



Jack Mechielsen Chairman

After twelve years as a teacher in Western Australia, Jack Mechielsen took up the position of founding principal of Mt Evelyn Christian School in Victoria - only the fifth of a “new wave” of Christian schools in Australia. In 1974 Mt Evelyn became the first Australian school, known generically as ‘Christian’, to offer secondary education. In 1982 Jack became principal of Marrara Christian College in Darwin, NT.

From 1987 until 2000, Jack was CEO of the organisation now known as Christian Education National (CEN). He was founding chairman of the Australian Association of Christian Schools, a position he held for some fifteen years. During 2000-07 he served as CEO of the NT Christian Schools Association which during that time developed to comprise eight schools, a Registered Training Organisation, a construction/training company, a retail/training arm and numerous special projects. Jack is currently the president of Christian Education National. An area of expertise is effective governance.

Jack has a passion for education, training and care. He counts it a privilege to serve organisations and communities who share that passion. Jack has a particular interest in standing alongside Indigenous young people and their communities - especially those remote communities where education and training has been absent or sadly deficient. He believes that there is an urgent need for communities, governments and NGOs to work together to develop sustainable local economies where young people are able to contribute their manifold talents further developed and grown in effective education.

Jack is married to Marlene. They participate in the life of Darwin Memorial Uniting Church. They have two adult children and three grandchildren. Marlene is patiently waiting for Jack’s love of motor sport and fast vehicles to evaporate. She has been waiting for almost fifty years.