

# 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

06 February 2014  
No. 02

*LESER Networks is distributed fortnightly  
Please ensure that all staff and school councillors receive this communication*

## DEVOTION

### “One body in Christ”

*“So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us”. Romans 12: 5-6*

Within our text is that familiar list of grace given-gifts. Most of us, being educators, identify with the gift of teaching as being our personal calling. Consider, however, that no matter how great our primary calling and gifting in education, it does not preclude having additional gifts that we are also called upon to demonstrate. Do we focus only on teaching and refuse to minister, encourage, give to others, lead, or show mercy? Of course not.



In our individual settings we use all of these gifts to a greater or lesser extent every day. Our challenges are to also recognize our secondary gifts, discover that others also have grace-given gifts, appreciate that there is overlap within our settings where each of us demonstrates our gifts and celebrate that. As members one of another, we belong to each other. Belonging to each other in God’s amazing grace leads us to support each other with our gifts, operating as team ministries with varied roles. We are not jealous of each other. Instead, the diversity within our unity allows our gifts to complement the gifts of others, creating a sum that is greater and more effective in ministry than its individual parts. We are empowered to “grace” others through God’s free and spontaneous love for us.

Identify your grace-given gifts. Identify the “secondary” grace-given gifts you also use every day. Share within your team the gifts you see and celebrate in your co-workers.

*Using your individual and corporate grace-given gifts, how can you most effectively and efficiently “grace” others in Jesus’ name?*

*Pray that your gifts and the gifts of your colleagues will be blessed with exposure, opportunity, and seamless complementary cooperation.*

*This devotion was contributed by Alan Feddersen,  
Director of Lutheran Schools for Southern California and Hawaii, Glendale, California.*

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## LESER REGIONAL NEWS

### LUTHER 50TH ANNIVERSARY

This weekend will see the 50th Anniversary celebrations for Luther College. We give thanks for Luther College and the wonderful service the College has provided over its rich history. Luther has been a shining light in our Region not only for its continued focus on providing excellent, Gospel centred education to the community but also for the support it provides to the Region as a whole, which has been a blessing for all schools of LESER. A full overview of the celebratory activities can be found on Page 6.

### DR KEN ALBINGER

Last weekend the Wagga Wagga Lutheran School community and School Council acknowledged Principal Ken Albinger's 50 years of service in Lutheran Schools. Lutheran Education Australia Executive Director, Steve Rudolph, was present to congratulate Ken on his wonderful career in Lutheran schools. LESER also congratulates Ken on his inspirational service to Lutheran schools, which continues with full enthusiasm as he leads his current school community with a continued focus on innovation and improvement.

### COUNCIL FOR LUTHERAN EDUCATION

The Council for Lutheran Education held its first meeting of the new year on Tuesday, 04 February. The Council will meet six times this year as it oversees the schools of the Region from a governance perspective. In various editions of our newsletter we will endeavour to report on key activities of the Council to keep schools informed. The Council for 2014 is as follows:

**David Walkenhorst - Chair**  
**Ron Asquith - Vice Chair**  
**Ken Bartel (Dr) - Secretary**  
**David Bryce (Pastor)**  
**Greg Pietsch (Pastor)**  
**Mark Lieschke (Pastor)**

**Matthew Miller**  
**Brett Hausler**  
**Peter Zweck**  
**Gary Jewson**  
**Paul Weinert**  
**Neville Grieger**  
**Graeme Huf**

It should be noted that there is presently a vacancy on Council due to Leanne Benson's resignation at the end of 2013. LESER would like to thank Leanne for her service to the Region through her governance role. The Council will be seeking a new member during the coming month.

At its meeting, CLE resolved to support the expansion of Good News Lutheran College in the quickly growing area of Tarneit/Werribee and surrounds as this school has exciting Mission and Ministry potential. The loan cost implications of this project are considerable and funding options limited, which now requires that many arms of the Lutheran Church of Australia are looking at the most appropriate ways to move this project forward from a financial perspective. We pray that God will guide us all to a positive outcome that will allow this project to proceed to meet its full potential.

Also at its meeting, CLE resolved to support the loan application to LLL by Trinity Lutheran College Mildura, to expand its facilities in line with its growing requirements.

The past year was a significant year for CLE and LESER and we hope to build on the strong foundations that were set during 2013 as we work with you all throughout 2014.

Paul Weinert  
LESER Director  
[paul.weinert@leser.lutheran.edu.au](mailto:paul.weinert@leser.lutheran.edu.au)

## PRINCIPALS' RETREAT 2014

The 2014 Principals' Retreat has been scheduled for Wednesday, 04 June (5.00 pm) through to lunch time on Friday, 06 June.

The retreat will again be held at the Campion Retreat Centre in Kew. While the format will be similar to 2013, the content will be totally different from last year. A registration form will be available in the next action memo or can be down loaded via the link on the [home page on our web site](#).

In the meantime we encourage you to reserve a place in your calendar for this important spiritual growth opportunity. The estimated full cost of the retreat, including facilities hire, accommodation and all meals will be in the vicinity of \$240 per person.

## FOR PRINCIPALS/CHAIR/BUSINESS MANAGERS

### IMPORTANT DAY OF CONSULTATION and WORKSHOPS QUALITY HOTEL, TULLAMARINE

Further to the information distributed in the **ACTION MEMO** last week, we have the best of intentions that the meeting day of **THURSDAY, 06 MARCH** will proceed, however we are still seeking confirmation for schools to respond as soon as possible.

There will be two key parts to the day:

1. We have been asked by Lutheran Education Australia (LEA) to schedule in a consultation session on a proposed national leadership framework. This will be facilitated by an independent consultant, Dawn Lang, starting at 9.00 am.
2. From 2.00 pm Schools Assembly will meet. There will be important consultation on critical matters, including the mechanism for distribution of system funding.

If it is more convenient for Council Chairs and Business Managers to travel together with Principals at the beginning of the day, rather than arrive later, LEA has indicated that the Leadership consultation session would be of interest to Chairs and Business Managers and their input would be greatly appreciated.

Documentation for the meeting of Schools Assembly for Tuesday, 06 March will be sent out in advance later this month.

**Neville Grieger**  
Assistant Director  
[neville.grieger@leser.lutheran.edu.au](mailto:neville.grieger@leser.lutheran.edu.au)

## EQUIP

Attached to the Newsletter you will find information relating to the delivery of **EQUIP** in 2014. Could you please ensure that the **Principal, Deputy Principal, Head of School, Curriculum Leader, Christian Studies Leader** and any other relevant staff receive this information. The flyer outlining the schedule of the year should be displayed in the staff room and brought to the attention of all staff.



Please note that **EQUIP Module 1 is being offered as follows:**

- **Friday, February 21 at the Quality Hotel, Tullamarine**
- **Monday, March 3 in the Riverina (venue TBA)**

Dates for the remainder of 2014 are contained in the attached flyer.

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03 February, 2014

Dear Principal, Deputy Principal, Head of School,  
Curriculum Leader, Christian Studies Leader

The LESER dates for Equip Modules have now been set for 2014. Please refer to the 'Christian Studies Equip - 2014' flyer, which includes all information and dates for Equip 2014.



**Please ensure that the information provided with this letter is displayed, distributed and communicated to your teaching staff as we are aware that many teachers are keen to book Equip modules ASAP.**

*Please note:*

- **Registrations** are to be completed by emailing [liz.pietsch@leser.lutheran.edu.au](mailto:liz.pietsch@leser.lutheran.edu.au)
- Modules 1 and 2 require a **minimum** of 4 participants and Modules 3-6 require a **minimum** of 6 participants for these modules to proceed.
- Staff attending Equip Modules 3 – 6 in 2014 should have completed Modules 1 and 2 previously.
- Some of your staff may complete Equip in 2014. They will need to attend Equip Module 6, as the portfolios which are prepared by the participants are presented to the Equip group in a culminating presentation on that day.
- Equip and **Spiritual Pathways** need to both be completed for **A<sub>c</sub>** status (Accreditation as a Christian Studies teacher) in the first 3 years of employment. Please ensure that Equip participants are up to date with their Pathways program at the conclusion of Equip, and that this is recorded on the **LEXICON** [Lutheran Education Information Collection Network] database.
- Teachers of Christian Studies who already hold their LEA **A<sub>c</sub>** status from previous years are encouraged to access Equip Modules as professional development support in the teaching of Christian Studies.
- **ALC graduates** are encouraged to access Equip for professional development and networking.

If you have any queries about Equip, please contact us at the LESER office. My email addresses is:  
[liz.pietsch@leser.lutheran.edu.au](mailto:liz.pietsch@leser.lutheran.edu.au)

We look forward to another successful year of Equip Modules in 2014 and ask that you continue to support your staff as they work towards their LEA Accreditation as teachers of Christian Studies.

In Christ's service

**Liz Pietsch**  
LESER Education Officer



## What is Equip?



**EQUIP** is a 10 module in-service professional learning course for teachers of Christian Studies (CS). The purpose of this course is to equip teachers to teach Christian Studies and help them grow in their:

- own spiritual and theological understandings
- understanding of the purpose of CS and their role and responsibilities as a teacher
- knowledge and practice in relation to the Christian Studies Curriculum Framework (CSCF), planning units of work and a range of classroom strategies.

Typically, teachers will complete the Equip course in 3 years. Modules 1 and 2 are to be completed in the teacher's first year of teaching Christian Studies, as they are specifically written with teachers **new** to Christian Studies in mind. Teachers then complete 4 modules in each of the next 2 years. These are provided by LESER in a 2 year cycle, meaning that participants may complete either Modules 7-10 or Modules 3-6 in a year.

LESER's offerings of Equip Modules match all Regions of Lutheran Education Australia (LEA) as follows:

2014	2015	2016
Modules 1 & 2 Modules 3-6	Modules 1 & 2 Modules 7 - 10	Modules 1 & 2 Modules 3 - 6

**Course requirements:** To satisfy course completion requirements (*and be eligible for LEA Accreditation as a Teacher of Christian Studies*), participants must:

- ✓ Attend all 10 modules
- ✓ Complete between session activities
- ✓ Bring required materials to modules, including Equip folder and units of work for reflection
- ✓ During Equip, compile a portfolio which includes:
  - ◆ four units of work, one of which is detailed and annotated, an assessment task with attached criteria sheet, and at least three annotated samples of student work.
  - ◆ a philosophy for teaching CS
  - ◆ journal responses for each module
- ✓ At the conclusion of Equip (Module 6 or 10), present and submit the portfolio
- ✓ Complete the Pathways: Spiritual focus program.

**Credit for prior learning:** Some participants are eligible for credit for prior learning based on their participation in pre-service study and other professional learning. Teachers who may be eligible for credit are invited to submit written documentation and explanation to the LESER Education Officer.

**Please note:** Please email registrations to: [liz.pietsch@leser.lutheran.edu.au](mailto:liz.pietsch@leser.lutheran.edu.au)

**Please select your module preferences carefully and in consultation with your school calendar.**

## OVERVIEW OF MODULE CONTENT:

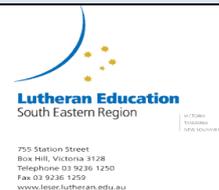


	Module	Focus concepts	CSCF link
Orientation year	<b>Module 1</b> What is Christian Studies?	Nature and purpose of Christian Studies (CS) Approach to teaching and learning in Christian Studies Unit planning and the planning process	CSCF overview
	<b>Module 2</b> What is my vision for Christian Studies?	Spirituality of students A personal vision for CS Overview of inquiry process	CSCF Curriculum Statements and Theological Notes
Year A: (to be delivered in 2014)	<b>Module 3</b> How do I make sense of the world?	Multiple worldviews (religious, philosophical, ethical) Respectful dialogue Inclusive classrooms Working cooperatively	CW1 CW3
	<b>Module 4</b> Who am I?	Identity Being human and made in the image of God Critical thinking and engagement Brain based learning	CL1 CB3
	<b>Module 5</b> Who is God?	Nature of God and images of God Nature and purpose of the Bible Investigation and collaboration	CB1 CC1
	<b>Module 6</b> How do I know and relate to God?	Spirituality and prayer Jesus as a bridge-builder Revelation and faith Reflection and metacognition Silence and stillness, meditation Assessment as learning	CB2 CC3 CW2
Year B: (to be delivered in 2013)	<b>Module 7</b> What do I do with my life?	Discipleship, vocation and service Planning for deep understanding Essential questions Lifelong Qualities for Learners (LQL)	CL2
	<b>Module 8</b> How do I live my life?	An ethical life Knowing right from wrong Critical and philosophical thinking	CW3
	<b>Module 9</b> How do I respond?	Stewardship and justice Assessment and assessment tasks Action and response	CL3 CC2
	<b>Module 10</b> What happens when things go wrong?	Forgiveness, suffering, hope and trust Creative and caring thinking	CB3 CC3

## LESER EQUIP MODULES 2014



Modules 1 & 2 are for teachers **beginning** Equip in 2014. Please choose a date for **both** Modules.



<p><b>Module 1:</b></p> <p>Quality Hotel, Tullamarine, <b>Melbourne</b> <b>Friday, February 21</b></p> <p>Riverina (venue TBA) <b>Monday, March 3</b></p>	<p><b>Module 2:</b></p> <p>Quality Hotel, Tullamarine, <b>Melbourne</b> <b>Thursday, July 24</b></p> <p>Riverina (venue TBA) <b>Wednesday, August 27</b></p>
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Modules 3-6 are for teachers who have completed **BOTH Modules 1 & 2**. Please choose a date for **each** of Modules 3-6:

<b>Module 3</b>	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine: Riverina (venue TBA):	Friday, March 14 Friday, March 21
<b>Module 4</b>	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine: Riverina (venue TBA):	Friday, May 16 Friday, May 30
<b>Module 5</b>	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine: Riverina (venue TBA):	Friday, July 25 Thursday, August 28
<b>Module 6</b>	Quality Hotel, Tullamarine: Riverina (venue TBA):	Friday, October 10 Friday, October 17

If you wish to register, please do not hesitate to contact me

## LEXICON DATA

Each year the LESER office produces a **Directory of Lutheran Schools** in our region. This is derived directly from the LEXICON data base and will only be as accurate as the information contained in the data base.



We would like to distribute this as soon as possible but we are aware that not all schools have updated information for 2014. We are requesting that this ***information is entered as a matter of urgency***. It is important that each staff member's details are updated regularly and are as comprehensive as possible ie year level taught, subjects taught, speciality, qualifications, training. Changes should be made each term if a staff member's status changes in any way ie changes FTE, year level etc

**WE ARE REQUESTING THAT EACH SCHOOL COMPLETES THE UPDATE OF LEXICON BY FRIDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2014.**

Please don't hesitate to contact me if assistance is needed.

## CHRISTIAN STUDIES LEADERS' DAYS

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

**Liz Pietsch**  
Education Officer  
[liz.pietsch@leser.education.edu.au](mailto: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](http://www.geographycompetition.org.au)**  
Enquiries to Kath Berg, email [admin@rgsq.org.au](mailto:admin@rgsq.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>

## ALWS AWARENESS WEEK

All schools should have received an email from Susan Seng and Vicki Gollasch this week, with information about ALWS Awareness week. A section of their email has been reproduced below.

### AWARENESS WEEK IS 10 – 14 MARCH 2014

It doesn't need to be a week, and it can be whenever suits you best ... but Awareness Week provides your school with a whole range of resources to inspire, inform and equip your students to be active and aware about justice and development. Awareness Week caters for all year levels, linking in to a range of subject curriculum, focusing on a number of Australia-relevant countries.

To enable schools to easily make concrete links with the National Curriculum, the theme for Awareness Week 2013 will focus **Village Life** with a focus on **Cambodia**.

All Awareness Week materials are easily downloadable from our **website**: [www.alws.org.au](http://www.alws.org.au).



The Awareness Week materials include: Resources on Cambodia, development and justice issues relating to Cambodia, photos with questions, teaching ideas and resources and Photo Stories and Power Points. These materials are suitable for Chapels, Assemblies, curriculum classes (e.g. Christian Studies, Geography, History, English, Science), or for special learning opportunities for Awareness Week. If you would like help with how to use any of these resources, please don't hesitate to contact ALWS.

### AWARENESS DAYS 2014

ALWS are offering many Awareness Days around Australia in 2014.

Awareness Day is designed to challenge school leaders and students interested in social justice issues in ways that they can make a difference in this world. Awareness Days have whole group and small group activities, guest speakers, workshops, audio visual presentations, food and culture used to inform and challenge students about injustice in the world and what we can do to help.

The students who attend Awareness Day return to their schools fired-up for the work that can and is being done in the developing world. They often take a lead in service learning activities within the school.

Please click on this link to see the schedule for planned Awareness days in your area <http://www.alws.org.au/schools.html>

Liz Pietsch  
Education Officer  
[liz.pietsch@leser.education.edu.au](mailto:liz.pietsch@leser.education.edu.au)

## THE SPOTLIGHT



After a great deal of planning and preparation the Luther College 50th Anniversary Celebrations are almost upon us. Hooray!

Thank you to the many who have been passionately working to making our 50th celebrations a time of thanksgiving and rejoicing. We have much to be thankful for.

The following is a summary of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events planned for the next 10 days or so. Please share this information with your students, past colleagues, friends and family.

- **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February – Special Luther 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Chapel** (Normal Chapel / extended  
Home Group time and structure for Luther students and staff).
- **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February – Governance dinner** to give thanks to God for all those who have willingly given of their time and talents, to the Church and Luther College, by serving on the Luther College Council over the last 50 years. This event is by invitation and is an important way to acknowledge the service of these special volunteers.
- **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> (3pm – 7 pm) February – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events for the community including special 50<sup>th</sup> year tours of the Luther, art displays, music performances, the 50th anniversary time-capsule, launch of the 50th anniversary book “The Spirit of Luther—50 Years 1964-2013, Luther archive and memorabilia displays, 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary memorabilia sales, food and wine sales, and the opportunity to sit and relax, reconnect and reminisce with past scholars and teachers. All welcome.**
- **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> (7:30 pm) February – Organised LCOSA Reunions**, Classes of 1974, 1984, 1994 and 2004.
- **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> (9:00 am) February – Worship service of celebration and thanksgiving**, including a rite and the unveiling of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary plaque, in the Luther College Chapel. All welcome.
- **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February – Whole College Quad worship** service to mark 50 years of Christ focussed education at Luther.

**Michael Kleidon**  
Principal

Plymouth Road  
Croydon Hills Victoria 3136  
Telephone (03) 9724 2000  
[www.luther.vic.edu.au](http://www.luther.vic.edu.au)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



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](mailto:recruitment@lakeside.vic.edu.au)  
[www.lakeside.vic.edu.au](http://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

**175 Years of Lutheran education [National Lutheran Schools Week]**

This year Lutheran education reaches the 175th anniversary of Lutheran schools in Australia. LEA has decided to substitute the normal National Lutheran Schools Week celebrations which have for some years focussed on the ten values in Lifelong Qualities document, in the following ways:

- a) Circulate to all Lutheran schools suitable worship and curriculum resources around the theme of The tree of life (will be available on the LEA website by end of February 2014)
- b) By 28 February 2014, schools will receive
  - **a voucher for the purchase of a 175th celebration tree** for a ceremonial planting before 30 June 2014
  - **a commemorative plaque** for placement next to their 175th celebration tree stating:  
*This tree was planted to commemorate 175 years of Lutheran schools in Australia (1839-2014)*
- c) Dedicate the final issue of SchoolLink for 2014 to cover the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Schools are asked to provide a photo and some text about their school community celebrations and tree planting.
- d) Finalise and publish in the second half of 2014 the LEA booklet of all Australian Lutheran Early Learning Education Centres and Schools (1839-2014)

Lutheran schools throughout Australia are encouraged to choose a day or week during the first semester in 2014 to celebrate the 175th anniversary. It can be at any time that suits your school's calendar, however, we would ask that it be celebrated before the end of Term 2.

**Australia Day honours lists**

EA congratulates the following people who were awarded an OAM in 2014:

- **Ken Semmler** [For service to the community, and to education through the Lutheran Church of Australia. Ken was the first Council Chairman at Faith Lutheran College, Tanunda SA, and played a huge role in establishing the school]
- **The Honourable Justice Robert William Gotterson** [For distinguished service to the judiciary and to the law, to legal education, administration and professional standards through a range of senior roles, and to the community of Queensland. Justice Gotterson served in various governance roles at St Peters Lutheran College, Indooroopilly Qld]

## LEA CANBERRA CONNECTIONS

**First Ambassador for Independent Public Schools initiative [4 February 2014]**

Federal Member for Deakin, Michael Sukkar MP, has accepted the role as the first national ambassador for the Australian Government's \$70 million Independent Public Schools initiative. Minister for Education, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP warmly welcomed the appointment and said Mr Sukkar has shown great enthusiasm and commitment to putting students first by supporting Australia's public schools to operate more autonomously.

[Read the full media release](#)

## ACARA Update [February 2014] Peter Adams resigns

After several years managing ACARA's assessment and reporting programs, Peter Adams, ACARA's General Manager, Assessment and Reporting, has decided it is time for him to pursue new opportunities and challenges, and he will leave ACARA effective 30 May 2014. Peter has made a substantial contribution to ACARA and its work program. Peter was appointed as Project Director for NAPLAN in December 2006 and was responsible for initiating, planning and delivering the national literacy and numeracy testing program that commenced in 2008. He has been involved in the management and delivery of all NAPLAN testing periods across 2008–13. In 2009 Peter was Project Director, Schools Data and Reporting, and was involved in the initiation of the *My School* website. He took up the role of General Manager, Assessment, at ACARA in April 2010 and in November 2011 he accepted the position of General Manager, Assessment and Reporting.

## Catching arts education at the National Gallery

On Tuesday, 20 January 2014 Senior Project Officer, the Arts, Linda Lorenza gave a keynote presentation at the [2014 National Visual Art Education Conference: Connecting Classrooms, Curriculum & Collections](#). The National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, organised the conference featuring speakers such as artist Fiona Hall and Dr Emily Pringle, Head of Learning Practice and Research at Tate Gallery, London. All presentations were graphically represented by a local artist, Jessamy Gee. Armed with whiteboard and two coloured markers, Jessamy mind-mapped and illustrated each presentation live. [Click here](#) to see Jessamy's depiction of the Australian arts curriculum as presented by Linda.

## NAPLAN online update

ACARA will be working closely with state and territory representatives of government, Catholic and independent school sectors to develop policies and processes for the delivery of NAPLAN online. While ministers are yet to confirm the date for the transition of NAPLAN to a computer-based environment, ACARA continues to work towards a provisional date of May 2016.

Final decisions on the delivery platform, test design and protocols around administration of the tests will be informed by the extensive research program ACARA has been undertaking into online assessment. This research will continue in 2014, with further trials of the proposed tailored test design to be run in August. During the second half of the year, schools will also start receiving information about what they need to do to prepare for the switch to NAPLAN online.

We will be keeping you informed on progress in the NAPLAN online program in *ACARA Update* throughout the year. ACARA has also launched [Online assessment](#) – a new section to the NAP website, which will be updated regularly and will provide information on online assessment as well as the move to deliver NAPLAN online. Join the conversation about NAPLAN online on Twitter ([@ACARAeduau](#)), [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#).

## Online assessment research

In August–October 2013 ACARA conducted a research study to investigate the feasibility of the proposed multistage, branching test design ('tailored test design') for the implementation of NAPLAN as a computer-delivered assessment. In the tailored test design, students will progress through a series of testlets (sets of items that are constructed as stand-alone mini-tests) based on the correctness of their answers, branching to more or less demanding sets of items depending on how they have gone on previous sets. In this way, the whole test is tailored to the ability level of a student. The study utilised assessment items from NAPLAN tests and a number of newly developed items.

More than 250 volunteer schools from all states and territories participated in the trial study. This included remote schools as well as home-based and geographically remote students. More than 23 000 tests in reading, numeracy and writing were delivered in the trial period. Approximately 220 cognitive interviews were also conducted with students in all year levels – to seek their feedback on how the test went. This study was designed to investigate the impact of the test design on students' test-taking behaviour and to gather information about students' interactions with key branching testlets. Reports for students who participated in the trial were distributed to schools in December 2013. A further trial to refine the tailored test design is planned for August 2014.

### Stay in touch via social media

Did you know that we have more than 1700 Twitter followers? Followers to our two accounts [@ACARAeduau](#) and [@ACARA\\_CEO](#) grow at the rate of around 80 each week. One tweet by our CEO reached over 90 000 twitter accounts in a day! Do not miss our important news and information – it is posted daily on Twitter. Our [Facebook](#) followers enjoy the links to interesting content for teachers. Most popular content recently was the links associated with Australia Day – the [Life in Australia book](#) and the [Australia Day website](#).

Engagement with our Facebook posts has increased dramatically since mid-January. 'Like' us on Facebook and join the conversations! Our [LinkedIn](#) account has more than 650 followers and the number of views on our [YouTube](#) channel is more than 4500. Our most popular videos on YouTube are the CEO vodcasts on topics such as 'The Australian Curriculum' and 'Our move to online assessment'. Stay in touch with ACARA's news and work via the social media channel that appeals to you!