year's Quality Schools survey. All principals and contact staff, where a contact staff member has been nominated, should have received the Quality Schools workbook to be populated with email contact information for parents, staff and students. This information is to be sent directly to RADII at least three weeks before the survey period begins in your school.

Every four days during the running of the survey RADII will send reminders of the response rate to the principal or the staff contact person. Please note this information from RADII will be sent to the contact person, where nominated, not to the principal. The survey report, however, will be sent to the principal only, approximately three weeks after the survey is completed.

Comparative data for benchmarking against other Lutheran schools will be available after the last schools have completed their surveys in August. This benchmarking report will also allow you to make comparisons to the last survey. Principals will receive an edited report which removes names or personal information that may have been mentioned in comments as well as an unedited report for personal reflection.

Dianne Eckermann
LEA Director of Leadership

Formation *Growing deep*

There are a growing number of resources on the LEA website that utilise *Growing deep* for developing the practice and culture of Lutheran education. These include terms of reference for staff, staff devotions, staff reflection tools and school improvement resources. If you have developed your own resources we would love to include these on the website. Please email anne.dohnt@lutheran.edu.au

Growing deep resources are available at: <https://vps.lca-ict.org.au/~growingdeep/index.php/home/workshop-powerpoint-and-resources/>

Pathways

Accreditation is the initial phase in the ongoing formation journey where we support staff and set them up for success through inquiring into the core beliefs and values of the Lutheran church. *Pathways* is the accreditation resource that assists staff to explore these beliefs and values, and reflect on their contribution to the effectiveness and mission of Lutheran schools. Where priority, time and effort is given to the creative delivery of *Pathways*, staff have found it a deeply important and formational learning process. As we revitalise *Pathways*, we would like to establish a reference group to oversee the development of a range of resources including videos. Please email anne.dohnt@lutheran.edu.au with your expression of interest in this project.

Anne Dohnt
LEA Director of Formation

LEA Business Office

LEA Sick Leave Emergency Fund

School business managers and finance officers please note: The LEA Sick Leave Emergency Fund provides a daily subsidy for accrued sick leave taken by teaching staff during 2017 that exceeds 15 days – the daily subsidy rate for 2017 is \$360. Claims from schools that are members of the Sick Leave Emergency Fund are due by the 28th February 2018. The claim form is available on the LEA website. Access the claim form here: <http://www.lutheran.edu.au/download/sick-leave-emergency-fund-claim-form/?wpdmdl=4392>

LCA Insurance Fund Survey

Schools will soon receive the annual survey from the LCA Insurance Fund. Please note that all questions need to be answered. We appreciate your assistance with this survey.

Stephen Kroker
LEA Business Manager

LLL Lutheran education earthcare grants

Fifty five Lutheran ECSs and schools have received LLL Lutheran education earthcare grants to implement the *Lutheran education earthcare charter*. LEA will soon be writing to the leaders of these

communities to request an article and photographs. These will be the key feature of the 2018 edition of *SchoolLink* which is circulated to all Lutheran ECSs and schools as well as to all subscribers of *The Lutheran*. Sincere thanks and acknowledgement to Allen Kupke and the LLL for these grants.

Governance resources

The following Lutheran school governance resources are available on the LEA website (<http://www.lutheran.edu.au/school-professionals-2/governance/governance-professional-learning-modules/>) and are easily accessed (password free!).

Core business of school council

- 1 Understanding the core business of a school council
- 2 Knowing the difference between governing and managing
- 3 Policy on policies
- 4 School policy processes
- 5 Risk oversight

School council membership

- 6 Position descriptions of school council officers
- 7 Membership skills and attributes
- 8 Induction process for newly appointed school council members
- 9 Succession planning for school council members
- 10 Confidentiality agreement
- 11 Conflicts of interest
- 12 Code of conduct

School council processes

- 13 Asking the right questions
- 14 Terms of Reference (ToR) for committees
- 15 Decision making models
- 16 Guiding standards for governing by Australian school boards
- 17 Council review pre-reading
- 18 Council performance reviews
- 19 Performance review survey option 1
- 20 Performance review survey option 2
- 21 Performance review survey option 3
- 22 Performance review survey option 4
- 23 School council professional learning plan

School council documents

- 24 School council handbook: guide for content
- 25 Annual forward agenda for school council
- 26 Annual forward agenda for school council finance committee
- 27 Sample meeting agenda for school council
- 28 Principal's report to school council
- 29 Acronym central
- 30 Weblinks to access further resources

LCA Domestic and Family Violence Campaign

During 2017 the LCA Domestic and Family Violence Committee, of which LEA was a part, developed resources for the LCA and its agencies on the important matter of domestic violence. In the near future all ECS directors and school principals will receive a letter from the LCA Bishop, Rev John Henderson, outlining these resources, their availability and promotion across our communities. Your support of this important initiative is sought and appreciate.



ACARA Update

The latest ACARA eNewsletter includes items on:

- New literacy and numeracy initiative to support teachers
- UNESCO Manila forum
- NAPLAN online (visit the public demonstration site)

Read the full newsletter at: <http://www.acara.edu.au/news-and-media/acara-update-archive/acara-update-archive-2018/acara-update-february-2018>