

THEME 175 years of Lutheran schooling in Australia, 1839-2014

Talking with Living Legends

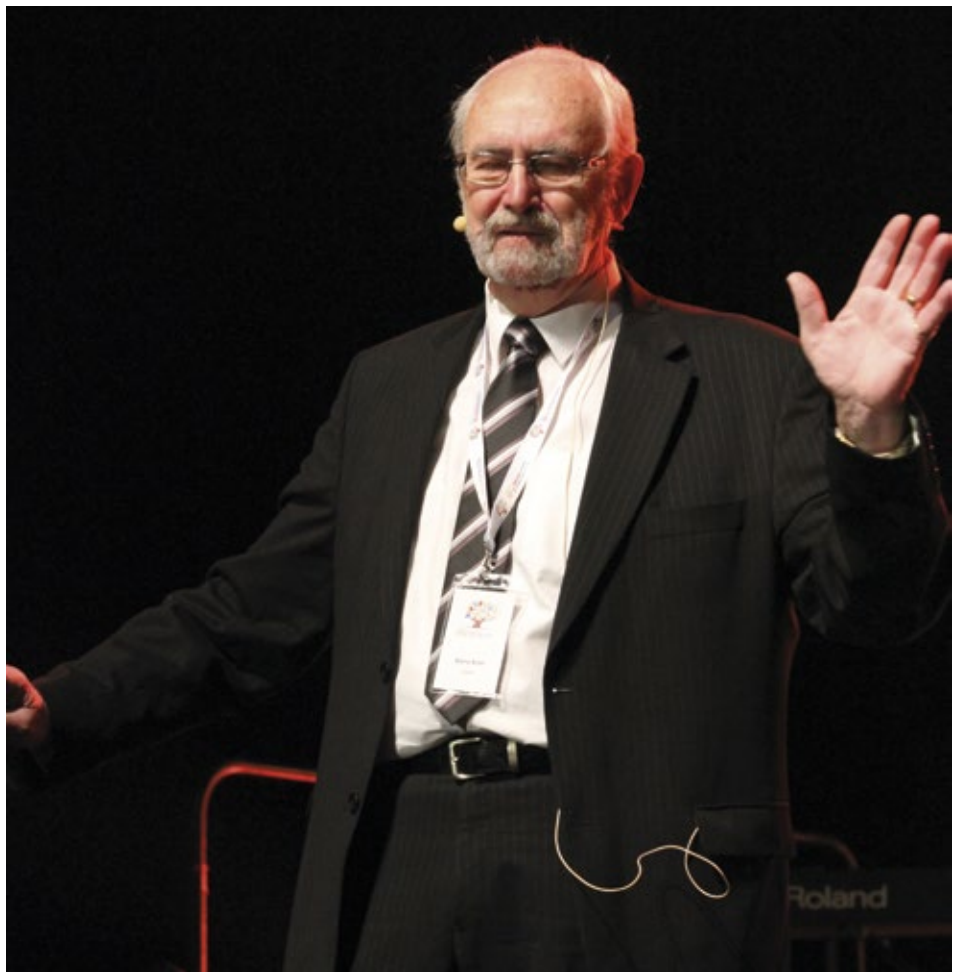


**Barry J Kahl, Past LSA
Director and principal of
schools in SA and Qld**

As part of the Lutheran Schools Association's celebration of 175 years of Lutheran schooling in South Australia, I had the privilege of interviewing eight *living legends* of Lutheran education. We spoke about Lutheran schools from their closure in South Australia in 1917 to the arrival of government funding in 1966, yet among them there were some whose roots went back beyond that closure. At that time the father of Gertrude Jacob [teacher and principal] was the teacher at Moculta, and Gertrude recalls that her father 'had to go and pick up stones, which hurt his hands, because he had teacher's hands'.

From the middle of 1929, these dormant schools began to stir, and some of them re-opened. Our *living legends* were all part of that reawakening: as students, teachers and leaders. In 1936, a young Tom Reuther [chaplain, principal and National Director] came to the Lutheran school at Light Pass where, incidentally, Teacher Jacob was in charge. Tom was astounded to find that Scripture lessons were conducted in German, a language he could not understand.

Either before or during the Second World War all of our *living legends* were students at Concordia College or Immanuel College in Adelaide. Between the two World Wars, Garry Matuschka [principal] and Naomi Hoff [principal and teacher] were at Concordia, where boys greatly out-numbered girls, and only several girls completed fourth year. On Sundays, students walked to church in Flinders Street – girls parading two abreast



Barry Kahl

and boys walking however they liked, but all had to dodge cow pats in the parklands. During the Second World War, Elmore Leske [teacher, principal and lecturer] came from Victoria to Concordia as an 11-year-old, to study for the ministry. At the same time, Rob Paterson [teacher and principal] and Rolph Mayer [chaplain and LTC principal] arrived at

Features

During 2014, Lutheran schools celebrated the 175th anniversary of Lutheran schooling in Australia 1839-2014.

This issue is dedicated to these celebrations.

Immanuel from Queensland. Rob, because his parents had heard about Immanuel and also feared a possible Japanese invasion of North Queensland; and Rolph to escape persecution because of his German origins. Although the colleges had not been closed in World War 1, the Second World War did affect them as they were taken over for military purposes. For Concordia, it meant boarders being billeted out and lessons conducted at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Flinders Street) for several months before being able to return to the college. For Immanuel, it prompted the move from North Adelaide to Walkerville en route to Novar Gardens.

When we read about the things that are happening in Lutherans schools it makes old people very happy.

With trains reserved for troops during war time, interstate travel was possible only over the Christmas holidays. Rob Paterson, who said he just wanted his mother when he saw Immanuel College for the first time because it looked like a prison, did not get home for two years. For Rob and Rolph Mayer it was a three-day train trip involving four capital cities, with no guarantee of connections being available and sleeping overnight in a Lutheran church hall in Sydney. They said, 'We saw things we should not have seen'. Elmore Leske, however, decided to go home during

the year. Leaving the train at the last station in South Australia he mounted his bike to ride to Rainbow, but with a strong head wind he only made it to Nhill by nightfall, where he sought refuge with the local pastor. There he was found by his father who had come to look for him. Elmore says, 'It was a miracle'.

These people came to teaching for various reasons. Gertrude Jacob, without any training, was appointed to assist her father because he could not be the only teacher of the school when children were housed in two separate rooms. Although the congregation agreed to her appointment, it stipulated that Gertrude must be paid 10 shillings per month and it would come from her father's salary. Garry Matuschka had been inspired by his mother who taught at St Kitts prior to World War 1, and Rob Paterson enjoyed his time at Immanuel so much that he wanted to teach there one day. Elmore Leske, Rolph Mayer and Tom Reuther graduated as pastors, but spent most of their working years in Lutheran education. Elmore gravitated to teaching because he had enjoyed it when he, while still a student at university, had acted as a replacement teacher at Concordia. When he began on the permanent staff there, his first year was difficult because he 'had to teach two classes at the same time'. Tom Reuther was assigned as chaplain at graduation so dutifully applied himself to the task of teaching 44-periods in a 40-period week and, although lacking in resources, was told to do the best he could by the school board. He claims it

was 'living day by day'. Rolph Mayer moved from the parish to be chaplain at Immanuel, determined not to be a housemaster, but the incumbent housemaster left almost immediately and as Rolph recalls, 'I was asked to do it for a term, then another term, and another term. I ended up doing it for 11 years'. Margaret Ames [teacher and acting-principal] had been encouraged by her mother to get an education and claimed, 'I wanted to do something special with my life'.

In their time there was no requirement for teacher-training in order to teach and some, like Naomi Hoff, began teaching without any preparation. On finishing fourth year at Concordia, Naomi, at the age of 17, was placed in charge of the Lutheran school at Cambrai by arrangement between church officials and her father. Others had a one or two-year preparation, while some gained qualifications while teaching.

As students, and in their early years of teaching, our interviewees saw Lutheran schools as fortress schools which, either knowingly or unknowingly, kept Lutherans in and others out. As students at Concordia prior to World War 1, Garry Matuschka and Naomi Hoff could not think of any of their fellow students who were not Lutheran; while Rob Paterson and Rolph Mayer described Immanuel as being made up of rural Lutheran boarders, with the primary aim of the colleges, as described by Elmore Leske, being the preparation for people to be pastors and teachers and to offer instruction



Elmore Leske



Gertrude Jacob



Garry Matuschka



Rob Paterson

in confirmation. As late as the 1960s, Garry Matuschka claimed that there was only one family that was not Lutheran in the 140 student school where he was the principal.

There was also an expectation of sacrifice if you were to serve the Church. When Ferdinand J Mueller was appointed as the teacher at Lobethal, his *call document* stated, 'There will be some degree of hardship'. Th Hebart, in his history of the UELCA wrote, 'The early school masters were faithful Christians whose meagre salary had to be supplemented by gifts of kind and wheat, also the use of congregational lands'. It was not much different for these people who were paid according to a Church Salary Scale, while the primary school teacher had the bonus of the congregation providing an extra contribution through offerings on Festival Sundays. Naomi Hoff and Garry Matuschka recall counting a lot of small change, but they were very thankful for it. The female teacher was paid less than the male counterpart and did not have the option of ongoing tenure once they were married. Margaret Ames was told by Immanuel that she could no longer be on the permanent staff once she married and found work at Methodist Ladies College. After five years, and no prospect of having a family of her own, Margaret rang Immanuel to ask if she could 'come home' and was invited back. Margaret believed the Spirit was at work.

Yet, these people felt called to serve and did so happily. The role of the teacher was an important one. In the primary school

they were seen as vital to the congregation's work and they were not without influence. In a country Lutheran primary school in the 1950s, the teacher was asked to provide many positions of leadership in the congregation. Students leapt for joy when a member of the congregation died, not because a soul had sprung to heaven, but because they would have at least a half-day holiday while the teacher assisted the pastor at the funeral. They preferred morning funerals because that meant a full-day without school.

There are those who support Lutheran schools and those who study in them. All these people are living legends because they are part of the story. Together they have developed it, sustained it, and are keeping the story alive.

The two colleges were watched over closely by the church through a college council, and primary schools in the main were governed by school elders. In his first four years as a teacher and in charge of a one-teacher school, a teacher had three school elders. They had signed the *call document* and individually cared for the teacher. After about six months, he suggested they should meet. The reply was, 'We will meet when you do something wrong'. The elders never met: which might say more

about their grace, than the teacher's ability. Some teachers felt it was an excellent way to run a school, but by comparison, school was simple in those days. Once a year, however, the teacher was examined by being asked to teach the students as part of the congregation's Sunday Service. Members tested the ability of the students by asking questions.

Our *living legends* are thankful to God for Lutheran schools today and describe them as 'majestic', 'places of grace and forgiveness', 'student-focused' and in the words of Naomi Hoff, 'When we read about the things that are happening in Lutheran schools it makes old people very happy'.

These people are *living legends*, but they are not the only *living legends* of Lutheran schools. There are those who have served Lutheran schools in the past and those who serve Lutheran schools today. There are those who support Lutheran schools and those who study in them. All these people are *living legends* because they are part of the story. Together they have developed it, sustained it, and are keeping the story alive.



Margaret Ames



Tom Reuther, Rolph Mayer and Naomi Hoff

Lutheran schools celebrate 175th Anniversary

Bethania Lutheran Primary School, Bethania Qld

A Jacaranda tree was planted by local State MP and parent, Mr Mike Latter, with the assistance of the 2014 school captains, Callum Huth and Megan Woolley. The tree will provide a beautiful canopy for shade and was planted in the Peace Garden which was an initiative of the Student Council. All students in the school made pinwheels and these were planted in the garden as a sign of our support of the *Say No to Bullying* campaign. A year 2 student, Charlie Shanks, put together a proposal to the Parents and Friends Group for the purchase of a Buddy Bench to be incorporated into the Peace Garden. This bench is a place that any student can go if they are feeling sad and lonely. Other children may notice them and just go and sit with them.



School captains, Callum Huth and Megan Woolley with Mr Mike Latter MP



Calvary Lutheran Primary School, Morphett Vale SA

Angela Branford, Principal, planting 175th anniversary tree.

Cornerstone College, Mount Barker SA

Cornerstone combined its 175th anniversary celebrations with other milestones – the inaugural intake of year 7s and the official opening of a Middle School building. A school family was invited to conduct the tree planting in front of the new Middle School building. The family consisted of an inaugural student who commenced in the college's inception in 1990, together with her three children who all began at Cornerstone this year (twins in year 7 and one in year 8) in the new Middle School building. These new students are the first Old Scholar's children to attend Cornerstone! Added to this, her father was the inaugural President of the Parents, Teachers and Friends group at Cornerstone.



Beenleigh Family Day Care, Beenleigh Qld

Beenleigh Family Day Care children help plant a tree to mark the 175th anniversary of Lutheran education in Australia.



Inaugural Old Scholar with her father (the inaugural PT&F President) and her three children (the inaugural students in our new Middle School building)

Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Angaston SA

Good Shepherd celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week with a service of thanksgiving to God for 175 years of Lutheran education in Australia. This was followed by the planting of a special commemorative tree in the school playground by Mrs Serena Ahrns (P & F President) and Mr David Marschall (School Chairman). Good Shepherd is proud to be part of 86 schools and 59 early learning centres across Australia providing Lutheran education to 40,000 students.



Mr David Marschall (Chairman) and Mrs Serena Ahrns (P&F President)

Faith Lutheran College, Tanunda SA

Celebrating 175 years and saving locally threatened species

Faith students are planting the ridge-fruited mallee (Eucalyptus incrassata) to commemorate the 175th anniversary. This is a locally threatened species that is being replanted on original sandy soil. The seed has been harvested from seedlings saved by year 8 students, who have propagated, raised and planted out some of these to bring back the original woodlands of the area. There are only two left of these original seed producing trees. Such is the importance of the wild seed harvested from this site that it has become a satellite site of Barossa Bush Gardens Regional Native Flora Centre and other native plant nurseries seeking Eucalyptus incrassata seed for planting into sandy soils in the Barossa.



Gavan Cramer, Principal, Tahnee Koch, Ben Feltus.

St Stephens Lutheran College, Galdstone Qld

A special chapel service was followed by the tree planting by Principal, Dr Ian Mark's assisted by college captains Sophie Farnsworth and Bella Lucke.



Endeavour College, Mawson Lakes SA

We planted a lemon tree... something to use in Food Tech!

Living Faith Lutheran Primary School, Murrumba Downs Qld

Living Faith staff and students will nurture and nourish their tree until the completion of their 2014 building projects. When the permanent site is prepared, it will be planted later this year.



Principal, Jane Mueller, with the eldest and youngest students

Grace Lutheran Primary School, Clontarf Qld

Planting a Tree (to Grow in Grace Primary)

The act of planting a tree signifies our desire to remember, to celebrate and to give thanks for the many blessings God has showered upon Lutheran schools. We give thanks for the many leaders, teachers and most importantly students and families who have shaped and contributed to the Lutheran school family during these years. Trees are a symbol of growth and we thank God for the growth of Lutheran schools over the past 175 years.

The tree also symbolises the work of Lutheran schools. The tree's roots remind us of how the school community is firmly grounded in God's word and encourages students to grow deep into the love of our God. The strong trunk can be a symbol of the Christian faith at work in our lives providing a strong core for our way of being in the world. The branches, leaves and flowers can remind us of the way each of us gives expression to the faith that is alive within us.

The tree we chose is the native Coast Banksia (*Banksia Integrifolia*) which happens to be Redcliffe's floral emblem.

May it grow strong and able to face the challenges of the world in which it lives.

May our students grow in Grace Primary in the same way

They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do. [Psalm 1]



Immanuel Primary School, Novar Gardens SA

We were indeed honoured to have 95 year old pioneer principal of IPS plant a commemorative tree. Garry Matschka was the first principal of IPS commencing in 1970 and retiring in 1985. He had also served in Lutheran schools in Victoria. Past principal (1991-1996) and current LEA Executive Director, Stephen Rudolph, spoke about the core values of Lutheran schools.

Right: Stephen Rudolph, LEA Executive Director, Robert Hoff and Garry Matuschka, founding principal, plant the commemorative tree.



Good Shepherd Lutheran College, Palmerston NT

Good Shepherd students with the tree to be planted.

Encounter Lutheran College, Victor Harbor SA

Encounter hosted an annual parent evening, the 'Dream Date', with the theme of Family Tree. Given the audience and the topic, it was an ideal opportunity to introduce the newest member of the Encounter family, a Queensland Bottle Tree. This particular tree will grow up and also out, as the trunk will swell in time from the thickness of a thumb to being wide enough for two people to stretch their arms around. As all Lutheran schools grow in their own unique way, so too will our special tree.



Navigator College, Port Lincoln SA

The college celebrated NAVFest, a festive occasion that brought the school community together to commemorate 175 years of Lutheran schooling. We were privileged to welcome Stephen Rudolph, LEA Executive Director, and Mayor Mr Bruce Green as our special guests for the day. We were also joined by staff and students from Crossway Lutheran School (Ceduna), who presented the college with a special cross, made by the Crossways students. This cross was made from Western Myle wood and given as a gesture of kindness.

Following chapel which featured a modern day skit about Martin Luther's story, our commemorative tree was planted. Later the students engaged in a number of activities that allowed them to appreciate and enjoy our rich Lutheran German heritage. The students were able to watch, listen, taste, laugh and experience what makes us the school we are today by following a 'yellow brick road' style of activities. The activities involved decorating traditional German biscuits (lebkuchen), playing German childhood games, learning German words, connecting with other schools and visiting a mini archival display. Over lunch while the music played the students tasted traditional bratwurst rolls and enjoyed a staff performance of slap dancing. The staff had choreographed a simple 'Slap Dance' routine and were wearing German inspired costumes. This brought much laughter and joy to everyone and involved the students as they tried out this style of dancing.



Maitland Lutheran School, Maitland SA

Maitland Lutheran School inaugural year 9 students Molly Coleman and Rebecca Carey planted the first of several trees celebrating 175 years of Lutheran schools



Loxton Waikerie District Council Mayor, Mr Leon Stasinowsky, with school captains and vice captains

Loxton Lutheran School, Loxton SA

Celebrations commenced with a barbecue breakfast for grandparents, parents, friends and staff. This was followed by a special chapel service and then the tree planting ceremony at which a time capsule was also placed in the ground next to the tree. Those planting the tree were the Loxton – Waikerie Council Mayor and the current school captains and vice captains. The variety of tree selected was a Dwarf Sugar Gum – the same variety of tree that was planted on the 1st Arbour Day in 1948 at the site of the original Lutheran School in Loxton.

St Martins Lutheran College, Mount Gambier SA

The tree chosen at St Martins was a lovely Flowering Ash and it was planted by Principal Dianne Eckermann and the Primary and Secondary school captains, on the lawn area which is bordered by our Chapel, Gym and Library.



Unity College, Murray Bridge SA

Unity staff and students planted and dedicated their 175th anniversary tree.

Redeemer Lutheran School, Nuriootpa SA

Redeemer school captains, Ben Roennfeldt, Harley Gerlach, Thomas Bell and Lucy Brown, joined the Student Parliament Environmental Ministers, Landon Schutz and Aaron Bert, to plant a Cupaniopsis anacardioides (Tuckeroo) Tree at the school carpark entrance. The medium size Australian native has greenish/yellow flowers in autumn/ summer and provides yellow fruit in summer.



St Mark's Lutheran School, Mount Barker SA

School captains - Lauren Strachan and Matthew Landon, Chair of School Council - Dr Beverley Gogel and Principal - Mr James Heyne

Immanuel Lutheran College, Maroochydore Qld

Our '175th Tree' is situated in the playground of our Prep Centre. It is a 'touchstone' from which our youngest students are reminded daily that they are both a wonderful part of God's Garden, and indeed part of a wider system of schools across Australia focussing on Christ-centred principles.



St Andrews Lutheran College, Tallebudgera Qld

A White Magnolia has been chosen by St Andrews Lutheran College as the commemorative tree to mark the 175th anniversary. The tree is to be planted in the grounds of the new Early Learning Centre which is due to open in January 2015.

Right: Early Learning Centre Director, Mrs Bronwyn Waters. with Principal, Tim Kotzur.



Open Arms Community Child Care Centre, Birdwood SA

Our centre decided to plant a 'pink lady' apple tree – fitting, since our staff wear hot pink uniforms! We are using this as an opportunity to talk about growth and how God provides for us, and how we can help him by taking care of what he has given us. We are also looking at where all the current Lutheran sites are across Australia, and are hoping to link in some special activities with our closest Lutheran schools, Lobethal and Springhead, later in the year.



L-R: Mitchell Mathews child, Amy Norsworthy (educator), Bronwyn Foster (educator), Tamara Zilm (Director).



Waikerie Lutheran Primary School, Waikerie SA

Students plant the 175th anniversary tree.

Prince of Peace Lutheran College, Everton Hills Qld

On the Senior Campus an important element of the Grandparent's Day celebration was the tree planting to mark 175years of Lutheran schooling. We were fortunate to have three generations of Lutheran students present to be able to assist with the tree planting. The Schmidt family (Pastor Kevin Schmidt, Pastor David Schmidt and Oscar and Cooper Schmidt) assisted Garth Hunt (Head of College) with the planting of the Kauri Pine which will serve as a reminder of the foundations of Lutheran schools established 175years ago.

A Kauri Pine was also planted on the Junior Campus. Mrs Katrina Valencia (Head of Campus) was assisted by Mrs Carla Griffin (nee Neilson) and son Rhys. Carla is a Prince of Peace graduate. Rhys and Mrs Valencia's children are 2nd generation Lutheran schooling students.

The Kauri Pine tree was chosen specifically to mark these auspicious occasions. The Kauri Pine (agathis robusta) is a coniferous tree native to eastern Queensland. The pine will grow straight and tall to approximately 30 metres and will serve as a symbol of Christian faith at work in our lives providing a strong core for our way of being in the world.



Tree planting by Our Saviour OSHC staff and students.



Tatachilla Lutheran College, McLaren Vale SA

Students next to the tree planted to commemorate 175 years of Lutheran schooling in Australia.



L-R: Andrew Boesch (Spring Head principal), Mrs Betty Kowald, Madeline Palmer, Damien Riches and Mr Bern Gladigau.

Spring Head Lutheran School, Mount Torrens SA

Spring Head celebrated the 175th anniversary with the planting of an ornamental pear tree at the school's entrance. The tree planting was particularly significant at Spring Head, as our school has been here for just under 150 years. To mark the occasion two former students returned to the school to assist with our tree planting. Mrs Betty Kowald was in year 1 at Spring Head in 1931 and Mr Bern Gladigau started in 1941. Both Betty and Bern have enjoyed a long association with the school, and have been actively involved since their time here as students. They were joined by two students who have had a very short association with our school: Madeline Palmer and Damien Riches, who are in this year's foundation class.

Our Saviour Lutheran School, Aberfoyle Park SA

The mop top tree originally planted at Our Saviour was destroyed by vandals. It will be replaced when landscaping at the front of the school has been completed. The school's OSHC also planted a tree which has remained intact.



Good Shepherd Lutheran College, Noosa Qld

Good Shepherd middle years leaders with the tree that will remind students, parents and staff that Good Shepherd is part of a long tradition of Lutheran education which continues across our nation.



Acting principal Terry Schuster, Pastor Michael Jarrick, school council Chair Delwyn Ainsworth, Member for Burnett Hon Steve Bennett, student leaders Courtney Fitzsimmons, Amy Hazleton and Bailey-Jack Kruger and school chaplain Mrs Jeanette Mann

St John's Lutheran Primary School, Bundaberg Qld

The St John's school community gathered to dedicate the Memorial Garden which commemorates both the sacrifice of our armed forces, and the 175th anniversary of the beginnings of Lutheran education in Australia. A whole school assembly occurred to hear State Member Hon Steve Bennett address students.



New Life Child Care Centre & Kindergarten

The New Life staff, children and families joined together to celebrate. Together the children helped to prepare a hole and then we planted the *Elaeocarpus Eumundii* celebration tree followed by a picnic party.



St Peters Lutheran College, Springfield Qld

Ms Jill Lange-Mohr – Principal, Mr Craig Schmidt – Deputy Principal, Pastor Matthew Wilksch our Springfield Chaplain, our 2014 Students Leaders and some prep students with our 175 Year Anniversary Tree and Plaque.



Good News Lutheran School, Middle Park Qld

We have planted a Queensland Bottle Tree (*Brachychiton rupestris*) at the front of the school. The tree has a distinctive shape that begins to appear about age 5-8 years, which should become a focal feature when entering the school grounds. We will light the tree up with LEDs.



St Paul's Lutheran Primary School, Henty NSW

A Weeping Cherry tree was planted in the back playground to celebrate the rich history of Lutheran schooling in Australia. Our school of 60 students is small, but rich in its 84 years of high quality, Christian education in Henty.

Right: School captains Charlotte Male and Max Klemke, along with Principal Bev McFarland, Pastor Adam Eime and School Council Chair Robin Armstrong.



Peace Lutheran Primary School, Gatton Qld

Staff and students at Peace held a tree planting ceremony to remember, to celebrate and to give thanks for the many blessings God has showered upon Lutheran schools. Pastor James led the chapel service and gave thanks for the many leaders, teachers and most importantly students and families who have shaped and contributed to the Lutheran school family during these years.

Tarrington Lutheran School, Tarrington Vic

Tarrington Lutheran School is the oldest continuing Lutheran school in Australia having served its community for over 160 years. This has been possible due to the countless people involved in the school both past and present, many of whom are volunteers, including students, parents, pastors, school council members, Parents and Friends Associations, staff, and congregational members.

Members of the school community took the opportunity to reflect on the past and present with the theme *tree of life*. Tarrington Lutheran School invited Good Shepherd College, Hamilton, for a day of celebrations beginning with worship, followed by activities based around the theme. Two banners were created by the students from both schools and one hangs in each of the schools.

At the conclusion of the worship service, students and staff had the opportunity to place a handmade leaf on a bare wooden cross, thus giving it life. The cross, now covered with leaves of different shapes, sizes and colours, has spent time in St Michael's Lutheran Church, Tarrington, in Trinity Lutheran Church, Warrayure and now stands in the school's foyer so that people of all ages and backgrounds are reminded of the life Jesus provides through his death and resurrection.

A Flowering Gum was planted and the post that the plaque is secured to was made by a grandparent of two students from local Red Gum.



St Michael's Lutheran School, Hahndorf SA
The tree planting at St Michael's Lutheran School, Hahndorf.



Colleen Giles-Clark, Rebecca Geue, Felicity Evans (School Council), Ps Ben (Church Pastor), Chris Smith (tree buyer, plaque maker, hole digger), Bronwyn Wilson (PYP Coordinator), Diana Gaskell (ELC Director), Mark Rathjen (Principal) and the 2014 year 7 students.

St Peters Lutheran School, Blackwood SA

St Peters Lutheran School at Blackwood commemorated the LEA 175th Anniversary by planting a beautiful Liquidambar tree to grace our campus. The tree was planted by our year 7 students, along with foundation staff member Miss Rebecca Geue and Mrs Colleen Giles-Clark representing her late husband Wally who was an integral part of the original school planning.



Dr Bronwyn Dolling, Mrs Sylvia Hovey, Pr Paul Smith, Pr Ray Morris, Mr Russell Kleidon, Mr Peter Hovey, Hayley Watt.

Pacific Lutheran College, Caloundra Qld

Pacific celebrated the 175th anniversary of Lutheran schooling in Australia with the planting of a Bunya Tree.



The Mosey/Duldig family representing generations of families at St Johns.

St John's Lutheran School, Eudunda SA

Grandparents day was combined with the 175th anniversary celebrations at St John's in Eudunda. The Mosey/Duldig family in the photo represented the generations of families that were present at our grandparents day. Over 120 grandparents and special friends attended our event. We will now install seating and paving around this tree and include the plaque as a memory of the generations of families that have supported Lutheran schooling here at Eudunda.

Concordia Lutheran College, Toowoomba Qld

The tree at the Redlands Campus was planted by Mr Reg Kessler, a member of the founding class of 1946, on the lawns of the Concordia Chapel at the Redlands Campus. Following a service, a further two trees were planted at the college's two primary campuses – Concordia Primary Campus and Martin Luther Primary Campus.

In his homily to the college community, Rev Noel Noack, Bishop Lutheran Church of Australia, Queensland District, said that the service and the tree planting was a way to honour the pioneers of Lutheran schools in Australia as a lasting legacy to God's faithfulness. 'Those who came to Australia in the 1800s...built schools so that the teaching of the gospel would continue,' he said. 'Well it has continued. And like a well planted and watered tree, it has also grown and is now many, many schools.'



Mr Reg Kessler and Mrs Elva Kessler with their four grandchildren who are current CLC students: Mitchell Oleksyn, Jacob Oleksyn, Declain Kessler, Mr Reg Kessler, Mrs Elva Kessler and James Kessler.



Sunshine Christian School, Sunshine Vic

Sunshine Christian School has a unique history among Lutheran schools in Australia. While the school has been operating for more than 30 years, it has only been part of the Lutheran school family since 2004. The school was founded in 1982 by a group of committed Christians across denominations who desired to provide a Christian choice in education in the western suburbs of Melbourne. Our high number of new migrant, refugee and ESL families share a great deal with the first German Lutherans who migrated to Australia. They share a common commitment to ensuring their children receive an education in the protestant Christian tradition.

The school community celebrated the 175th anniversary with a thanksgiving service which included beautiful performances from our choir, poems read by students and a message about the family of Lutheran schools from Liz Pietsch (LEVNT office).

We then gathered to plant a miniature Valencia Orange tree in our courtyard. In a school of our size it was quite an undertaking to find a suitable space to plant a tree! We arrived at the miniature citrus family after noting the kindred spirit of a small tree producing good fruit.

May Sunshine Christian School and all of the schools of the LCA always be aware of the Tree of Life that provides strength for our lives. It is through God's power and provision alone that we have the blessings of Christian schooling.



Victory Lutheran College, Wodonga Vic

Principal Cain McDonald and Pastor Tim Jarick with students spanning the years levels at the school



Principal Tsae Wong planting the tree.

Trinity Lutheran College, Ashmore Qld

The Trinity community planted a Eumundi Quandond at both its campuses and linked it with National Tree Day.

School chapels focused on our history and included many photos, some from the very early days, recounting our own history since our formation in 1980.

St Paul's Lutheran Primary School, Caboolture Qld

Celebrations at St Paul's, with the *Tree of Life* as the central theme, took place in the form of classroom devotions, artwork and a formal tree planting ceremony. As we have become a 1:1 iPad school in 2014, we decided to relay the tree planting service digitally to the student body and parents. Our tree planting ceremony was attended by a number of key stakeholders, recorded by iPad and then edited by our technology captains. This final production was then played to the student body and staff at the respective Junior School [prep – year 2] and Senior School [years 3 – 6] assemblies.

The decision to plant the tree in one of the gardens at the front of the school was deliberate. This will now serve as a daily reminder about where we have come from, as well as where we are heading as a school and system. It will also serve as a daily reminder of our calling to look after nature and God's creation as a whole.



Lutheran Ormeau Rivers District School (LORDS), Pimpama Qld

Students at LORDS planted three trees to represent three years of LORDS existence as part of 175 years of Lutheran schools.



College Chair, Dr Monique Beedles and Head of College, Adrian Wiles.

St Peters Lutheran College, Indooroopilly Qld

The tree planted at Indooroopilly is a Magnolia Grandiflora. It's going to be enormous with magnificent white flowers.



Allan Dallas, Head (founding) of Caboolture Campus and 2014 college captains, Tess Emerson and Chase Taylor.

Grace Lutheran College, Caboolture Campus Qld

The chosen Illawarra Flame Tree matches the others in a grove planted by our 'Pioneer' captains. The 'Pioneers' of the campus were the first group to commence year 7 in the foundation year of the campus and then graduate from year 12 as our first full generation through. These flame trees at our entry visually provide a connection to similar trees and our heritage at the Rothwell campus. The shovel used to turn the sod was presented by our pioneers to the Head of Campus on our pioneers' last day of their year 12 year in 2013. This simple farming implement visually connects us to those hardy pioneering souls who built our first churches and schools at Nundah and Klemzig (north east of Brisbane and Adelaide respectively) establishing the rich educational heritage we value today.



St Paul's College, Walla Walla NSW

Chelsie and Cheryl Paech standing next to the tree planted at St Paul's College, Walla Walla NSW to commemorate 175 years of Lutheran education in Australia.



Past students of St John's Lutheran Primary School, Jindera, four of whom are currently employed at the school, three as teachers.

St John's Lutheran Primary School, Jindera NSW

Our students together with families, friends and past students of St John's, joined together in a special chapel service on *Faithfulness and Thanksgiving* to commemorate 175 years of Lutheran education in Australia. To the fascination of current students, a number of past students (oldest ex-student being 89) shared stories of their school experience at St John's as far back as the 1950s. Following this, Isabella Schulz, one of our youngest students and a fourth generation student of St John's, and past student Wilf Scholz, planted a commemorative 'tree of life'. With our 146 years of experience in education St John's offers a rich tradition of quality Christian education for all.

Concordia College, Highgate SA

Pastor Tom Reuther assisted with the LEA 175th anniversary commemorative tree planting at Concordia College, Highgate SA. Pastor Reuther was Principal of Concordia 1968-1982 and National Director of Lutheran Education 1983-1993. Mr Lester Saegenschnitter, Pastor Peter Bean and two school leaders, Hannah Leske and Marcus Andersons, participated in the dedication of the tree, observed by the assembled students and staff and Mrs Una Reuther.



Rev Tom Reuther, Mrs Una Reuther and Mr Lester Saegenschnitter.



Secondary college captains Tara Jensen and Daniel Heit.

Redeemer Lutheran College, Biloela Qld

With the start of Middle School, Year 7-10, at Redeemer Lutheran College, Biloela, in 2014 it seemed appropriate that the tree planted to commemorate of 175 years of Lutheran schooling in Australia was planted in a location that was central to both the primary and secondary campus. This will be planted during November 2014 when the building is complete.

Secondary college captains Tara Jensen and Daniel Heit are pictured in front of the chosen location holding the plaque and one of three rosewood crosses that will be erected with a Banksia tree in an Easter Garden at the entrance of our Multipurpose Facility Banksia Place. Banksia Place was so named because our sporting houses are Acacia and Grevillea.



The tree at St James planted outside the Middle School building.

St James Lutheran College, Urraween Qld

At St James Lutheran College in Hervey Bay the celebration tree, along with 26 other trees, were planted outside the new Middle School building.



Mrs Karyn Bjelke-Petersen (Principal's Assistant, JS Co-ordinator) and Mrs Teresa Lucas (Business Manager).

St John's Lutheran School, Kingaroy Qld

Our anniversary tree was planted along the bank at the new junior secondary precinct. St John's began the journey into junior secondary education at the beginning of 2014. The school community celebrated its 25th anniversary this year since beginning with 28 students in 1989. The school enjoys a reputation in the South Burnett region for quality education in a caring Christian environment. St John's Lutheran School community were excited to be part of the wider celebrations of the LEA.

Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Para Vista SA

Good Shepherd celebrated with the opening of a new facility one7five in a celebration of the school's place in the rich history of Lutheran education in Australia and in anticipation of a wonderfully bright future. The new building one7five provides tangible evidence of the commitment to provide learning environments that positively promote and support student learning and well being

Worship during which school captains reflected that the distinctive of Lutheran schools is the foundation on which we have built and flourished – Jesus Christ.

Planting a 'giant gum leaf' tree when staff and students imagined the first students in 1839 gathered on the banks of the Torrens under the shade of the iconic Aussie eucalypt.



Guests, staff and children at Calvary.

Calvary Kindergarten, Morphett Vale SA

A mulberry tree was planted in the very centre of the outdoor learning environment. Dr Loyd Fyffe spoke to the children about the special things that people do to remember special occasions. He showed his personal photo album and pictures of famous monuments and explained their significance before we planted our own tree as a way to mark our own special celebration. Pastor Mike Pietsch led the children in prayer as we stood in a circle around the tree.



Vineyard Lutheran School, Clare SA

Principal Nick Kriewaldt, Pastor James Leach, Council Chair Darren Krieg and P&F President Kelly Jones planted the 175th anniversary tree at Vineyard Lutheran School, Clare

Good Shepherd College, Hamilton Vic

Our *tree of life* was planted during National Lutheran Schools Week (NLSW). It has been given a prominent position in the college grounds. The Spectator, our local paper attended the ceremony. NLSW resources were used for the students to lead a short ceremony.



Crossways Lutheran School, Ceduna SA

Crossways combined a community church service and barbecue lunch as part of their tree planting. Some of the school's original students were present for the service.



Bethany Lutheran Primary School, Raceview Qld

At Bethany we focused on *the life of trees* and the *tree of life*. Mr Schiller led a short time of worship giving thanks to God for the gift of Lutheran education and the growth of Lutheran schools in Australia. The Lutheran Church of Australia has a rich history in education with the first Lutheran school opening in 1839.

Left: Neil Schiller with school captains, Tuia Gregory and Lily Balassa.

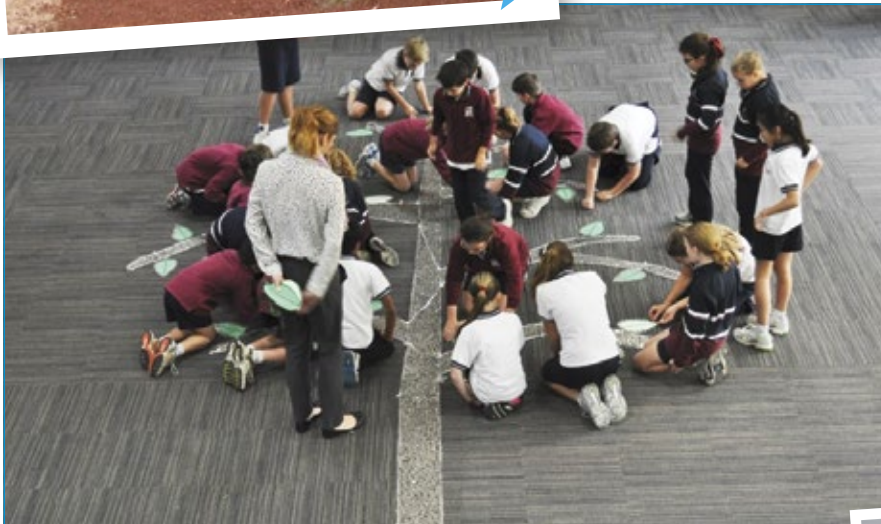
St John's Lutheran Primary School, Portland Vic

Our tree planting culminated a week of activities celebrating National Lutheran Schools Week. We opened with a service of thanksgiving with our congregation, had our house captains run a number of team building activities and held our school cross country. Throughout the week we reflected on the significance of a Portland trait that causes our trees to grow on weird angles. We all look and grow differently but it is through Christ that we remain strongly grounded. It is often the more unusual trees that are the strongest to shift. One of the 'projects' for the week was the construction of a tree of encouragement where we have a leaf for each student and teacher.

We have planted a Japanese Maple behind the existing junior primary block and it was fantastic to have Peter McGregor, who was involved in planting one of the initial trees from the Must Street school block in 1980 with us, assisted by his grand-daughter school captain Brooke Zordan. The choice of tree symbolises that while families of our congregation have long sustained the school it is new families from outside this traditional connection point that will ensure its future.

Living Waters Lutheran Primary School, Alice Springs NT

To commemorate the 175th anniversary Mrs Eunice Stoll, principal, Mrs Sally Axten, Indigenous Liaison Officer and a Arrente person from Mbantua-Alice Springs, along with a group of students dedicated the tree using the *tree of life* liturgy from LEA.



St Paul Lutheran School, Blair Athol SA

Our celebratory week began when we decorated and displayed 175 trees around the school. The challenge was set for students and families throughout the week to find all 175 of them!

Inspired by the theme, *tree of life*, a charity fundraising day was held where we made a tree from silver coins. The money raised from this event was donated to the mission project in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, where the Lutheran church is working towards building a Christ-focused pre-school.

Our week finished with assembly, where our senior students and Student Representative Council led worship on the *tree of life* theme and shared some history of Lutheran education in South Australia, as well as the history of the building and growth of St Paul. A tree planting and dedication followed outside.





Mr Alvin Jacques, College Board member and member of the Mandurah Lutheran Church is pictured planting the tree.

Living Waters Lutheran College, Warnbro WA

We give thanks for the many blessings God has showered upon Lutheran schools and especially his hand here in the west, where the dream of a small Lutheran primary school began twenty years ago. Little did we know then, that it was God's plan to have three campuses and to provide kindy to year 12 education. We are thankful that dreams are not limited to our own! We thank God for all those who have been a part of Living Waters over the past 17 years! We thank God for the many moments our Lutheran schools provide for us to share the love of Jesus and reach out to our families.

We ask for God's continued protection over all Lutheran schools, their leaders, their staff and their families. May we continue to be communities that know of your love and grace, and offer it in return to all whose lives we touch. All praise and glory to Him!



Golden Grove Lutheran Primary School, Golden Grove SA

A Manchurian Pear tree was planted at Golden Grove by groundsman Kuno Berghout and school captains Isaac Norrey and Grace Atta. The tree sits in a prominent position at the entrance of the school and together with the plaque is a wonderful reminder that the school is part of the Lutheran schooling system.



Lutheran milestone

TRINITY Lutheran College has taken part in the celebration of 175 years of Lutheran schooling in Australia. Trinity Lutheran College principal Andrew Leske, along with students Daniel Williams (captain), Sophie Chislett (vice-

captain), Scarlett Mitcham (captain) and Adam Byllaardt (vice-captain) this week planted a tree, which is recognised as a symbol of growth. Mr Leske said the tree planting signified the desire to remember, to celebrate and

to give thanks for the many blessings God has showered upon Lutheran schools. Lutheran Education Australia has grown to the 86 schools nationwide, in which 88,000 students receive their education.

“ The tree planting signifies the desire to remember, to celebrate and to give thanks for the many blessings God has showered upon Lutheran schools ”

CELEBRATION: Trinity Lutheran College Principal Andrew Leske with students Daniel Williams (captain), Sophie Chislett (vice-captain), Scarlett Mitcham (captain) and Adam Byllaardt (vice-captain). *Picture: Cheryl Shephard*

Trinity Lutheran College, Mildura Vic (pictured left)

Article and photo courtesy of Sunraysia Daily.



Nhill Lutheran School, Nhill Vic

Celebrations focussed on the theme *tree of life*. We discussed how trees are a symbol of growth and that they provide physical needs such as food and shelter. They also remind us of our spiritual need to grow closer to God through our Saviour Jesus who died on the wooden cross and rose up again to give us new life. We planted a 'Crab Apple' tree in the school yard to commemorate the occasion. Students participated in the school Family Service which focused on the theme. At the conclusion of the service, students gave out trees to the congregation to signify that we have been blessed and that we can be the blessing to others. The students also felt it was important to bless the Nhill community by donating five fruit trees to the Nhill Community Garden so that produce could be used to bless others.

Lutheran Primary School, Wagga Wagga NSW

Student art work depicting trees of life and the choir enhanced the celebration at Wagga Wagga. The history of Lutheran schools, particularly in the Riverina, was acknowledged and celebrated with the planting of a Nullarbor Rose. This plant is native which symbolises our Australian culture and is strong and durable. It will have a beautiful red flower to remind us of our faith and Jesus' ultimate sacrifice for us.





The Good Shepherd Lutheran Primary School, Croydon Vic

Good Shepherd celebrated 175 years of Lutheran education in Australia with a whole school chapel conducted under the theme *tree of life* – 175 years of Lutheran education. In addition a Magnolia Vulcan tree was planted by senior student leaders

Good News Lutheran College, Werribee Vic

The anniversary tree planning took place after a thorough survey of the proposed school master plan to find a prominent spot that won't be built upon in the next 20 years. A representation of students from across the college took part in the ceremony, also attended by many staff and John Belani, representing the college council and an active council member since the college's birth in 1997. As part of a focus for the week in Christian Studies and chapels, all students received a card and small packet of mustard seeds commemorating the event.



Kate Ridley, Josh Taylor, Principal Greg Schneider, Austin Callow.

Lakeside Lutheran College, Pakenham Vic

The college students and staff welcomed distinguished guests from Lutheran education, including LEA Executive Director, Stephen Rudolph, to celebrate the 175th anniversary of Lutheran schooling in Australia. Mal Wegener, College Council Chair, planted a grevillea tree alongside college captains, Zac Hogan and Esther Mulenga. The first Lutheran school in the Casey / Cardinia Shire was located at Hessel Road in Harkaway in 1856. Principal David Spike remarked that Lakeside is continuing a tradition of 158 years, forged by the original German settlers, such as Ernst Wanke.



Sickerdick family grandfather Brian, father Trent, and children Layla (year 2) and Dakota (reception).



Lobethal Lutheran School, Lobethal SA

There is much history involved in Lobethal as one of the older Lutheran schools still operating in Australia. As a recognition of this history a tree planting was carried out by descendants of one of the original German settlers of Lobethal – the Sickerdick family. Grandfather – Brian, father – Trent, and children – Layla (year 2) and Dakota (reception), were part of the planting. Brian and Trent were past students of the school. Brian's mother, Doris, was also a student at the school after it was reopened in 1930. We have had and currently have a number of 3rd, 4th and I think 5th generation students at the school.



Jack Heckendorf, Caileigh Gladigau, Principal Mrs Kathryn Krieg and Henry Gladigau.

St Jakobi Lutheran School, Lyndoch SA

St Jakobi's tree isn't quite ready to go in! We're currently demolishing an old building to create a beautiful open courtyard, which will then be landscaped for outside learning and play. In the background you can see the two original church buildings. A pergola in the shape of a cross is planned to come out from the former church, and alongside that will be a spot honoring our school's congregational forbears. Many of our current students are descendants of these pioneers, who brought out and relied staunchly upon their faith in God. We purchased a claret ash for our tree. Its spreading branches will remind us of the message of the 175th anniversary – from small beginnings God will grow a mighty tree. Its autumn colours will reflect the vineyards that surround us, and on which our school colours are based. It will provide shade and shelter, reminding us of Psalm 46:1 – "God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble."



Immanuel Lutheran School, Gawler SA

Immanuel school students and staff planted a flowering ash tree on their school grounds to commemorate 175 years of Lutheran schooling in Australia 1939 - 2014.

Student representatives Nathan Sawyer and Ross Oxford assisted Sue De Biasi (Principal) and Simon Wundersitz (school leadership) with digging the hole and planting the tree. Pastor Geoff Havelberg said a blessing for the school and the new tree.

Redeemer Lutheran College, Rochedale Qld

Redeemer chose to celebrate the 175th anniversary with special worship opportunities and the planting of a celebration tree to mark the occasion. Redeemer's two previous principals, Robin Kleinschmidt (foundation Headmaster 1980-2001) and Richard Hauser (Head of College 2002-2008, and founder of the Junior School) attended a special assembly and the planting of a celebration tree. Mr Kleinschmidt addressed the students, staff and parents by reminiscing about the early years of Redeemer, with Dr Hauser providing a historical narrative on the broader topic of the history of Lutheran education. The celebration tree chosen is a Queensland Rainforest tree (Stenocarpus Sinuatus or 'Wheel of Fire Tree') in support of the early practice at Redeemer which saw a specific focus on planting native trees. Redeemer has been, and is, richly blessed.



St Andrew Lutheran School, Darwin NT

Principal, Mrs Karen Koehler and St Andrew students plant their commemorative Grevillea tree.



St John's Lutheran School, Highgate SA

At a simple ceremony led by the year four classes a ribbon was cut to officially acknowledge the planting of a tree marking the 175 years of Lutheran schooling in Australia.

Rev Rob Schubert and principal, Michael Paech, with St John's year four students.



Ocean Forest Lutheran College, Dalyellup WA

A dozen trees were planted at Dalyellup. Newly appointed principal, Andrew Leske, planted the anniversary tree with the College Board Chair, Scott Nuske, senior school leaders, Cory and Tahnee, and junior leaders, Lachlan and Jaclyn. Each year level then planted an anniversary tree K-year10 – a dozen in all!

Tanunda Lutheran School, Tanunda SA

Tanunda Lutheran School held a Special Person's Day. Over 400 guests attended and the day commenced with a worship service, led by students, thanking God for his provision and blessing of our school. The Hon Stephan Knoll, MP, with Principal, Darren Stevenson and school leaders, Ellie Schaefer and Jayden Birchard assisting, planted an anniversary tree and installed a plaque to commemorate the 175th anniversary.



Planting the tree at Trinity Kindergarten.

Trinity Kindergarten, Southport Qld

The children at Trinity Kindergarten planted a new native tree in their garden. We are grateful to have this beautiful new tree in our garden to provide shade for us each day. The children helped to dig, plant and water. They will be responsible for caring for it in the future.



Tree of life artwork.

St Paul's Lutheran Primary School, Caboolture Qld

At St Paul's a tree was planted and students produced artwork depicting trees of life. These colourful drawings were displayed in windows throughout the whole school.



Commemorative Tree Planting: 175 years of Lutheran Schooling in Australia, book cover.

St Pauls Kindergarten, Townsville Qld

Staff at St Paul's Kindergarten in Townsville published a book, suitable to be read and shared by the children at the kindergarten, as part of the celebrations to commemorate 175 years of Lutheran schooling in Australia.



Faith Lutheran College, Victoria Point Qld

Faith is completing a major building project (Centre for the Creative Arts) in 2014. When this is completed a 'Central Park' will be developed in the middle of the Beveridge Road Campus in the area shown in the accompanying photo. The 175th anniversary tree will be planted in an appropriate area in this park area. At the same time a tree will also be planted on the Link Road campus.



Faith Lutheran College, Plainland Qld

The 175 years of Lutheran schooling celebrations also mark a significant milestone in the history of Faith Lutheran College, Plainland, as it marks 15 years of providing Christian coeducation in the Lockyer Valley. In honour of such a significant occasion, our year 12 graduating class have planned a significant landscaped green space which will feature a 10 metre high Poinciana. The tree will provide significant shade and be a focal point for the many current and future students to enjoy their lunchbreaks as well as a space for outdoor learning, reflection and group work. This project will be funded and constructed by our graduating class during the last week in term 4 2014, and we are very excited to see this dynamic space come to fruition.



St John's Lutheran School, Geelong Vic

A silver Birch, a deciduous tree, was selected at St John's Geelong. There has been a silver birch in this location since St John's was established in 1962. The original tree suffered during the drought and had to be removed a couple of years ago. It is fantastic to have it replaced with a new one!

Right: Year 6 school captains, Jonathon in't Hout and Molly England, assisted Mr Brian Schultz, Head of School, to plant the tree.



School captains (L-R): Kasenya turner (9), Jossiah Langton (6), Kiara Miller, Lyvinia Turner (6), Jye Witham (9) and Dr Barry Krueger, Head of School.

Geelong Lutheran College, Geelong Vic

A lemon scented gum was placed in a future courtyard on the edge of a hard court playing area near our senior school building.



Luther College celebrates by planting their tree.

Luther College, Croydon Vic

In its 50th year of providing a Christ centred education, Luther College was proud to be able to celebrate 175 years of Lutheran schooling in Australia by planting a tree. We are honoured to have been involved in the act of planting a tree which signifies the desire to remember, to celebrate and to give thanks for the many blessings God has showered upon Lutheran schools.



Zara Nichols and Ethan Rudolph taking care of Holy Trinity's new tree.

Holy Trinity Lutheran School, Horsham Vic

A Burgundy Elm was chosen because it has non-invasive roots, great shade in summer, and is very showy in autumn. Dropping its leaves in winter, it will give our groundsman something to do. It was placed in the middle of a grassed area in the courtyard, where students love to sit and have lunch, play games or just relax. It is also a great place to gather for special occasions or just to hold outdoor classes to get students out of their classroom on a nice day. The tree will also provide an ideal spot for the many parents who volunteer to read with students.



Eastside Lutheran College, Hobart Tas

After careful consideration Eastside Lutheran College decided to plant a Pin Oak tree (*Quercus Palustris*). A Pin Oak tree was chosen not just because of its beauty and strength. It is also a long surviving tree of over 150 years and will provide a lasting reminder of the continued involvement and dedication of the Lutheran Church of Australia in Australian education.

Peace Lutheran College, Cairns Qld

A *Saraca Thaipingensis* was planted at Peace Cairns which, when in flower, has bunches of golden yellow flowers. This tree was chosen because it is well suited to the Cairns climate and environment. In the past we have had to cut down a lot of trees planted on the school ground due to them being planted in an unsuitable position, being damaged by cyclones or having caught diseases in our wet climate. We are hoping this tree will grow into a beautiful tree that will provide shade and enjoyment for many years to come.



Yirara College, Alice Springs NT

Just prior to the students returning home for their mid-year break the tree planting ceremony was held. A senior student, the principal Roger Ashcroft and a part-time Indigenous Pastor Simon Dixon led the planting ceremony and prayers. The tree planted is a *eucalyptus cladocalyx*, commonly known as a sugar gum. All of the students attending Yirara and academic staff gathered on a very cold morning to be part of the ceremony.

St Peters Lutheran Primary School, Dimboola Vic

We chose an orange tree which will become part of our 'sensory garden' that the students are creating as a project in the school. This will be the first tree planted in our new garde and was planted by school captains Isabella, Shannen and Olivia.



After 175 years...

Our oldest

First Lutheran schools established in 1839:

- » Piltawodli Lutheran School, Adelaide (1839 – 1845)
- » Klemzig Lutheran School, Adelaide (1839 – 1846)
- » Glen Osmond Lutheran School, Glen Osmond (1839 – 1841)
- » St Michael's Lutheran School, Hahndorf (1839 – 1917, 1946 - -)
- » German Station Lutheran School, Nundah (1839 – 1843)

The oldest (continuous) operating Lutheran school is Tarrington Lutheran School (Hochkirch) (Vic) which was established in 1853 and is in its 161st year of operation. St John's Lutheran Primary School, Jindera (NSW) is the second oldest (continuous) operating Lutheran school. It was established in 1868 and is in its 147th year of existence.

The oldest Lutheran school (non-continuous) is St Michael's Lutheran School, Hahndorf (SA) which was established in 1839 and operated for 78 years until 1917. St Michael's

re-opened in 1946. This year is St Michael's 148th year of operation.

Lobethal Lutheran School (1842-1917, 1930 - -) is in its 161st year of operation and is the second oldest (non-continuous) Lutheran school still operating today.

During World War 1 and by acts of state parliaments in South Australia and Queensland, 49 Lutheran schools in SA and three in Qld were compulsorily closed. Only Concordia (SA) and Immanuel (SA) Colleges remained open.

The oldest secondary college is Concordia College (SA) which was established in Murtoa (Vic) in 1890 and in 1905 was shifted to Adelaide where it has operated since. Concordia is now in its 125th year of existence.

The second oldest secondary college is Immanuel College (SA) which was established at Point Pass (SA) in 1895 and was moved to Adelaide in 1923 where it has operated in North Adelaide (1923-1941), Walkerville (1942-1958) and Novar Gardens (1957 - -) and is now in its 120th year of operation.



Lobethal College



Tarrington Lutheran School, Tarrington Vic, circa 1897

Our largest, smallest, newest

Of our Lutheran primary and secondary schools:

- » the largest is St Peter's Lutheran College, Indooroopilly Qld, with 2065 students
- » the smallest is St Peter's Lutheran Primary School, Dimboola Vic, with 30 students
- » the newest is Lutheran Ormeau Rivers district School (LORDS), Pimpama Qld, with 291 students.

Our kindergartens and ECEs

The first Lutheran Kindergarten established was St James Kindergarten, Norlane (Geelong Vic) in 1959. It operated for 25 years until its closure in 1984.

There have been 69 Lutheran kindergartens/early childhood centres established in Australia since 1959. In 2014 57 continue to operate.

Our primary and secondary schools

- » Four Lutheran schools in New Zealand:
 - Ranzau Lutheran School, Ranzau (1848 – 1856)
 - Upper Moutere Lutheran School, Upper Moutere (1857 – 1860)
 - Marton Lutheran School, Marton (1915 - 1925)
 - Rongotea Lutheran School, Rongotea (1922 – 1924)



St John's Lutheran School, Jindera NSW



Principal, Jodie Hoff, with students at the newest Lutheran school LORDS Qld



Immanuel College, Point Pass SA



Concordia College, Highgate SA

- » In Australia there have been 259 Lutheran primary and/or secondary schools which have operated since 1839
- » In 2014, 86 Lutheran primary and secondary schools operate in all Australian states and territories (except ACT)
- » South Australia: 144 schools since 1839
- » Victoria: 48 schools since 1853
- » Queensland: 44 schools since 1839
- » NSW: 13 schools since 1868
- » NT: 5 schools since 1881
- » WA: 4 schools since 1904
- » Tasmania: 1 school since 1982

Our tertiary institutions

The Lutheran Church has established the following seminaries/colleges for the theological tertiary training of its people:

- » Lobethal College (SA) (1842-1855)
- » Hahndorf College (SA) (1877-1887)
- » Concordia Seminary (Murtoa, Vic) (1892-1904), and Highgate (SA) (1905-1967)
- » Wartburg Seminary (Tanunda SA) (1921-1922)
- » Immanuel Seminary (North Adelaide SA) (1923-1967)
- » Luther Seminary (North Adelaide SA) (1968-2003)
- » Lutheran Teachers college (Highgate SA) (1968-1975), and North Adelaide (1975-2003)
- » Australian Lutheran College (North Adelaide SA) (2004 - -)

Our Indigenous schools

Since 1839 until today, the Lutheran Church has served numerous Indigenous communities through Lutheran schools. They are as follows:

- » Piltawodli Lutheran School, Adelaide (1839 – 1845)
- » German Station Lutheran School, Nundah (1839 – 1843)
- » Encounter Bay Mission School, Encounter Bay (1842 – 1848)
- » Port Lincoln Mission School, Port Lincoln (1850 – 1852)
- » Trinity Lutheran School, Killalpaninna (1867 - 1917)
- » Hermannsburg Mission School, Hermannsburg (1881 – 1893, 1896 -1989)
- » Bloomfield Mission School, Bloomfield (1886 – 1901)
- » Hope Vale Lutheran School, Hope Vale (1899 - 1974)

- » Koonibba Lutheran School, Koonibba (1903 – 1962)
- » Yalata Lutheran School, West Coast (1958 - 1962)
- » Yirara College, Finke River (1993 - -)

In 2014 Indigenous students total 949 (2.39%) of total enrolments and students with disabilities number 1356 (3.41%) of total enrolments.

Our boarding schools

Since 1839 there have been at least nine boarding schools. In 2014 there are only six. These are as follows:

- » Immanuel College, Novar Gardens SA
- » St Peters Lutheran College, Indooroopilly Qld
- » Concordia Lutheran College, Toowoomba Qld
- » St Pauls College, Walla Walla NSW
- » Peace Lutheran College, Cairns Qld
- » Yirara College, Alice Springs NT

Concordia College (Highgate SA), Luther College, (Croydon Vic) and Good Shepherd College (Hamilton Vic) have also been.

In 1967 there were 1116 boarding students, and in 2014 boarding students totalled 709.

Our Directors

LEA Directors: Rev Tom Reuther (1983-1993), Dr Adrienne Jericho (1995-2010), Mr Stephen Rudolph (2011-)

LSA Directors: Mr Kevin Oster (1982-1992), Mr Barry Kahl (1993-2011), Mr John Proeve (2012-)

LEQ Directors: Mr Terry Armstrong (1983 – 1985). Dr Ken Albinger (1986-1999), Dr Roger Hunter (2000-2006), Mrs Sue Kloeden (2007-2014)

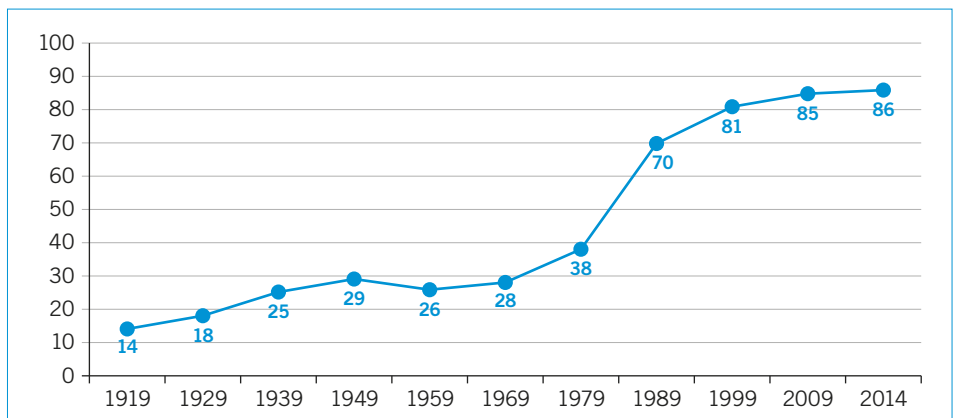
LESER/LEVNT Directors: Mr Terry Armstrong (1986), Mr Bob Bartram (1986-1993), Mr Alan Wiebusch (1994-2001), Dr Ken Bartel (2002-2008), Mrs Elizabeth Kloeden (2009-2011), Mr Paul Weinert (2012-)

Our changing profile

1967		1983		2014	
Enrolment	Staff	Enrolment	Staff	Enrolment	Staff
3592	193	9966	623	39764	3287

	1983		2014	
	Lutheran	Non-Lutheran	Lutheran	Non-Lutheran
Staff	74.5%	25.5%	33.8%	66.2%
Students	52.6%	47.4%	15.2%	84.8%
Number of schools	60		86	
Average school size	166		462	
Number of staff	623		3287	
Number of students	9966		39764	

Growth of Lutheran Schools (1919–2014)



School Directors 2012 (L-R): Mr John Proeve, Mrs Sue Kloeden, Mr Paul Weinert, Mr Stephen Rudolph



School Directors 2006 (L-R): Dr Adrienne Jericho, Dr Roger Hunter, Mr Barry Kahl, Dr Ken Bartel



St Michael's Lutheran School, Hahndorf SA, in 1917



Rev Tom Reuther and Mr Stephen Rudolph (2011)

A constant in a world of change [Stephen Rudolph] continued from page 28.

lives, and for our Lutheran Primary School, and the foundation we received there.

While Lutheran schools today may not deliver 'Religious Instruction' in the same way it was in 1930, the constant theme and strength of Lutheran schools across Australia is still firmly embedded in the great news and celebration of Jesus' salvation for all.

Today's Lutheran schools all utilise the LEA Christian Studies Curriculum Framework. This framework is made up of several strands. One is the Christian Living strand. This strand is concerned with Christian teachings, about living in relationship with God and how this inspires Christians to live in love and service in the local and global community.

As our schools form their students in an understanding of God's love for them through Jesus, the constant message of Australian Lutheran schools 1839-2014, is celebrated and well and truly alive

Service learning is another key aspect of life in today's Lutheran schools. While in previous times, much of our focus was on 'head' knowledge, it is common today to focus on 'head, heart, hands and feet' as we strive to be 'as Christ' to others. Service is faith active in love. Service involves selfless giving and loving of others, making a difference in their

lives by responding to their needs and acting without expecting recognition or reward.

...the joy and focus of our Lutheran schools today [is] the constant of the gospel of Jesus Christ which has been central to our schools since 1839.

Lutheran schools in 2014 have celebrated 175 years of Lutheran schooling in Australia by challenging our students to grow in their understanding that service is not only a personal response to God's love, but a broader response as part of one's humanity for the sake of justice for all. Please enjoy the stories in this edition of SchoolLink; please celebrate with us the joy and good news the LCA's schools bring to their people every day; and please continue to prayerfully support each other in this world of constant change, as our Lutheran schools relevantly, actively and purposefully worship and celebrate Jesus, our life giver.

Finally, thank you to Doris and all past Lutheran school students, staff, governing bodies, as well as the LCA for your support, commitment and service to Lutheran schools. Thank you to all who have celebrated 175 years of Lutheran schooling this year and who seek to serve, form and grow with each other in living out God's salvation and love for us all, through his Son, Jesus Christ. Your professional commitment and passion

is acknowledged and continues to make a significant difference in many people's lives.

May God continue to bless our schools and their communities that this constant may live on into the future regardless of our changing world, the LCA through its schools continues to focus on Jesus Christ.

...please celebrate with us the joy and good news the LCA's schools bring to their people every day.

[Doris Sickerdick's full transcript of *1930 The year of the Golden Jubilee 1980: The by gone days*, is available on the LEA website at <http://www.lutheran.edu.au/assets/Uploads/pr/general/Doris%20Sickerdick.pdf>]

This edition of SchoolLink as well as *The Schools List 1839-2014* have been included in The Lutheran circulation for November 2014 and also distributed to staff in Australian Lutheran schools. Last month all subscribers to The Lutheran and staff of Lutheran schools also received a copy of *You're Welcome*. During 2015 distribution of *You're Welcome* will also include all Lutheran school parents and families. Lutheran Education Australia is pleased to support the LCA in telling the stories about the great work being done across our church through its agencies.

A constant in a world of change



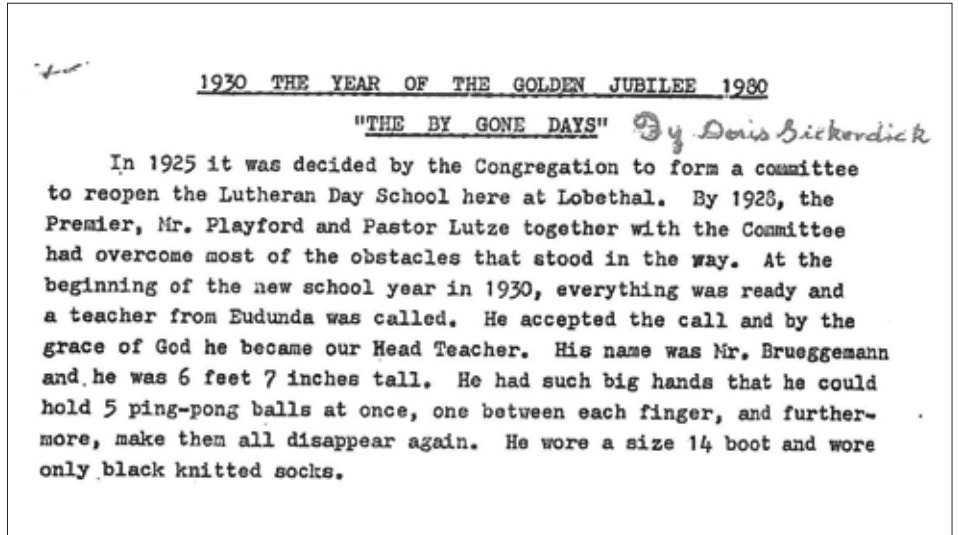
Stephen Rudolph is the Executive Director of Lutheran Education Australia

In this edition of Schoolink you will find stories about the celebration of 175 years of Lutheran schools in Australia from every one of our church's 86 primary and secondary schools. These tales are related to our 175th celebration theme of *The tree of life*, and illustrate the joy and focus of our Lutheran schools today and the constant of the gospel of Jesus Christ which has been central to our schools since 1839.

It has been a great pleasure to receive our schools' stories about *tree of life* activities around worship, tree planting, community service, art, music and literature. The creativity and focus of our Lutheran school staff and students, particularly on the centrality of the gospel in and through these celebrations is acknowledged. As our schools *form* their students in an understanding of God's love for them through Jesus, the constant message of Australian Lutheran schools 1839-2014, is celebrated and well and truly alive.

...the constant theme and strength of Lutheran schools across Australia is still firmly embedded in the great news and celebration of Jesus salvation for all.

One particular letter received was from an ex-student of Lobethal Lutheran School (1842-1917,1930-), Doris Sickerdick, who in 1980, wrote to celebrate Lobethal Lutheran School's Golden Jubilee (1930-1980) since its re-opening after World War 1 closure.



A snippet from Doris Sickerdick's recollection of school days at Lobethal (written in 1980, 50 years after the school reopened).

Doris writes of her 1930 memories:

...after the roll call of who was there or who was not there came the most important lesson of the day, Religious Instruction, where we had to learn every text and chapter off by heart. This meant Luther's Small Catechism and the bible History and hymns were to be word perfect. Then we had our weekly Friday tests and many things were learned and said in parrot fashion. Believe me, there was the foundation that not everyone has today, but we had as children. God is our Creator and we must believe in Him to be saved. This is the one thing needful, and that of course was the main reason for the re-opening of this school 50 years ago, the reason for this celebration. No doubt we have had a wonderful privilege and wonderful opportunity to get the Christian instruction which our parents had hoped to get for their children. How thankful we must be that our rulers of government would grant

this to us. By the grace of God this has remained so all this time and we hope and pray will remain so until the end of time...

She concludes her reflections as follows:

If our forefathers could only see how the school has grown over the years to what it is today they would proudly say how worthwhile all their labours had been, even if the starting point was hard and a great challenge lay before them. They would be thankful to their Lord for all the goodness He bestows, and thankful that their children could be taught and brought up in the Christian faith. What a child has learned in his youth, he won't forget when he is old. May God continue to bless all the teachers and children, and may He fill the hearts of all members with love, that the school may continue to bring forth good and faithful citizens in all walks of life.

Thank you, dear Heavenly Father, for helping and guiding all of us throughout our

This article is continued on page 27.