

# Vale Pederson

## *Seizing opportunity*

Vale has a strong commitment to the Campbelltown City area and was awarded the Campbelltown Citizen of the Year in 2016 for her 25 years of service to the Campbelltown Landcare Group, including as Secretary of the Group and her roles with Campbelltown University of the Third Age, including President.

Vale's family was among the earliest settlers in the state and she grew up and went to school in the eastern suburbs of Adelaide. Her study at Hales Secretarial School formed the basis for the many career pathways that she followed.

Vale's working life included a wide range of career choices many focused on her passions for food and fashion. These included managing a clothing store, compering charity parades along with presenting a series of interviews on Channel 10 Saturday morning television program, managing a catering business and as personal assistant in a major agricultural research centre.

Vale's value of education of all forms is reflected in her long standing involvement in the University of the Third Age. She was a founding member and first Vice President of the Campbelltown group. She has held positions as President of the local U3A and the Alliance of U3As in South Australia and currently leads the U3A Campbelltown's Photography, Mahjong, Bone Density and Gardening groups. She has been treasurer of the Adelaide Chapter of Les Dames d'Escoffier International (LDEI), an organisation of professional women who are committed to the advancement of education and philanthropy in food, beverage and hospitality.

Vale's commitment to Campbelltown has taken many forms, beginning with involvement as a member of the school councils of her boys' primary and secondary schools. She also played tennis, squash and still regularly plays with the Mature Age Badminton Group, based at the ARC in Campbelltown.

Vale was a member of the Active Ageing Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of the Council, providing advice on the Council's agenda for providing a safe physical environment for older people, services to support their health, wellbeing, housing and participation in the community.

**"As one door closes,  
another opens and  
taking advantage of the  
opportunities that have  
taken my life in different  
directions have been key  
factors in my life."**

Celebrating International Women's Day with the 'Women of Campbelltown' project – inspiring stories of local women, their achievements and contributions to the Community.

To see the full stories visit: [www.campbelltown.sa.gov.au/iwd](http://www.campbelltown.sa.gov.au/iwd)

*Thank you to the women who participated and volunteer interviewers Di Booker and Katrina Spencer.*