

Di Booker

Build networks and connections

Di worked extensively nationally and internationally on the quality standards for tertiary courses. As a librarian Di is passionate about providing information in accessible ways. She is an active volunteer across several Campbelltown City Council projects.

Born in Mount Gambier as the eldest of four girls, Di spent her early life in south western Victoria. Di boarded at the Mt Gambier Mater Christi College; and moved to Adelaide to finish her schooling at Loreto College from Year 8 until Year 11.

Di's first position was at the State Library of South Australia in the children's library, and then in the Youth Lending Service. At the State Library Di forged strong networks with colleagues that have continued until today.

Di commenced an Arts degree and completed the Library Association of Australia Associateship qualification. In 1963 Di was told that women were expected to resign when they married and despite raising this issue, had to leave and found a job with Commonwealth Government Weapons Research Establishment.

Di's husband established the Elizabeth Public Library so they moved to Elizabeth where Di undertook community support with the YWCA and as a council member on the Elizabeth Girl's Technical School and worked part-time in the Salisbury Primary School library until their daughter was born.

Di lived in Coffs Harbour for 10 years where she had her third child. Once again Di established strong networks through her involvement with community groups. Eventually she moved back to Adelaide with her children to be closer to her family and took up a job in the Education Department as part of the TAFE sector.

With TAFE, Di worked on state, national and international projects linked to UNESCO and the Commonwealth of Learning Vancouver. With UNESCO they established a centre of excellence in TAFE, the only one in Australia at this point, and successfully competed for Commonwealth and National projects. Di travelled extensively around Asia interviewing and recruiting international students, monitoring the delivery and auditing courses.

Di next joined a small team working to audit, revise and update the Australian Qualifications Framework for tertiary courses. Di worked to develop and consult the standards and provide workshops around Australia. She retired in 2014 and through her strong networks and calibre of her work, Di held a continuing role on the UNESCO working parties for Vocational Education and Training, travelling to Europe twice a year to provide advice as a private citizen.

Di moved to Campbelltown in 2007 attracted by the affordability, distance to the CBD, range of facilities and environment. She values the sense of community and diverse nature of Campbelltown.

Di's community involvement has included capturing oral histories with 'Our Fruitful Record', 'Campbelltown Women' and 'Digital Diggers' projects. Di volunteers for Council projects like letterbox drops, recycling bins and Story and Lego Time at the library. Di also volunteers as an ambassador at the State Library.

Di's advice to her younger self would be to try not to be judgemental, keep an open mind and always look for the positives.

"Success is not the 'headline events' and career achievements but rather finding satisfaction with your own life choices."

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

Thank you to the women who participated and the volunteer interviewers Di Booker and Katrina Spencer for their time.