

November 2021

LEA SERVICE AWARD

Peter O'Sullivan

**For service to Lutheran education
1998 – 2021**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Peter O'Sullivan to Lutheran education for 23 years.

Peter commenced at Grace Lutheran College in 1998 teaching Science, Christian Studies, Physical Education, and Mathematics in recent years. For his entire length of service, he has embodied and faithfully witnessed to the Christian mission of the school, both as a professional teacher and as a man of unwavering integrity and personal conduct.

In the spirit of the parable of the talents from the Bible, Peter has been blessed with many natural gifts and has honoured God by faithfully investing these into his service of and for the benefit of the students and the community around him. A humble servant heart meant that no task was ever too hard, too inconvenient, or too 'beneath' Peter, to not only accept but to fully embrace and discharge the responsibilities of any task to the best of his abilities, and then some.

Resident snake catcher, Chief Fire Warden (& entertainer), alpine ski Instructor/rescuer, mountain climber guide, intrepid lead kayaker and rainforest/nature whisperer are just a sample of the multitude of roles, not on Peter's original position description, but which have been admired over many years.

Peter O'Sullivan is perhaps one of the strongest and most courageous staff to uphold and defend the values of Grace College. When people speak highly of Grace College's excellent behavioural standards, they are either directly or indirectly acknowledging (whether they realise it or not) the sheer hard work that Peter (in collaboration with similar high-quality peers) has invested over many years. As evidenced by his own quote "At Grace, parents want us to discipline other people's children", Peter was articulating the very difficult (and often thankless) task, of ensuring the College's behavioural standards are maintained. The College owes Peter a great debt of gratitude for his tireless commitment to leading and managing students, especially the Year 9 group, in his role as Year Level Coordinator for over 14 years.

A passionate educator, Peter modelled the attributes of being a 'life-long learner' and was subsequently a natural teacher and mentor. Characterised by high energy levels and enthusiasm, Peter readily engaged with new ideas, innovative teaching methods and the opportunity to share his faith in an educational context.

A terrific listener, a man of his word, a loyal friend and colleague. Peter instilled confidence into those he worked with and was a genuine blessing to all: A man of God, devoted to family, a loyal friend and colleague. The College sincerely thanks and acknowledges Peter for his faithful Christian Service and an outstanding career.

Peter's faithful and conscientious service to our Lord and the Lutheran Church of Australia, through his service in Lutheran education, has been excellent and is humbly recognised through this Award.

**Assoc Prof Lisa Schmidt
Executive Director
Lutheran Education Australia**

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