

December 2022

LEA SERVICE AWARD

John Proeve

**For service to Lutheran education
1982 – 2022**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of John Proeve to Lutheran education for 40 years.

John commenced his service to Lutheran education at St Paul's College, Walla Walla, in 1982. His first main teaching areas were junior Science, senior Biology, and Physical Education.

While John showed an interest in all sports, as Sportsmaster he made a major contribution to the coaching of the college's football team which competed in the Hume Football League. John's coaching was most effective, enabling the St Paul's team to compete very well.

Right from the start John showed himself to be a highly effective and competent teacher. He was well respected by staff, students, and in the local community where he played football for the Walla Walla senior team.

John joined the teaching staff of Redeemer Lutheran College, Rochedale, in 1985. The college was only in its sixth year, and John's appointment was the result of a deliberate policy of seeking Lutheran teachers at a time when they were in short supply. John's willingness to move to Queensland was an expression of his desire to serve the Lutheran Church which was evident throughout the whole of his career.

He was appointed as Sportsmaster with responsibility for organising the whole of the college's interhouse and inter-school sporting program when both were growing rapidly. He was popular with students and highly regarded among his colleagues. Even at that early stage of his professional career, his attitude, skills, commitment, and personality marked him out as a leader in Lutheran education.

John began at Yirara College, Alice Springs, as a Senior Teacher in 1993, the first year the college was handed over to Lutheran Education and the Finke River Mission to manage. The years at Yirara were challenging at many levels. But John's contribution to Yirara in those early years was characterized by immense self-sacrifice, professionalism, and a genuine care for members of staff.

John joined Cornerstone College, Mt Barker, as Dean of Students in 1997. He provided excellent guidance, care and support for the students. His calm manner and genuine interest when discussing issues with students at all year levels was much appreciated and valued and his Christian faith shone through in all his relationships with staff, students and parents. Humble yet strong in principle, John served the college with distinction in this role.

John became Principal of Cornerstone College in 2002. Through a strategic approach, very hard work, an uncompromising Gospel focus and a strong connection with the Hills community John guided the college through significant challenges which brought about many major successes.

While John approached his vocation with courage, it was always delivered with humility, considering others before himself. He worked hard to connect professionally with his peers and to contribute to education generally and Lutheran education specifically. His loyalty, professionalism, care, and commitment will always be remembered.

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John became the LSA Director in 2012 and over the next 11 years as the LSA went on to become LESNW. During this time John's wisdom, gentleness, energy levels and work ethic, as well as an amazing sense of service have been a wonderful blessing to all. During his time as the LESNW Director John has always been a trustworthy and reliable colleague and friend to many, and his high levels of personal and professional integrity have been appreciated. John's faith in God and ability to always see the good in others and difficult situations have been inspirational.

John's faithful and conscientious service to his Lord and the Lutheran Church of Australia, through his 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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