

November 2021

## LEA SERVICE AWARD

*Merle Schrodter*

**For services to Lutheran schooling  
1986 – 2021**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Merle Schrodter to Lutheran education for 36 years.

Merle has dedicated her entire career to Lutheran education, and in particular to St Paul's Lutheran Primary School, Caboolture. This journey began in 1986 when she taught a year 4 and 5 composite class. The school was in its second year when Merle began to teach. Merle spent 5 years as a relief and contract teacher from 1994 until 1999 while she cared for her young daughters.

When the preschool opened in 1999 Merle undertook the role of teacher. She saw the transition of children from preschool to prep. In 2008, Merle began her year 1 teaching days, a position she then held until her retirement.

Merle's exceptional service was recognized in 2018 when she received the Lutheran Education Queensland Rolph Mayer Award for Teacher Excellence.

Merle has a servant heart and reaches out to all. She is a caring person who puts her faith into words and actions. As an effective classroom teacher, she builds strong relationships with students, parents and staff.

Merle always approaches her work in an energetic and enthusiastic manner, striving to maintain an environment where the children, parents and staff feel welcome, secure, happy and cared for.

Merle leaves no stone unturned when it comes to the students. She tackles most needy situations. She sets appropriate and achievable goals for each student. She is very encouraging and supportive of the students, wanting them to achieve and be successful members of the community.

Merle is committed to making learning a positive and enjoyable experience, where each child's achievements are reached in ways which are both enjoyable and relevant to them, while meeting their educational goals.

Merle is highly respected, friendly, very approachable, dedicated and a humble mentor teacher to many other teachers. She is proactive in the establishment of good working relationships. She has a positive disposition and always speaks constructively.

St Paul's is extremely proud to have had Merle as a staff member who shines out to the local community and who has shown dedication in everything she has done over the many years.

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