Louise Phillips has demonstrated commitment, diversity and continuity in leadership largely at the national level, as co-editor of Practically Primary/Practical Literacy: the Early and Primary Years (PLEPY). To advocate and acknowledge Aboriginal knowledges in literacy education in Australia, Louise has explicitly sought to have a greater presence of Aboriginal knowledges in the publication, through inviting contributions from an Aboriginal teacher, Aboriginal children’s literature author, Department of Education Policy Officers on Aboriginal Education, the Indigenous Literacy Foundation and a range of literacy projects with Aboriginal communities. More broadly, Louise has been instrumental in introducing publication themes and supporting authors who foreground diversity and innovation.

Louise has co-managed the administrative requirements of editing PLEPY since 2014. This has involved administrative communication with authors, the ALEA National Office and the production manager as well as triannual reports to ALEA National Council.

Louise promotes the aims and purposes of ALEA nationally through the careful selection and editing of content for PLEPY. In her role as lecturer at The University of Queensland, Louise promotes ALEA’s aims with preservice and graduate teachers, and has encouraged and supported a number of UQ students to write articles for the journal. Louise has also promoted the ALEA publications, resources and advocacy in her mentoring with a regional Aboriginal community. Louise has always actively promoted the aims and purpose of the Association. In her role as PLEPY co-editor, she was instrumental in bringing the ALEA Declaration to the attention of journal readers.

Louise’s active service to ALEA commenced in 2014. She was an invited presenter of a master class at the AATE/ALEA 2013 National Conference in Brisbane and from 2014 to 2017 she was co-editor of Practically Primary/Practical Literacy: the Early and Primary Years. Her role involved identifying issue themes, reviewing and editing articles, liaising with authors, children’s literature publishers (for books for review), typesetter/printer and ALEA publications team. Three issues are published per year. In 2016-2017 she was a writer of the updated version of ALEA’s Never too young to read brochure, providing key up to date information on how to introduce babies and toddlers to texts, reflecting the wide range of texts available.

It is therefore with great pleasure that ALEA honours Louise Phillips with a Special Services Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to ALEA.