

November 2020

LEA SERVICE AWARD

Helen Powell

**For services to Lutheran schooling
1985 – 2020**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Helen Powell to Lutheran education over a period of almost 36 years.

Helen's impact and contribution to the education, university life, careers and lives in general of many, many Grace students is impossible to calculate or quantify!

Helen Powell is perhaps one of the finest mathematical minds ever to teach at Grace Lutheran College. When people speak highly of Grace's excellent academic reputation, they are either directly or indirectly acknowledging the significant investment into the intellectual rigour of the school that Helen (in collaboration with similar high-quality peers) has made.

Her past students have grown in their appreciation of her gift to them when they have found themselves immersed in the almost surreal difficulties and challenges of mathematical and engineering concepts and subjects, at Queensland's top universities. Feedback to the college from ex-students testifies to this fact and is perhaps one of the highest forms of praise and recognition of Helen's specialised work.

What has made Helen's mathematical gifts and teaching talents so valuable, has been her completely selfless and tireless commitment to share, and help others, especially her colleagues. Helen has often been known to drop everything to assist a colleague solve a problem, usually difficult and almost always at a cost to her own time. This practical example of Christian servant leadership will long be remembered and appreciated.

Helen has sacrificed and invested so much into the lives and success of others. Many students have enjoyed the unique and special relationship that comes from engaging with such a 'beautiful mind'.

Helen'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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