

Citation for Ian Davey, Professor Emeritus

Ian Elliott Davey was born in Bendigo, Victoria, in 1945. He attended Eaglehawk State Primary School, and Bendigo High School. After high school he studied at the University of Melbourne, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in History and Geography.

He moved from History to Education, completing a Diploma of Education from Melbourne in 1967, and teaching at Kelior Heights High School from 1968 to 1971, where – perhaps as a sign of things to come – as a teacher straight out of university he was Senior Master, Sports Master, Coordinator of English, History and Geography, and Principal for a week – in his first year.

In 1971 he went to the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at The University of Toronto – OISE at is known – then, as now, considered one of the leading schools in the world for the study of education. He completed his MA at OISE in 1972, and by 1975 graduated with a Ph D in the History of Education.

He returned to Australia in 1976 to take up a position at the University of Adelaide as a lecturer in the Department of Education.

At the University of Adelaide, and later, when he joined the University of South Australia, Ian was an active scholar. He attracted research grants from the Australian Research Council and authored over 50 publications on aspects of the social history of childhood and education. His contribution to his discipline was recognised with his appointment to the editorial boards of the *History of Education Quarterly*, the first non-North American to serve in that capacity, the *Journal of Australian Studies*, and *Discourse*. He has been a President of the Australian and New Zealand History of Education Society, and a keynote lecturer for the Society's sister organisations in the United Kingdom and Canada.

However, despite the strength of his contribution to his discipline through teaching, supervision and research, the pattern of his early career as a high school teacher began to repeat itself at university. Inexorably, he was drawn into academic leadership and senior management, becoming responsible for the University's research higher degrees program.

Ian joined the University of South Australia as Pro Vice Chancellor (Research) in 1994, soon after the University's foundation in 1991, and since then he has made an outstanding contribution to the task of building the University.

While Ian was responsible for research and research education for the whole of his career at the University, he was for a decade responsible also for the International portfolio, initially in relation to our transnational programs, and later, for the whole set of our international activities. He retained senior management responsibility for the international portfolio until 2004, when his role was once more focussed more strictly on research as Pro Vice Chancellor – and Vice President – Research and Innovation.

The University's success in both research and international activities is due in no small part to Ian's leadership in these areas.

When the University of South Australia was founded in 1991, while there were pockets of active researchers who were recognised as serious contributors by their colleagues in Australia and internationally, this was very much the exception rather than the rule. Thus, while an incoming Pro Vice Chancellor (Research) in other universities – in the longer established, the so called sandstone universities – could be confident that the university's reputation for research would establish them as a serious research leader, for Ian it was the other way around. He was faced with the task that his reputation as a researcher and leader of research and research education must open doors for the University, and provide him with opportunities to establish the claim of the University to be active in research.

He has worked tirelessly and successfully for the University in this task. No member of the University would have attended more meetings, followed up more contacts, organised more dinners, or travelled so widely to disseminate knowledge of the University's research strengths, encourage other organisations to work with us, put researchers in contact with possible funding partners or bring together possible research collaborators, nor would any have mentored more just-getting-established researchers and research leaders. Indeed, not only has no one else done more, no one else could have done more. Ian's stamina in developing and promoting the University has become legendary.

His curriculum vitae lists more than a dozen major commitments to boards of research organisations and various kinds of management committees, in all of which he could be relied upon to have taken an active role and not merely occupied a seat, including his chairing of the Deputy and Pro Vice Chancellors (Research) Committee of the Australian Vice Chancellors' Committee, which position he held in 1997 just three years after his appointment to the University.

So too with his international responsibilities. Few members of the University have travelled more on our behalf, nor learned as much from their travels to guide the development of our international programs and relationships.

Ian was suited by his nature to excel in developing the University's research and international activities. Unfailingly curious, interested in others' views and ways, always ready to find a new friend, and with the charm, intelligence and vision - indeed, with the evident substance as a scholar and enthusiasm for his work - to make that new friend a friend of the University.

Chancellor, Ian Elliott Davey has been a friend to many in this university, and a valued colleague of all he has worked with – in particular his fellow senior managers. He had a particularly significant role in my own career in the University, since he was a referee for me when I applied for my first position here as a beginning academic. It thus seems fitting, at the other end of his career, that I should be given the honour of saying,

Chancellor, I present Ian Elliott Davey for the title of Professor Emeritus.

