LEA Executive Director
[Stephen Rudolph]

LEA (USA) Convocation
LEA was recently represented at the 2016 Lutheran Education Association Convocation (USA) in Grand Rapids, Michigan, by Shane Jurecky, Principal of Good Shepherd College, Hamilton Vic, and Stephen Rudolph, LEA Executive Director.

The LEA Convocation is held every three years and attracts an attendance of approximately 3000 delegates.

Shane and Stephen led a session titled Growing Deep—The Leadership and Formation Framework for Australian Lutheran Schools. They also attended the International Day which had educational leaders from twelve countries discussing matters of mutual interest.

LEA thanks Shane and Sarah Jurecky for supporting Australian Lutheran education on the international stage.

Pictured right
[top] Stephen Rudolph, LEA Executive Director [left] and Shane Jurecky, Principal of Good Shepherd College, Hamilton Vic [right]
[centre] Stephen Rudolph, LEA Executive Director [left] with Terry Schmidt, Executive Director Lutheran Schools – Lutheran Church Missouri Synod [right]
[bottom] Dr Jonathan Laabs, Executive Director, Lutheran Education Association USA [left] with Stephen Rudolph, LEA Executive Director [right]

LEA National Ministry Conferences 2017
Theme: Relationships, Relationships, Relationships

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>LEQ</td>
<td>13-14 Feb 2017</td>
<td>Maroochy Waterfront, Sunshine Coast</td>
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<td>LSA</td>
<td>23-24 Feb 2017</td>
<td>St Michael’s Lutheran Church, Hahndorf</td>
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<td>LEVNT</td>
<td>04-05 May 2017</td>
<td>Holy Cross Centre, Templestowe</td>
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Lutheran Education Australia is pleased to support the LEA national ministry conferences being held in 2017. ECS directors, school principals, school pastors, chaplains and pastors of congregations connected with an ECS / school are encouraged to attend. The aim of the conferences is to provide an opportunity for personal and professional growth and self-reflection and also to facilitate reflection on ministry in each participant’s ECS / school.

Many students, families and staff come from non-faith backgrounds and may experience Lutheran ECSs / schools as their first and/or primary expression of ‘church’. Ministry personnel in each school need to have a clear definition of what ‘church’ looks like in their context, how it functions and what it can provide spiritually and structurally to the ECS / school community.
To enable as many people as possible to attend these conferences, the registration cost has been set at **$250 per person excluding travel and accommodation**. Information about accommodation options is available on the LEA website and via the online registration form.

**Registrations are now open** – click on the link below.

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<tr>
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<th>Queensland</th>
<th>South Australia</th>
<th>Victoria</th>
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<td>Registrations close 13 Jan</td>
<td>Registrations close 10 Feb</td>
<td>Registrations close 21 Apr</td>
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Further information about the conference program and speakers is available on the LEA website ([www.lutheran.edu.au](http://www.lutheran.edu.au)) – follow the link on the front page.

**LEA Director of Formation**

[Anne Dohnt]

**Ministry in Lutheran schools**

David Anderson formally of **Vibrant Faith** [https://www.vibrantfaith.org/](https://www.vibrantfaith.org/) is in Australia until December for **Grow Ministries** [http://www.growministries.org.au/](http://www.growministries.org.au/). He is a specialist in child, youth and family ministry. David has a special interest in our school context and would be very keen to meet with a group of principals and their pastors to discuss the joys and challenges of ministry in, with and through the school and the relationship with congregations. I have listened to David on a number of occasions and always been encouraged and inspired by his vision for ministry. David is not an advocate for a program that schools need to adopt but rather speaks about a way of rethinking some of the things we are already doing. If you would be interested in informally meeting with David to also be inspired and encouraged, please ring or email me so we can coordinate a time and place in each region. We could organise a discussion over coffee or lunch. Whatever would work in a crazy fourth term while we have this special opportunity while David is in Australia. I look forward to hearing from you. [anne.dohnt@lutheran.edu.au](mailto:anne.dohnt@lutheran.edu.au)

**Growing deep**

A number of grant applications have been received and we are in the process of notifying schools. The purpose of the grant applications was to generate resources for the implementation of **Growing deep – for schools by schools**. There is still an opportunity to access a grant at this link [http://host2.lca.org.au/~growingdeep/home/grant-application/](http://host2.lca.org.au/~growingdeep/home/grant-application/).

Please visit the **Growing deep** website regularly as we continue to populate it with the resources that schools are developing. [http://host2.lca.org.au/~growingdeep/](http://host2.lca.org.au/~growingdeep/)

**Service learning**

What is and isn’t service learning? How can schools start a journey with service learning? How can the learning in service learning be enhanced? Answers to these questions can be found in the range of videos and resources offered in the Service learning section of the LEA website. As a principal recently commented; ‘I had no idea this was all here!’ Please take some time today to browse. [http://www.lutheran.edu.au/teaching-and-learning/service-learning/](http://www.lutheran.edu.au/teaching-and-learning/service-learning/)

**LEA Director of Research and Development**

[Kaye Mathwin-Cox]

**Growing and Improving Framework (GIF)**

At their last meeting the Board for Lutheran Education Australia asked LEA to work with regions to build a national school improvement framework for schools and early childhood services that is embedded with **Growing deep**. A number of leader educators have been seconded from schools in all regions to undertake this project.

Whilst the federal Department of Education and Training has recently informed the AISs that the Minister intends to change the regulations to remove the requirement for schools to develop school improvement plans, we believe school improvement practices are important and therefore feel this work will be valuable to our schools regardless of external decisions, particularly if it is aligned to the Vocational Practices in **Growing deep**. The Growing and Improving Framework (GIF) team will be meeting late October and early in November to work through this process.
LEA news

Australian Curriculum Website Survey
[19 October 2016]
ACARA are planning to enable the delivery of the Australian Curriculum via a new, in-house platform that is contemporary and flexible in both design and usability. The redevelopment website will also allow for changes that may accompany future iterations of the Australian Curriculum. ACARA would value input from key stakeholders, and you are invited to take a few minutes to respond to the Australian Curriculum website survey that is now available at the following link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DQ3VG3N
Please feel free to share the survey link with anyone who may be interested in providing feedback on the use of the Australian Curriculum website.

Student wellbeing hub
[14 October 2016]
The Australian Government Department of Education and Training is proud to release a new website, the Student Wellbeing Hub, underpinned by the very successful National Safe Schools Framework. It aims to provide current best-practice, curriculum-aligned resources for educators, parents, and students on a range of contemporary issues that will help build and sustain the wellbeing and safety of all members of the school community.

The new website reflects the Government’s ongoing commitment to being responsive to important issues affecting today’s schools as they strive to build positive, respectful teaching and learning environments that sustain the wellbeing of all members of the school community. The new site is bright and engaging and its simple navigation makes information and resources easy to find.

Educators can browse a range of classroom resources, as well as professional learning modules and support materials for developing programs that promote the resilience and skills students need if they are to make positive choices as they navigate their school years. A new module with an accompanying podcast series explores current information and approaches to teaching online safety. Parents will find advice and information to help them support their child, build positive communication with their child’s school and contribute actively to the wider school community.

The Student area contains age-appropriate information, advice and games that build students’ understanding of topics and issues important to their wellbeing at school and beyond.

Designed for use with a range of mobile devices and for interaction with social media, this new website is certain to be a go-to resource for school communities.

studentwellbeinghub.edu.au