

December 2021

LEA SERVICE AWARD

Rita Visser

**For service to Lutheran education
1996–2021**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Rita Visser to Lutheran education for 20 years.

Rita commenced her service in Lutheran education in 2001, following her appointment at Luther College as a mathematics teacher. Her first role was to teach Year 12 Further Mathematics and Year 11 Foundation Mathematics, before going on to teach every year level during her twenty years at the College.

Rita's flare and passion for mathematics made her a much-loved colleague and sought-after teacher. In the classroom Rita encouraged a love of learning, using engaging teaching strategies to inspire and motivate students.

Guiding thousands of young people to success, Rita's commitment to teaching was clearly appreciated by students, many of whom chose mathematics-based pathways during and beyond their secondary school education.

Rita will be remembered by colleagues for the care and support she provided students, always going the extra mile to help them. She has been described as a person that puts her heart and soul into everything, with no half measures.

Rita's dedication to curriculum planning is second to none, developing carefully planned teaching resources for every year level. Rita played a key role in developing several pilot programs which went on to form the basis for mathematics curriculum in multiple year levels. She also worked hard to develop and implement pathways to VCE by introducing subjects such as Challenge Mathematics.

As a person, Rita is honest, trustworthy, and genuinely caring. She is a true Christian, always using her faith and values to guide her. Rita's influence on her colleagues and the many students whose lives she has touched will be felt for many, many years to come. A true servant leader, Rita volunteered countless times to support colleagues while also using opportunities like the Maths HelpDesk to support students outside of class time.

Rita is also very accomplished outside of her teaching role, speaking regularly at conferences, participating in research programs, and even developing a mathematics software program in partnership with her son, which was sold to the University of Melbourne.

Rita's faithful and conscientious service to her Lord and 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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