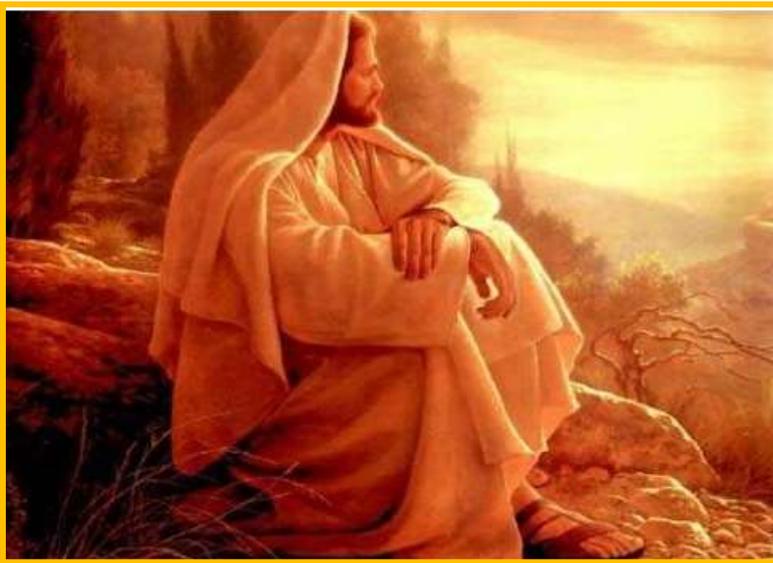


LEVNT NETWORKS

17 March 2016
Issue No. 04

*LEVNT Networks is distributed fortnightly
Please ensure that ALL staff and school councillors receive this communication*

The Challenge of a new year



Even though we have almost come to the end of Term 1, I wish to extend a happy New Year to my Education colleagues!

Thank you for returning to, or beginning, service in Lutheran education in the LEVNT Region. What will this year hold for you, I wonder? How has it begun? If you're like me, a new year brings a whole lot of challenges, some old and re-visited, and some entirely new.

We can sometimes moan about this, but the truth is that it's through *challenge* that we grow. It's when we *struggle* with something that we think about it deeply, seek wider counsel, and hopefully grow through the experience. *No pain, no gain* as the saying goes.

This is the educational journey, of course: growth through challenge. It's exactly what Jesus experienced at the start of his three-year public ministry straight after his baptism at about thirty years of age. Luke tells us (Luke 4:1), *Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.* Tempted here is real *testing*, real *challenging*. If you read the passage you'll see that Jesus *passed without fail*. That's not always our experience.

In fact if we're honest, our performance and development is a *mixed bag*. Thank God that at least before *him* that's not what counts. Instead *our Lord's* great achievement is *freely given to us*. And it's this which frees us – and our students – to stand tall. Other people might judge us harshly at times but before God that's not the point because he credits us with *Jesus' success* no matter how badly we do.

God bless you in all the challenges you face this year. Thank you for the commitment and effort you put in for the sake of your students. And enjoy the way *God* sees you because of Jesus.

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.

Rev Greg Pietsch

Bishop
Victorian District (including Tasmania)
Lutheran Church of Australia
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LEVNT NEWS

Lakeside College – Pakenham Important Announcement

We wish to advise that the Principal of Lakeside College, **David Spike**, has formally received a call to serve as the **School Pastor of Geelong Lutheran College**, which would involve David being re-instated to the role of pastors. This information was communicated to the Lakeside community last week and is now effectively public knowledge. Please pray for David and his wife Carol as they consider this call.



Lakeside College – Pakenham Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary



In celebrating Lakeside College's 10th anniversary it was a time to reflect and remember, to honour the hard work and pioneering spirit of those who helped establish the College. It is also a time to look forward to what the future holds for the College. I'm sure students, staff and parents all had their own individual memories and reflections as they celebrated their milestone – Congratulations Lakeside!

Trinity Lutheran College – Mildura Official Opening of Mallee Sports Hall

On Friday, 11 March I attended Trinity Lutheran College in Mildura to celebrate the official opening of their sports hall. The centre was officially opened by Mr Andrew Broad, Federal Member for Mallee. The local State MP for Mildura, Mr Peter Crisp, Mayor Cr Glenn Milne and PTFA President, Ricky Rowe, also attended. Ricky's daughter, Elizabeth Rowe, who is the Sports and recreation student action team leader responded on behalf of the students. The centre was officially dedicated by Pastor Andrew Bettison.



The Link and the redeveloped outdoor courts, which are part of the Kel Napier Sports Ground, were also included in the official opening. During the past months, staff and students were invited to choose a name for the hall. Students from Years 5 to 10 and staff voted overwhelmingly in favour of the name "Mallee Sports Hall".

Holy Trinity Lutheran School – Horsham Senior Secondary Expansion

On Friday, 04 March, the District Church Council Victoria/Tasmania (DCC Vic/Tas), met to discuss the school's proposal to extend its education to Senior Secondary. The recommendation made by the Council for Lutheran Education VIC, NSW & TAS (CLE) to DCC, agreed to the expansion of HTLS to Year 12 education, subject to the establishment of a HTLS Project Support Team to provide oversight and guidance to HTLS Council and Leadership Team.



On behalf of LEVNT, CLE and DCC Vic/Tas, we acknowledge the extensive planning, research and investigation undertaken by HTLS with the project and commend them for the diligent way in which the Project Plan has been development. We congratulate HTLS on achieving its goal to expand to Year 12 education and pray God's richest blessings in working together in the sharing of His Gospel in your community.

Neville Grieger
Acting Director
neville.grieger@levnt.edu.au

There have been some fantastically supportive and fruitful curriculum network meeting discussions across our Region in the past couple of weeks – many thanks to those who have made time in a busy term 1 to meet with, share and learn from colleagues in neighbouring (I'm using that term in its broadest sense!) Lutheran schools. If you are interested in following up on any of the following conversations, please contact me to get connected with others actively thinking and working in these spaces.

Western Hub Curriculum Leaders

Western Hub curriculum leaders discussed a need for focussed sharing of curriculum documentation to avoid duplication of efforts in small schools (particularly in light of VRQA reviews and AusVELS/Victorian Curriculum/Australian Curriculum transitions)

Central Secondary Curriculum Leaders

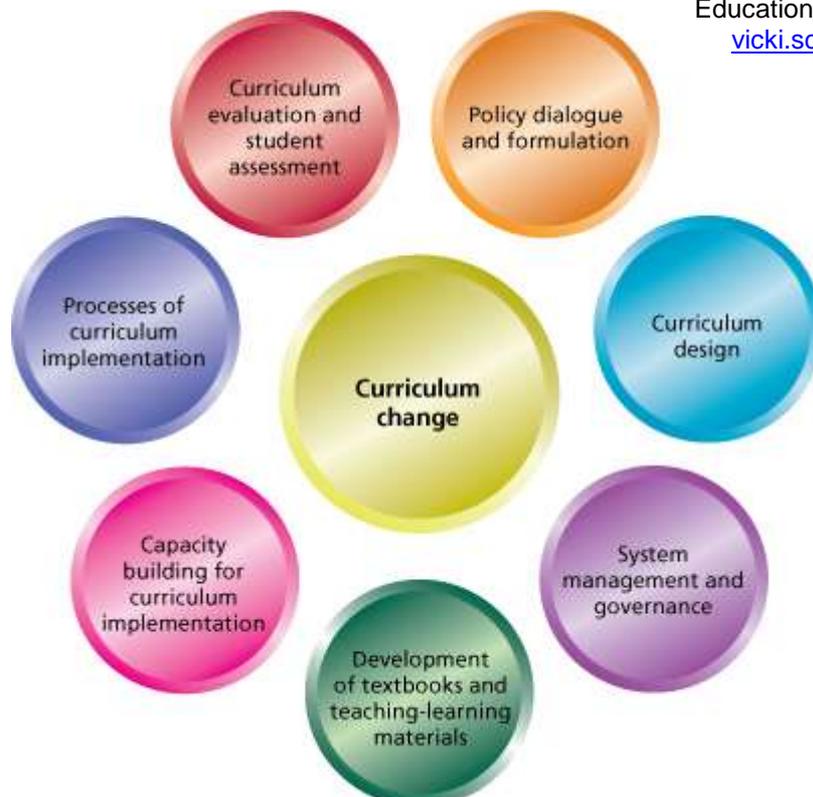
Central Secondary curriculum leaders discussed curriculum audit processes and transitions, and the importance of maintaining the focus of audits on the most significant elements of student learning (focussing on standards rather than coverage of content descriptors). There was also discussion about implementation of Digital Technologies in Years 7-10 and logistical challenges achieving that; pastoral care opportunities in secondary years and structures that support and challenge pastoral care programs; and exploring the possibility of establishing digital networks for secondary teachers in different faculty areas [watch this space]

Central Primary Curriculum Leaders

Central Primary curriculum leaders shared Learning Management Systems, strategies and programs used to support the curriculum induction of new staff as well as the professional learning and growth of staff across the school.

The curriculum updates leaders give at these meetings provides a fascinating overview of the breadth of curriculum opportunities students and teachers are part of in our Region and different ways schools are working and innovating to contextualise curriculum to the school's needs.

Vicki Schilling
Education Officer – Curriculum
vicki.schilling@levnt.edu.au





“The Spotlight” LUTHERAN PRIMARY SCHOOL WAGGA WAGGA

Bec Gunia, our Deputy Principal was the recipient of the 2015 LEA Irene Scholarship

Bec has just returned from the US where she visited Lutheran schools and shares a summary of her experiences with us.

Growing up as a Lutheran from a very young age, it has always just been a part of who I am and so I never really questioned what that really meant. When I began as a Deputy here at Lutheran School Wagga Wagga I began to question 'What does it mean to be Lutheran? How do people know that we are a Lutheran School? and what does that actually look like?' These questions formed the basis for my research with the Irene Scholarship. I was now a leader who not only needed to lead educationally but spiritually in a school with a small percentage of Lutherans and many opportunities to be a witness. I found myself crying out for answers on how to spiritually lead the staff.



Through another Lutheran educator in the United States, I made connections with Lutheran Elementary and High Schools around Orange County in California and spent a day in each school observing classes, talking with staff, students and pastors and asking the question "How can I spiritually lead my school?" I also spent time at Concordia University, which is where the Lutheran teachers in the USA are trained, and speaking with the staff.

I was humbled each time I walked into the front door of a school or onto the school grounds and was able to instantly both see and feel that it was a Lutheran school. Each school had different ways of expressing their faith but in all of them the message was very clear, that their faith was just as important as their education and they would not compromise on that.



Primary schools celebrated Baptism Days in chapel once a month, Middle Schools had Martin Luther Competitions, High Schools were focusing on how to bring Christ into every subject they taught (which was fascinating to witness in Mathematics class!). This is just to name a few. One observation I made in a primary school that I really loved was having a portable device that played Christian music stationed at the entrance way that all families used to enter the school in the mornings and afternoons. What a wonderful witness and also an acknowledgement of other music options available than the lyrics our children hear in the secular world.





“The Spotlight” LUTHERAN PRIMARY SCHOOL WAGGA WAGGA

I discovered many wonderful ways of incorporating Christ into schools, however, the one thread that tied all the schools together was how they all clung to their mission statements. Every staff member in each school proudly hung a framed copy of it in their classrooms and offices and I was told that no decision was ever made without ensuring that it was true to their purpose and mission. Having this common goal and understanding of why they were there gave them a foundation to do amazing things!



Whilst there were many clear differences between our two systems, such as the USA having a call system for their teachers and all support and funding coming from the church only, making the connection with them and learning about them has inspired me for the road ahead of spiritual leadership. I am so grateful for the opportunity that the Irene Scholarship gave me to meet some men and women of God who are called to serve in education, and make some lifelong friends and contacts.

Bec Gunia
Deputy Principal

EMPLOYMENT WEBSITES

Below is the website where schools place employment advertisements and for staff to seek employment. It would be useful if this website could be advertised in staffrooms for their information. <http://www.teachers.on.net/leavacancies>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Details of ISV VIC Professional Development for 2016 can be found at: <http://www.is.vic.edu.au/services/professional-learning/calendar/index.shtml>



Details of AIS NSW Professional Development for 2016 can be found at: <https://www.aisnsw.edu.au/CoursesEvents/Pages/default.aspx>



**LEA
Executive
Director**
[Stephen
Rudolph]

LCA / LEA Lutheran education governance and administration review

The LCA Executive Officer, Peter Schirmer, has written to all Lutheran principals, school council chairs and, where applicable, congregational / parish chairs (with a Lutheran school) to invite them to a series of Lutheran education consultations.

The LCA has engaged Dr Maureen Cleary to research and prepare *Governance options for Lutheran education, schools and early childhood services in Australia*. Dr Cleary has been working with both LCA (GCC and Districts), and LEA (and regional) people via a consultancy group in preparing draft options. This consultancy group is made up of the following people:

- Dr Maureen Cleary (consultant)
- David Hutton (consultant)
- Peter Schirmer (LCA Executive Officer)
- Stephen Rudolph (LEA Executive Director)
- Neville Highett (Chair, BLEA)
- Anthony Mueller (BLEA member)
- Michael Stolz (GCC member)
- John Proeve (Executive Director, LSA SA/NT/WA)
- David Bliss (Executive Director, LEQ)
- Paul Weinert (Director, Lutheran Education Victoria, New South Wales & Tasmania (LEVNT))
- Rev Mark Vainikka (Qld DCC rep)
- David Walkenhorst (Vic/Tas DCC rep & Chair, Council for Lutheran Education LEVNT)
- Kym Wallent (SA/NT DCC rep)
- James Winderlich (Principal, ALC)
- Tim Wiebusch (GCC rep)
- Lyndal Mayer, Executive Director, QLECS

In order to listen to the views of principals and chairs, Dr Cleary with the support of the LCA and LEA people will conduct a series of consultations. Invitations to these consultations have been mailed out. The schedule is as follows:

Date	Time	Location	Venue	Facilitator
21 March	6.30 – 8.30	Toowoomba	TBA	Maureen Cleary, David Bliss
7 April	6.30 – 8.30	Albury/Wodonga	Victory LC	Maureen Cleary, Paul Weinert
9 April	10 – 12 2 – 4	Melbourne	Quality Hotel	Maureen Cleary, Paul Weinert
12 April	6.30 – 8.30	Brisbane	TBA	Maureen Cleary, David Bliss
13 April	6.30 – 8.30	Sunshine Coast	TBA	Maureen Cleary, David Bliss
31 May	6.30 – 8.30	Adelaide	TBA	Maureen Cleary, John Proeve
1 June	6.30 – 8.30	Adelaide Hills	TBA	Maureen Cleary, John Proeve
2 June	10 – 2 2 – 4	Barossa/Riverland	TBA	Maureen Cleary, John Proeve

The process being undertaken will support the LCA General Synod (2013) resolution which states:

That the GCC, consistent with the strategic direction of the LCA – especially regarding improving our “governance and leadership capability” and being “good stewards of our availability resources” – undertake a review of the current governance and administrative structures of the LCA including at the

National Level, District level, Boards, Commissions, Councils and Agencies during the next synodical term.

Additionally GCC has decided to follow up on one of Dr Cleary's recommendations which states that 'GCC enters into serious dialogue with the LEA Board about their desired governance structure'.

Principals and chairs are warmly encouraged to take up these consulting opportunities.

The Lutheran

Last month I decided to subscribe all of the LEA leadership team to *The Lutheran*. This subscription costs \$42 per person and will provide the LEA Director of Formation, LEA Business Manager and LEA Director of Research and Development each with their own copy of *The Lutheran*.

I pass this onto you and suggest each Lutheran school principal and/or leadership team member also receive a subscription to *The Lutheran*.

Principals, you can do this for your leaders by simply using the following link: <http://www.thelutheran.com.au/subscribe/>. Please consider taking this as a great opportunity to find out more about the wider church and to promote discussion about many and varied issues presented in *The Lutheran*.

Living Faith LPS on Today (Channel 9)

It was great to see Living Faith Lutheran Primary School, Murrumba Downs, on Channel 9's *Today* show recently. *Futuristic school* was the title of the segment and it featured Living Faith senior students and their deep learning and engagement in their high tech classrooms (Learning Plaza).

Congratulations Jane Mueller and her dedicated team.

You can view the segment at: <https://youtu.be/r0pIKHS34Y4>

**LEA
Assistant
Director:
Leadership**
[Shane Paterson]

New challenges

As most of you are aware I am returning to school life after Easter and take up the position of principal at Golden Grove Lutheran Primary School (29th March). I have thoroughly enjoyed my service in the LEA office over the past three and half years but I am definitely looking forward to working with a school community once again. I thank you for the support given to me over this period of time and I trust that I have assisted you and your community in some way. I will continue to work with a number of projects in which I am heavily invested (LDP symposium in April and the National Principals Conference in May). It was a truly positive experience to be a part of the *Growing deep* rollout and see the way in which this was accepted right across Australia. May our Lord continue to bless the work that is undertaken in your community and I look forward to maintaining the friendships and networks that have been established over the last few years.

Quality Schools (QS)

Over the past few weeks I have sent through several emails re Quality Schools. As this is a new process we are learning as we go along and several of you have raised quite pertinent questions. Kaye Mathwin-Cox will manage this project for LEA in the future. Due to the timing of holidays across Australia the dates for QS is staggered and are as follows:

LEQ – 28th April – 24th May

LEVNT – 28th April – 24th May

LSA – 5th May - 31st May



Leadership Development Program

As mentioned I will continue with LDP until the April symposium, at which time Anne Dohnt will oversee this program.



Valuing Safe Communities

The uptake of VSC3 online modules has been pleasing. Any queries regarding any aspects of VSC3 should be directed to Joan Scriven (joan.scriven@lutheran.edu.au)



Lutheran Principals Australia

LPA Chair, Sharon Kotzur, will in the coming days communicate about arrangements for LPA for the rest of 2016 and into the future. However, I will still be managing and coordinating the May conference and communication will still be distributed via LPANet.



LEA Director of Formation [Anne Dohnt]

Growing deep

Thank you to all the school teams who attended the *Growing deep* sessions. The workshop PowerPoint and resources will be in the 'home' section of the *Growing deep* website by the end of the week. There will be new videos of Queensland educators added in the coming weeks. Please continue to be in communication with the regional and LEA office with ways you are using and sharing *Growing deep* in your communities.



Key points:

- Everyone is a leader within their sphere of influence
- We lead who we are so formation is integral to the education
- We view education through the lens of Lutheran theological perspectives
- Lutheran identity engages us in the continual process of reforming the way the Christian faith is shared and the way we engage and grow learners
- *Growing deep* has both communal and personal significance
- *Growing deep* provides a framework upon which we can organise the many school improvement initiatives we are already conducting and supports us to be more intentional and strategic
- Every school or early childhood service will give expression to *Growing deep* in ways that reflect their context

We are looking forward to hearing your stories.

LEA federal news

Address to the Independent Schools Council of Australia and AHISA National Education Forum

[15 March 2016]

The Minister for Education Simon Birmingham discussed education policy, state and territory schools funding and the role of the independent school sector. [Read the address](#)

Address to the Independent Schools Council Australia Conference, Canberra

[15 March 2016]

The Opposition Leader Bill Shorten discussed the Labor Party's schools and education commitments. [Read the address](#)

Independent schools look to the future

[15 March 2016]

The 2016 ISCA & AHISA National Education Forum was held in Canberra today, bringing together representatives from the Independent school sector, including principals, members of governing bodies, business managers and sector representatives from other national and state based organisations. It featured addresses from the Minister for Education and Training, Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham; the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon Bill Shorten MP with Shadow Minister for Education, the Hon Kate Ellis MP; Greens Senator Nick McKim; and leading education specialists and social commentators.

[Read the full media release](#)

Dr Michele Bruniges AM

[10 March 2016]

The Minister for Education and Training Simon Birmingham said: "I welcome the appointment of Dr Michele Bruniges AM as the new Secretary of the Department of Education and Training from 4 April 2016. Dr Bruniges has more than 25 years' experience in the education sector, from her beginnings as a primary school teacher through to various senior roles in the public service, a doctorate in educational measurement and has been leading the NSW Department of Education since 2011. Dr Bruniges' work and ability has seen her inducted as a Member of the Order of Australia, recognised as a joint recipient of the 100 Women of Influence Awards and awarded a Gold Medal from the Australian Council for Educational Leaders.

[Read the full media release](#)

Australian Training Awards

[9 March 2016]

School Pathways to VET Award – Free Webinar - Tips and advice for your 2016 Application

Presented by the Australian Training Awards in partnership with VETnetwork Australia, this dynamic webinar on how to apply for the [School Pathways to VET Award](#) – which recognises eligible organisations including schools, registered training organisations (RTOs), industry bodies, employers that have collaboratively delivered an exemplary vocational education and training (VET) program to secondary school students. [Click here for further information](#)

Being able to read and write is a basic human right

The Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation is a registered national charity dedicated to raising language, literacy and numeracy standards in Australia. Bearing in mind that:

- only 1 in 5 children in very remote Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory can read at the minimum NAPLAN standard. This drops to only 1 out of 10 by the time a child reaches Year 9 (NAPLAN 2014).
- school attendance rates are as low as 14% in very remote areas of Australia.
- currently, 14% of all Australian students are functionally illiterate and would not be able to understand the instructions on a packet of headache tablets (OECD, 2016).
- students from poor families are five times more likely than their wealthier classmates to perform poorly at school (OECD, 2016).
- only 1 in 10 humanitarian entrants into Australia in 2006/7 had prior schooling and a basic knowledge of English.
- the average number of years of schooling of refugees arriving in 2005 is 1.6 years.

.... ALNF programs aim to equip educators, parents and community members with the knowledge and tools required to work with their own children to develop language and literacy skills.

Further information is available in the attached Information Pack

My School website

[8 March 2016]

The *My School* website was updated on Wednesday 9 March with:

- eight years of performance data
- 2015 school profile and population data
- 2015 NAPLAN results
- 2015 student attendance data (Semester 1 and Term 3)
- school financial information, including capital expenditure and sources of funding
- a refreshed look and feel to the website, including a review of the content.

In consultation with state and territory education authorities, using statistically-sound analysis of school results, ACARA has identified schools with substantially above average gain in NAPLAN results. Identified schools have demonstrated substantial growth in NAPLAN scores compared to:

- previous years; and
- schools with similar students based on the Index of Community Socio-

Educational Advantage (ICSEA) level; and

- other students at similar NAPLAN average score start points.

[Read the full media release](#)

Teacher test registrations open today

[7 March 2016]

The most significant improvement in teacher education in a generation has taken a major step forward with registrations opening today and the appointment of the administrator for the National Literacy and Numeracy Test. Minister for Education and Training Simon Birmingham said registrations for the Turnbull Government's literacy and numeracy test for new Australian teachers open today. "We've appointed the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) to deliver the Test for teaching students so we can have even better teachers in Australia's classrooms," Minister Birmingham said. [Read the full media release](#)

2017 30th ACHPER International Conference - Call for Abstracts



16-18 January, 2017

University of Canberra | Canberra, Australia www.achper2017.com

The 30th ACHPER International Conference: ***Participating in an Active and Healthy Life: Valuing the Participant Voice*** will have enormous national and international appeal. This event has already attracted high quality keynote speakers from overseas and Australia and promises to be a showcase of contemporary and indeed future focused ideas that will ensure that it is a must attend event for Health and Physical Education professionals and health, sports and other industry stakeholders.

The conference will feature many networking and social activities. Canberra offers all the benefits of a large international metropolis without the problems of a big city. Canberra offers delegates the opportunity to experience Australian iconic landmarks such as the Australian War Memorial, National Gallery of Australia, the National Portrait Gallery, the stunning National Arboretum showcasing Canberra's natural beauty and of course the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS). The AIS is Australia's premier sporting venue and home to many elite athletes.

We invite abstracts for paper presentations, workshops/interactive sessions, posters/exhibits, lightning talks and or colloquia (symposia) addressing one of the following themes:

Focus on educative purposes

- Take a strengths-based approach
- Value movement
- Develop health literacy
- Include a critical inquiry approach
- Sport and recreation pedagogies

Abstract submissions close on Friday July 29, 2016.

To submit your abstract or for further details about the submission process, please visit www.achper2017.com or please contact us at info@achper2017.com.