

December 2020

**LEA SERVICE AWARD**

*Laraine Nelson*

**For services to Lutheran schooling  
1981 – 2020**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Laraine Nelson to Lutheran education for more than 39 years.

Laraine commenced her role at Concordia College as a physical education teacher and inaugural girls' sport coordinator in January 1981 and soon after was appointed to the position of physical education coordinator.

Laraine's academic background in both humanities and sciences also saw her teach in many areas including social studies, science and research project. Laraine was a home class teacher, most recently caring for senior students.

From a leadership perspective, in addition to physical education and girls' sport coordination, Laraine embraced the roles of house activities coordinator, head of Winchester house and acting head of humanities. In the area of pastoral care, Laraine took on responsibility for year 8 and 9 coordination.

As physical education and sports coordinator in the 1980s, Laraine was the architect of the current sports day format which encourages mass involvement and elite achievement. Laraine engaged in a variety of extra-curricular sporting activities. In addition to netball, tennis and athletics coaching, Laraine also supervised badminton teams and girls inter-school cricket. Over many years, Laraine maintained her support of girls' tennis, with 2020 being her 40th year of continuous service in this area. Laraine was keenly involved in lunchtime house sport as supervisor and umpire.

Laraine served on the school magazine committee, assisted in organising the annual fair and was involved in the musical productions. Her attendance at the year 12 formal was a highlight each year.

We thank Laraine for her steadfast and loyal service and wish her God's blessings and the very best for her retirement.

Laraine's faithful and conscientious service to the Lutheran Church of Australia, through her 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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