

LEA SERVICE AWARD

Rita Rainnie

**For service to Lutheran Education
1990 – 2022**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Rita Rainnie to Lutheran education for nearly 30 years.

Rita commenced her service in Lutheran Education in January 1990 at Immanuel Lutheran College, Buderim. She had a break in 1992, later returning to the College in 1995. Rita retires this year, and this concludes an exceptional teaching career.

Through her many and varied roles, she has aided in shaping our school as we know it today. Over the past three decades, Rita has gained an extraordinary reputation as a warm, caring, and passionate teacher. She has consistently role-modelled positive teacher-student relationships, due to her focus on creating welcoming and inclusive learning environments that cater to all interests and abilities. During her time at Immanuel, she has taught a range of subjects and year levels, from Year 12 General and Essential English classes, to junior Humanities, during which she enjoyed sharing her knowledge of the American Revolution with students.

Rita is an avid and fast reader. Throughout her time at Immanuel, she would be in regular contact with the library staff, requesting the latest titles and using her knowledge to guide the English Department's text selection to further engage and inspire her students' enjoyment of literature. A lover of theatre, Rita would organise excursions for her students to view live performances, both on the Sunshine Coast and in Brisbane, which further extended their knowledge of and interest in various contemporary and traditional literary works.

Rita is not only dedicated to her classroom teaching role but has made a significant investment in the wider community at Immanuel. She assisted with many co-curricular opportunities for students, including Voices on the Coast, the Immanuel Arts Festival, various musicals, the Year 11 Moreton Island Leadership Camp, and the volleyball tours to Toowoomba and the Gold Coast, where she was both an enthusiastic cheerleader and a bus driver!

Across her roles and responsibilities that have included Year Level Coordinator positions for many years, and as well as Head of Moreton House, Rita has used her friendly and energetic demeanour to support her colleagues and guide her students. When she was the Year 12 Coordinator, her colleagues recall seeing how Rita used her words to heal, teach and love her students as they made their way through their Senior year. While students sat on her 'magic couch' next to her desk, she offered them enormous reassurance and support, helping them to navigate all manner of personal and academic problems. Students always know that Rita will advocate for them. Rita's kind and sincere words carry practical wisdom for both staff and students.

Her genuine relationships with students have extended many years beyond their time at school. For example, Rita has been invited to 21st birthday parties, and students often return to the College to catch up with Mrs Rainnie and share their accomplishments. Rita has made a substantial contribution to our College. It is the impact that she has had on students, families and colleagues that can't be measured, but will be most missed. Congratulations, Rita Rainnie on an outstanding career.

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