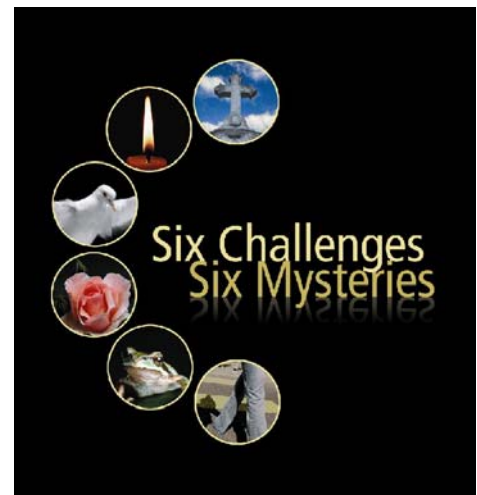


Dr Norm Habel's summing up of the three days of the Australian Conference on Lutheran Education (ACLE) in September 2004 year was memorable and significant. It enabled many of us to make sense of what we had heard and experienced during the keynote and elective presentations, as well as the other conference activities. By placing his summary in the context of a charter for Lutheran education Dr Habel has provided a framework for ongoing reflection and conversations on the issues raised at ACLE.

At its October 2004 meeting BLEA recognised the need to establish a process through which staff and schools could continue to engage in, and deliberate on, the issues that had been raised by the conference. Thus this professional development package, comprising a DVD and workbook, has been produced especially for Australian Lutheran schools.

***Six challenges – six mysteries*** describes six important challenges that Dr Habel believes each Lutheran school should confront and work through. These challenges emerged during ACLE and reflect the key issues highlighted during the conference. The discussion of these challenges is informed by six authentic Lutheran teachings, known here as mysteries.

I want to thank Norm Habel for his work in bringing this project together. His enthusiasm and passion for Lutheran schools have been demonstrated in this project. The DVD reflects the artistic skills of Paul Ryan and we are grateful to him for his efforts. Many thanks also to the schools that were involved in filming for the DVD. Unfortunately, it was only possible to involve a small sample of our schools. I am grateful to the Lutheran Laypeople's League for its financial support of this project.



I commend this professional development package for use in Australian Lutheran schools. As school communities work through these challenges, informed by our Lutheran tradition, they are creating a preferred future rather than letting the future just happen. Furthermore, the ensuing discussion will identify challenges for Lutheran Education Australia. We look forward to hearing what schools suggest from a strategic point of view for the national network of Australian schools.

As we now move on from ACLE 2004 and chart a course in a sea of diversity, we prepare our schools and those who learn in them for the cross currents of the future. All staff members, not only those who attended ACLE, need to be involved in these discussions. May this work be confronting, challenging and creative.

**Adrienne Jericho  
Executive Director  
Lutheran Education Australia**

***June 2005***