

LESER NETWORKS

For Principals of Colleges and Schools,
Directors of Kindergartens & Early Childhood Centres
LESER Office Hours 8.30am – 4.30pm



Lutheran Education
South Eastern Region

NEW SOUTH WALES
TASMANIA
VICTORIA

23 January 2014
No. 01

Welcome to 2014

LESER Networks is distributed fortnightly

Please ensure that all staff and school councillors receive this communication

DEVOTION

A SERVANT HEART

Most of us know the story well. Jesus took a bowl of water, washed the disciples' feet, and dried them with a towel. With this simple but profound act, Jesus showed the disciples how we are to serve one another.

All staff of Lutheran schools are called to such service in Christ's name - service that responds to real human need, service that reaches out to those Jesus called "the least of these," service that offers nurture and hope in a weary world, service that often goes without recognition or reward, service that expresses God's love and care in tangible ways.



You may not always call it by name, but most who seek to follow the Servant Christ take up the basin and towel in some way each day. In this new school year, take the time to acknowledge and celebrate the spirit of service in your school. You might notice someone giving up their lunchtime to get alongside a troubled student or tutoring a child with a special need. You might see a parent giving up weekends to coach a sporting team. You might overhear a colleague comforting another who is grieving. You might observe a student taking on a significant service project in their own time. You might experience someone taking on an additional teaching load to alleviate the pressure on a colleague experiencing a personal issue. You might meet an old scholar who has chosen a career that is oriented toward serving others.

When you see such examples of service in our schools, take a moment to give thanks, to celebrate that the vision of the Servant Christ remains an integral part of the Lutheran school experience.

LESER REGIONAL NEWS

The full complement of staff is now in place and we are indeed blessed to have such a talented and committed staff in the LESER office. This year we welcome our new Office Administrator, Josie Muratore into her role. Josie joins LESER with significant experience in educational administration through high level executive assistant roles in the Department of Education and Early Childhood, Marcellin College and Templestowe College. We are excited at the range of skills and experience Josie will bring to our office and warmly welcome her to the region in this key administrative and communication role

What follows is a brief overview of the secretariat staff roles:

Director – Paul Weinert

Coordination LESER office staff, grievances, coordination of principal support, School/Church cooperation, ISV and AISNSW liaison, governance training, State and Federal Government liaison and industrial relations.

Assistant Director – Neville Grieger

School development and strategic planning, VRQA and Board of Studies compliance, LEA projects and programs (e.g. Better Schools, LDP), Leadership Development, staff formation and school chaplaincy.

Education Officer – Liz Pietsch (0.8)

Staff Formation /Accreditation, Christian Studies support, Valuing Safe Communities, teaching and learning resources/ networking.

Business Manager – Graeme Huf (0.75)

Business management, advice and training, industrial relations and risk management oversight (including liaison with OHS and emergency response providers).

Accountant – John Graetz (0.6)

Accountant and financial manager

Office Administrator – Josie Muratore

PA to Director and Executive Staff, office coordination, communication and events management.

Our staff are excited about the year ahead and like all of our schools we have been busy planning for the year as we seek to coordinate what are often hectic schedules. During these planning days it was affirming to note the servant attitude of the staff at LESER. There is absolutely no doubt that our staff has clarity of purpose; we are here to serve in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. This was a reoccurring theme for our staff days and will continue to be the motivation for our work as we seek to support the schools of the region.

COMMUNICATION

The communication link between the LESER Office and our schools is critical to foster collaboration across the region. To ensure effective communication to school personnel, LESER will continue to utilise a similar communication schedule in 2014. This schedule involves a fortnightly LESER Newsletter which will incorporate LEA News. This newsletter is to be distributed to all school staff and school councillors and includes general information about the region including a spotlight on a particular school (this section will begin in the next Newsletter). During the alternate week an Action Memo is distributed. This memo will be sent to a specific cohort within the school community (e.g. principals, business managers, school council's chairs, Christian Studies leaders etc.) and will include specific tasks which are to be actioned. These tasks may relate to a range of compliance requirements for government or church, however the nature of the tasks varies considerably. It is greatly appreciated if the task listed can be addressed by the due date.

This year LESER is reviewing its communication strategy with the assistance of Strategic Communications firm, *Commotion*. As part of this process we will certainly be liaising with schools to ascertain the most effective way of distributing and receiving information. This review will involve an overhaul of our website as we develop a comprehensive digital communication strategy. This process has already begun with the principal consultation session which was held at our last principal meeting day in 2013. We look forward to greater consultation with schools as we endeavour to improve our communication strategies.

HUB CONFERENCES

A highlight of the 2014 year will be the three Hub Conferences. These conferences will be located in a school within the hub area (see location listed below) to enable ease of travel for staff. Accessibility will be critical as the focus is on ensuring as many staff (teaching and non-teaching) can attend. While the format and content will certainly have a local context, the conferences will have a spiritual theme which in part focuses on the essence of Lutheran education. These conferences will be a wonderful forum to connect with staff from other schools in the regional hub network for professional learning and collegiality. The dates and venues have been set and will be as follows:

Riverina Hub Conference (St Paul's College, Walla Walla)	August 15
Western Hub Conference (Holy Trinity Lutheran School, Horsham)	August 22
Central Hub Conference (Luther College, Croydon)	October 6

While several initial planning meetings about the conferences were held late in 2013, detailed planning meetings will recommence in the coming weeks so look for further information later this term.

REGIONAL NETWORKS

A theme for our region this year will focus on creating networks across the region. While there are several active forums and networks in progress (e.g. principal meetings and hubs, business managers meeting days, Christian Studies Leaders), we recognise there is much potential in gathering focus groups or facilitating networks to share information and learning. It is hoped that in the coming months as the LESER staff visit schools, we can investigate the possibility of developing other networks, which can assist in building collective skills and knowledge by sharing information and collaborating. Of particular interest is teaching and learning (with a focus on the Australian Curriculum) and Information Technology. These networks can meet electronically

through a number of available platforms so distance should not be an issue. We will certainly look to engage schools in the possibilities and certainly welcome ideas and initiatives already being considered.

NEW PRINCIPALS

As the New Year begins we warmly welcome new Principals **Tara Pritchard** (Nhill Lutheran School) and **David Spike** (Lakeside Lutheran College). We are thrilled to have such enthusiastic and motivated leaders in our region and we wish them every blessing as they begin the school year. Tara was installed as principal last Sunday at Nhill Lutheran Church and David's installation date will be confirmed in the coming weeks.

Every blessing for your first week back!

Paul Weinert
LESER Director
paul.weinert@leser.lutheran.edu.au

VICTORIAN SCHOOLS ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

The joint communication on 9th December 2013 from the LESER, Independent Education Union and non-union bargaining representatives provided a brief update to the staff in our Victorian schools of the progress that had been made last year with the negotiation of a new Enterprise Agreement for our Victorian Lutheran Schools.

The finalisation of the draft Enterprise Agreement is continuing in readiness to present to the Lutheran staff covered by this Agreement. It is anticipated that this will occur in February and for the process to be completed in Term 1 of 2014.

Graeme Huf
Business Manager
business.manager@leser.lutheran.edu.au

EQUIP

This year the following **EQUIP Workshops** will be offered



Module	Melbourne	Riverina
EQUIP 1	Friday, February 21	To be advised – if needed
EQUIP 3	Friday, March 14	Friday March 21
EQUIP 4	Friday, May 16	Friday, May 30
EQUIP 2	Thursday, July 24	Wednesday, August 27
EQUIP 5	Friday, July 25	Thursday, August 28
EQUIP 6	Friday, October 10	Friday, October 17

In Melbourne, workshops will be held at the Quality Hotel, Tullamarine. The location of the Riverina workshops are still to be determined but as we did last year, I would like to have them at different school locations. I am not sure if there will be sufficient numbers to run EQUIP 1 in the

Riverina but I will determine this once schools have updated their new staff members on the LExiCON database.

CHRISTIAN STUDIES LEADERS' DAYS
--

Western Hub	Friday, February 14	October 24
Central Hub	Tuesday, February 25	TBA
Riverina Hub	Tuesday, March 4	Friday, August 29

During the next weeks I will be sending a flyer to all schools with information on **EQUIP**. I will also be contacting all Christian Studies Leaders.

Liz Pietsch
Education Officer
liz.pietsch@leser.education.edu.au

AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHY COMPETITION



In schools 25 March - 5 April; entries close 28 February

Full information: website www.geographycompetition.org.au

Enquiries to Kath Berg, email admin@rgsg.org.au or phone 07 3368 2066.

ACEL/ASEPTA

ACEL/ASEPTA are hosting two big events this 2014, the conference and also the Special Needs Congress in Sydney. Below are the links to both events – please circulate these events to your school leaders and teachers:

Passion and Purpose – Setting the Learning Agenda
01-03 October 2014
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

This conference provides a multinational platform to critically examine the direction that education should take in the challenging years ahead. The conference aims to answer the challenging issues of today through evidence –based testing, performance evaluations, economic and policy analysis and research. Visit the conference website for further information.
<http://acelconference.org.au/index.php?id=1756>

Reflect Shift Transform
01-02 May 2014
SMC Conference & Function Centre (Sydney)

ACEL members and all colleagues are strongly encouraged to participate in the First Asia Pacific Congress on Creating Inclusive Schools. It is imperative that we ensure our schools and educational institutions are equipped with the understanding and resources required to create inclusive schools for our next general of leavers. Visit the Congress website for further information. <http://www.acelconference.org.au/index.php?id=1765>

EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT

Christine Reid has provided an excellent service in the area of indigenous education, to all of the Lutheran Schools in SA, NT and WA for the past decade. Due to changed funding and employment arrangements, Christine is now available to facilitate sessions in our region as a private consultant. We recommend her for consideration by schools to assist with the implementation of Australian Curriculum requirements and achievement of objectives specifically in the area of Indigenous Ed. Further information and contact details can be obtained from the accompanying flyer.

Neville Grieger
Assistant Director

neville.grieger@leser.lutheran.edu.au



•Christine Reid Educational Consultant•

Contact me by -

Telephone:
0403 816 839

Email:
wacareid@tpg.com.au

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/ChristineReidEducationalConsultant

Payment based on TRT rates plus associated costs.

Christine Reid Educational Consultant

Introduction: For the past 10 years I have held the position of Indigenous Education Facilitator with Lutheran Schools in SA, NT and WA. During this time I have supported educators with implementing programmes and projects with an Indigenous focus as well as writing articles for School Link and presenting at conferences including ACLE. The Gonski education reform has changed the way funding will be distributed. The funding, previously used for education consultant positions, will now go directly to schools. Consequently I am now working as a private educational consultant to support schools across Australia to meet their educational requirements particularly in objectives related to Indigenous education

I can support you with:

- Understanding the Cross Curriculum priority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures in all subject areas within the Australian Curriculum.
 - Providing teaching ideas
 - Curriculum development
 - Links to resources
 - Developing Units of Inquiry
 - Adding the Indigenous perspective to the transdisciplinary themes of the PYP.
- Professional development to gain knowledge of
 - Australian Aboriginal history and the impact of colonisation
 - Appropriate terminology for classroom use
 - Choosing appropriate resources
 - Methodological support for teaching Aboriginal students
 - Ipad teacher support
 - ESL methodology and student support
- Develop activities to support the needs of schools
- Meeting aspects of the AITSL standards; Professional Knowledge, Professional Practice and Professional Engagement
- Developing the Personalised Learning Plans for Aboriginal students as required by the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan 2010 -2014.
- Tutoring and mentoring
- Project management
- Primary teaching
 - Setting goals
 - Behaviour management

Testimonials:

"Thank you for all your support over the years, your wisdom, your ideas, your passion in this area and your enthusiasm." Michelle Keller, Deputy Principal, Redeemer Lutheran School.

"THANK YOU for the blessing you have been to our system." Anne Marschall, Principal, Good Shepherd Lutheran School.



Applications are invited for the position of
BUSINESS MANAGER
LAKESIDE LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Situated 60km south east of Melbourne in the Cardinia Shire and one of Australia's fastest urban growth areas Lakeside Lutheran College is a P-12 school that currently has 290 enrolments.

The College is seeking the services of a dynamic and committed Business Manager to lead its business development through its next growth phase. Whilst needing the necessary financial management expertise the role requires the applicant to have experience or an interest in broader administrative and facilities management. The commencement date for this full-time role will be negotiated with the successful applicant.

The successful applicant for this senior position will have:

- Qualifications and experience in financial management
- Excellent communication skills
- Computer literacy, including experience with financial software
- Experience or an understanding of facilities management
- A willingness to support the Christian ethos of the College

The Business Manager will be responsible for:

- Overall business and financial operation of the College
- Human resource management of non-teaching staff
- Oversight of property management
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Contributing to Strategic Planning as a member of the College Leadership Team

Experience of or an appreciation of the operations and culture of a P-12 College is preferred and a copy of the Position Description is available on the College website under Employment Opportunities.

An attractive salary is offered and will be negotiated with the successful applicant.

Please direct enquiries and applications to:

Mr David Spike, Principal
2 Portobello Road Pakenham Victoria 3810
Phone: (03) 5941 7544
recruitment@lakeside.vic.edu.au
www.lakeside.vic.edu.au

As this position is currently being re-advertised, previous applicants need not apply. Applications must include a covering letter, CV and three referees. Applications close on Friday 21 February 2014.

LESER CALENDAR DATES – 2014

LESER Office re-opens	13 January	
LESER Planning Days (Office Closed)	20 – 21 January	
Australia Day Holiday	27 January	
Christian Studies Leaders – Western Hub	14 February	TBC
Western Hub Meeting	17 February	TBC
Equip Module 1 – Melbourne	21 February	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine
Christian Studies Leaders – Central Hub	25 February	TBC
College Of Directors	25 – 27 February	LEA – Adelaide
LEA Working Parties	25 – 28 February	LEA - Adelaide
BLEA	27 – 28 February	LEA - Adelaide
Early Childhood Retreat	27 Feb – 1 March	
Equip Module 1 - Riverina	3 March	TBC
Christian Studies Leaders – Riverina	4 March	TBC
LESER Principals' Day	6 March	
LESER Planning Day (Office Closed)	7 March	
Labour Day Holiday Vic/Tas	10 March	
ALWS Awareness Week	10 – 14 March	
Equip Module 3 – Melbourne	14 March	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine
LESER Staff Training Days (office closed)	18 – 19 March	
Equip Module 3 – Riverina	21 March	TBC
LESER Business Managers' Day	28 March	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine
Good Friday	18 April	
Easter Monday	21 April	
ANZAC Day	25 April	
LPA Day	30 April	
National Lutheran Schools Week	5 – 9 May	
LEA Working Parties	5 – 9 May	Brisbane
LESER Beginning Teachers Day	13 May	TBC
Equip Module 4 – Melbourne	16 May	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine
College of Directors	20 – 21 May	Brisbane
Equip Module 4 – Riverina	30 May	TBC
Principals' Retreat	4 – 6 June	TBC
Queen's Birthday Holiday	9 June	
BLEA	19 – 20 June	
Germany Tour	5 – 18 July	
Equip Module 2 – Melbourne	24 July	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine
Equip Module 5 – Melbourne	25 July	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine
LESER Principals' Day	1 August	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine
LEA Working Parties	4 – 8 August	Adelaide
College of Directors	5 – 6 August	LSA
Riverina Hub Conference	15 August	St Paul's College, Walla Walla
Western Hub Conference	22 August	Holy Trinity Lutheran School, Horsham
National Lutheran Principals Conference	24 – 27 August	Alice Springs
Equip Module 2 – Riverina	27 August	
Equip Module 5 – Riverina	28 August	
Christian Studies Leaders – Riverina	29 August	TBC
BLEA	4 – 5 September	Adelaide
LESER Schools Assembly (TBC)	6 September	Quality Hotel Melbourne Airport
LCA District Convention	3 – 5 October (TBC)	Good News Lutheran College, Tarneit
Labour Day NSW	6 October	
Central Hub Conference	6 October	Luther College
Equip Module 6 – Melbourne	10 October	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine
Equip Module 6 – Riverina	17 October	TBC
LESER Business Managers' Day	17 October	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine
Christian Studies Leaders – Western Hub	24 October	
Melbourne Cup Day	4 November	
College of Directors	11 – 12 November	Adelaide
LESER Principals' Day	14 November	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine
LESER Office Closes	19 December	

FROM THE LEA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – STEPHEN RUDOLPH

WELCOME TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

With this first LEA News for 2014, the LEA team welcomes all principals, staff and students to the new school year. We pray that 2014 provides many blessings to your school and the people in your community.

In particular we pray for God's blessings:

- for the communities affected by bushfires and other challenges
- for new principals, staff and students as they begin their journeys, and,
- for staff as they may welcome those new to their community

662 YEARS OF SERVICE ACKNOWLEDGED THROUGH LEA SERVICE AWARDS

During 2013, LEA Service Awards were presented to 23 people (listed below) who retired from Lutheran schools. These people whose roles in Lutheran schools varied from principal, leader, classroom teacher, administration to college council chair, collectively served 662 years.

LEA Service Award recipients were:

	Years of service
Alison Grady	22
Joy Nitschke	26
Lorraine Pfeiffer	38
Athol Pukallus	30
Geoffrey Butler	36
Yvonne Clunes	34
Bruce Baum	31
Ian Wood	30
Annette Clark	35
Dianne Czechowski	34
Cheryl Stimson	33
Jill Buckland	22
Jacqui Wood	36
Beverley Langlands	30
Ronda Mugford	27
Andrew Thurlow	30
Gavin Buhse	22
Anne Maczkowiack	26
Maria Lennerth	24
John Allwood	23
Claire Chittleborough	21
Lyn Roberts	29
Jenny Patching	<u>23</u>
	<u>662</u>

ACHIEVEMENT STABLE AS ACARA RELEASES 2013 NAPLAN NATIONAL REPORT

[13 December 2013] The Chair of the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC), the Hon Adrian Piccoli MP, today released the 2013 NAPLAN National Report. The NAPLAN National Report shows that overall student achievement at state and territory levels has remained stable across 2012 - 2013. Minister Piccoli stated, I am pleased that the report shows that achievement at state and territory levels has remained stable. Also heartening is the moderate increase in performance in Year 5 reading nationally, when compared to 2008. This builds on improvements that have been evident in Year 3 reading in recent years, added the Minister. The report is available at www.nap.edu.au. School-by-school results will be available on the next version of the *My School* website, to be published early in 2014.

2012 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EDUCATION ACTION PLAN ANNUAL REPORT RELEASED

[18 December 2013] The Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC) today released the 2012 Annual Report for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan 2010-2014. The Action Plan demonstrates a strong and united commitment by governments in Australia to Closing the Gap in education outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, the Chair of SCSEEC, Minister Piccoli, said. The Annual Report for the 2012 school year highlights the contributions of all states and territories and the Australian Government in implementing 55 key actions in the Action Plan under six domains: readiness for school; engagement and connections; attendance; literacy and numeracy; leadership, quality teaching and workforce development; and pathways to real post-school options.

SCHOOL PLAYGROUND RESEARCH

A RMIT University, Bundoora Vic, research team has published a major article in the Australian Journal of Teacher Education outlining strategies for educators/schools to move beyond 'conventional school playgrounds' (eg, fixed playground structures). The article outlines the process and comprehensive evaluation by following an intervention of movable/recycled materials introduced into an entire primary school playground for a 2 1/2 year period.

This research is quite ground-breaking as it challenges the entire educational community to reconsider how school playgrounds are developed/implemented and the range of multi-dimensional benefits on students' learning/health development that can be achieved from introducing such an intervention.

The article is published today at <http://ro.ecu.edu.au/ajte/vol39/iss1/6/> and I can be contacted on behalf of the research team on 0448173306. The article takes a little while to download due to the size of the pictures in the results section.

ACARA UPDATE

[December 2013] **The 2012 National Assessment Program – Science Literacy Public Report published**

ACARA is pleased to announce the release of the [2012 National Assessment Program – Science Literacy \(NAP–SL\) Public Report](#) (pdf 3.23 MB). The report is available on the [ACARA's National Assessment Program \(NAP\) website](#) along with the detailed technical report.

The NAP–SL Sample Assessment measures students’ science literacy, their ability to use knowledge, identify questions and draw evidence-based conclusions in order to make decisions about the natural world and the way it changes.

A representative sample of around 13 000 Year 6 students from government, Catholic and independent schools from all states and territories sat for this test.

The findings from the 2012 NAP–SL Sample Assessment presented in the Public Report provide:

- a national comparison against the science literacy scale
- an analysis of science literacy findings across states and territories
- an analysis of science literacy across a range of sub-groups in student population.

The Public Report also provides the results of the student survey, completed by students at the same time as the assessment. The survey results provide a measure of student interest in science as well as their understanding of its relevance to everyday life.

To assist all schools in developing and assessing their students’ science literacy skills, the [Science Literacy 2012 School Release Materials](#) (pdf 4.28 MB) are now also available on the NAP website.

Illustrations of Personalised Learning: bringing student diversity advice materials to life

Recently the first group of ACARA [Illustrations of Personalised Learning \(LoPL\)](#) was published live on the Australian Curriculum website.

Illustrations of Personalised Learning are short videos of genuine educational practice that bring the student diversity advice materials to life. They illustrate different approaches to meeting the diverse needs of students in a range of contexts. These contexts include primary, secondary, regular and special schools.

LoPL packages promote equity of access to the Australian Curriculum for all students. Supporting information is presented in a drop-down accordion to the right of the video.

Elements of the accordion include:

- Australian Curriculum
- personalised learning
- questions for discussion
- professional standards for teachers
- school context
- supporting documents.

At the bottom of the LoPL package, recommendations are made to other illustrations. This includes links to related Illustrations of Practice developed by Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL).

There is also a video, [What is an illustration of personalised learning?](#)

More LoPL packages are scheduled for release before the end of 2013. In the future, you will be able to find the LoPL on [Scootle](#)