

**Sylvia J. Walton AO, MAICD  
Curriculum Vitae**

**Chancellor, La Trobe University**



Mrs Walton

Sylvia Walton is, at present, Chancellor of La Trobe University. Her academic qualifications include a BA, MA and Dip Ed from Sydney University and a B Ed from La Trobe. She holds four fellowships, including 2 within Education. Between 1982 and 2005 she was Principal of Tintern Schools (Tintern Girls Grammar School, founded in 1877 and Southwood Boys Grammar School, founded in 1999 – both in Ringwood). Prior to this she worked in Teachers Colleges, Universities and schools in New South Wales and Victoria.

Before completing a Masters Degree by Research in the field of Town and Country Planning and Geography, her Bachelor studies were in History, Geography and Education. Further education studies concentrated on the curriculum area as well as teaching and learning practice.

Mrs Walton has been very involved in school governance through Board membership of five different independent schools and the Association of Independent Schools of Victoria. For eleven years she was a member of Victorian Curriculum Boards and their committees. She has held board positions on other educational organisations, especially those related to teachers' ongoing professional learning.

As Principal of Tintern Schools, she established Southwood Boys Grammar School in 1999 and working with staff saw it grow steadily year by year. The concept of complementary education for girls and boys was firmly established and, each year, refined and extended in the best interest of students.

La Trobe University has long been a part of Sylvia Walton's professional life. In the early 1970s she completed a B Ed as an evening student. This was to "refresh" her after some years enjoyed at home with her small son. She enjoyed the study and felt better able to re-enter the workforce as a teacher. In the mid-1990s she was invited to join the Council, and after a few years, was elected Deputy Chancellor. Since completing her work at Tintern at the end of 2005, she has been elected Chancellor of

La Trobe, on the retirement of one of Australia's National Treasures, Professor Emeritus, Nancy Millis AC. The change over took place in late April 2006.

In addition to this role, Sylvia Walton is on the boards of two Independent Schools and the Ardoch Youth Foundation. This latter organisation has long been one of her main interests. She also does volunteer work for Ardoch. Her links with the AISV continue with an assisting role in the Policy and School Registration area.

Sylvia and Robin Walton have a son, who with his partner, are the proud parents of a daughter. It is a whole new wonderful experience being grandparents and fresh views of life seem to endlessly open up.

#### Awards

- 1998 - Sir James Darling Medal for Education (across Primary, Secondary and Tertiary areas) ACE (Vic)
- 2000 - Paul Harris Medal for Services to Rotary Student Programmes
- 2003 - Officer, Order of Australia (AO). Awarded for work and involvement in Primary, Secondary, Tertiary and Community Education in the Curriculum area
- 2004 - The Nganakarrawa Award from ACEL National for general excellence in educational administration
- 2004 - Distinguished Alumni Award (M.L.C. Burwood, Sydney)
- 2007 - ACEL Gold Medal. The most prestigious award conferred by the Australian Council for Educational Leaders is the Gold Medal.

#### ACEL Nganakarrawa Award

This award is presented to those whose general excellence in educational administration and whose learning, experience, and contribution to the Council have earned lasting respect and gratitude.

The word was selected and given to the Council by Aboriginal literacy workers from the Ndjebbana bilingual education program at Maningrida Community Education Centre, Maningrida, central Arnhemland in the Northern Territory of Australia. The term Nganakarrawa (pronounced: nana-ga-raa-wa) refers to "those who move about, all seeing, all knowing, knowledgeable and well regarded".

For her distinguished career in education in the roles of teacher of History and Geography, Head of Humanities and Curriculum Co-ordinator, Deputy Head and Principal.

For her remarkable achievement and success at Tintern Girls Grammar School since her appointment in 1982, for her exceptional leadership and vision in establishing the Southwood campus in 1999 to complement and parallel Tintern. For her role in

managing the two campuses, Tintern Girls Grammar School and Southwood Boys Grammar School, which separately offer stimulating teaching environments for boys and girls while together giving students unique opportunities for appropriate co-curricular interaction.

For her long service to independent schools as a board member of the Association of Independent Schools of Victoria.

For her active involvement at a regional level in adult, community and further education, and as a member of the La Trobe University Council as Deputy Chancellor (now Chancellor).

For her service to education at the secondary and tertiary levels, particularly through research into specialised curriculum and training programs, as an administrator, and as a contributor to the development of education policy in both government and non-government sectors.

For her wise recognition as an outstanding educator and one of Australia's foremost principals and for modelling of the highest ideals of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders.

#### ACEL Gold Medal

This is presented annually to an educator whose contribution to the study and practice of educational administration and leadership is assessed at most outstanding, nationally.

For her service as an outstanding educator and leader who has built a distinguished career at several schools in the roles of teacher of History and Geography, Head of Humanities and Curriculum Co-ordinator, Deputy Head and Principal. She is recognised as one of Australia's foremost principals who has overseen remarkable achievement and success particularly at Tintern Girls Grammar School since her appointment in 1982.

In her previous role as Principal of Tintern Schools, Mrs Walton managed two campuses, Tintern Girls Grammar School and Southwood Boys Grammar School, which separately offer the best teaching environment for boys and girls while together giving students unique opportunities for appropriate co-curricular interaction.

The establishment in 1999 of the Southwood campus to complement and parallel Tintern has achieved widespread attention as an educational innovation and is an example of Mrs Walton's exceptional leadership and vision for future development.

Her professional passions at primary, secondary and tertiary levels have consistently revolved around curriculum development, specialised training, educational policy and leadership, and teacher development, with a recurring commitment to social and equity issues.

She is a long-standing contributor to the development of education policy in Victoria and was a member of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Board, the Victorian

Boards of Studies, the Victorian Institute of Teaching Accreditation Committee and the Association of Independent Schools.

She has been a member of the La Trobe University Council since 1993 and has been Deputy Chancellor since 1997. In 2006 Mrs Walton became the Chancellor of La Trobe University Council.

In 1998 Mrs Walton joined a select group when she was presented with The Sir James Darling Medal for Education (Primary, Secondary and Tertiary). She was awarded ACEL Fellowship in 1998 and the Nganakarrawa Award in 2004. Mrs Walton holds a Mater of Arts degree and Diploma of Education from the University of Sydney and a Bachelor of Education degree from La Trobe University. She is also a Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society, the Australian Principal's Centre and the Australian College of Education.

Mrs Walton was named in the 2003 Australia Day Honours List for her service to education. She was awarded the second highest order, Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia, in recognition of her leadership in education at the secondary and tertiary levels, particularly through research into specialised curriculum and training programs, as an administrator, and as a contributor to the development of education policy in both government and non-government sectors.