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:

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

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*
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/](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/r0plKHS34Y4](https://youtu.be/r0plKHS34Y4)

**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

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**LEA Assistant Director: Leadership**

[Shane Paterson]
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 VSC 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 experience of Lutheran 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. A fact sheet (attached) explains how these schools were identified. 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.