

December 2023

LEA SERVICE AWARD

Robert Hilford

**For service to Lutheran education
1990 – 2023**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Robert Hilford to Lutheran education for over 34 years.

Recognised as an exemplary educator and leader, Robert is celebrated for his exceptional contributions to Grace Lutheran College in Rothwell and Caboolture as he embarks on a well-deserved retirement. His unwavering commitment, invaluable service, and genuine Christian faith have profoundly impacted the lives of students and colleagues alike.

Robert's career at Grace Lutheran College commenced in 1990 at the Rothwell Campus, where he served as a Physics/Mathematics teacher. In 2008, he transitioned to the new Caboolture Campus and, in 2009 was appointed as Science Coordinator. Subsequently, from 2010 to 2015, he served as the Curriculum Coordinator/Assistant Head of Campus. Throughout his tenure, Robert exhibited a deep dedication to fostering excellence in Physics, Mathematics, and School Leadership. His authentic Christian faith is a cornerstone, permeating his interactions and nurturing a compassionate and inclusive learning environment. He dedicated countless hours to connecting students and parents to the wonders of the heavens through astronomy nights at both campuses and also facilitated extra-curricular basketball in the early days.

Robert is characterised by his generosity of time for people and a willingness to go the extra mile to find solutions to the challenges of the early years at Caboolture. His exceptional teaching skills and pedagogical expertise empowered numerous students to reach their full potential, imparting valuable life lessons. His genuine care for holistic student development ensured academic excellence and personal growth, rooted in compassion, empathy, and a deep sense of hope and purpose.

Beyond the classroom, Robert's leadership played a pivotal role in fostering a community where faith and learning intertwined. Actively participating in and leading initiatives, he encouraged students to explore the intersection of science and spirituality. Peers valued his attitude and collaborative approach to a variety of educational projects.

In honour of Robert Hilford's outstanding service, profound influence on the lives of students and colleagues, and unwavering commitment to his Christian faith, we extend heartfelt gratitude and best wishes for a fulfilling retirement.

Robert's faithful and conscientious service to his Lord and the Lutheran Church of Australia, through his service in Lutheran education, has been outstanding and is humbly recognized through this award.

**Assoc Prof Lisa Schmidt
Executive Director
Lutheran Education Australia**

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