

Bio-narrative updated March 2023

Lesley Gillespie, OAM

Lesley Gillespie is Co-Founder of **Bakers Delight**, a 680 plus bakery franchise network across four countries; Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States. Bakers Delight celebrated its 40th birthday in May 2020.

Lesley was honoured in 2021 by being inducted to the **Franchise Council of Australia FCA Hall of Fame**.

Earlier achievements include an **OAM in 2006** and a **Honorary Doctorate from Monash University in 2022** where she gained an Honours Degree in Science and a Diploma of Education. The association with Monash continues with Lesley chairing the **Philanthropy Advisory Committee for the World Mosquito Program** which is based at Monash and has the aim of eliminating Dengue Fever from the world.

In 2008 Lesley and Roger were inducted into the **Hall of Fame at Swinburne University's Australian Graduate School of Entrepreneurship**.

In 2014 Lesley began her role as Chair for the Swinburne's **Business School Industry Advisory Board** a role she continues with to this day. Added to this, she was awarded an **Honorary Doctorate in Business** from this University in August 2018.

In 2014, Lesley and Roger (Co-Founder Bakers Delight) were **honoured as Champions of Entrepreneurship at the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™** Southern Region awards.

Apart from the ongoing and active partnership of Bakers Delight and Breast Cancer Network Australia (a twenty-two year plus partnership) Lesley is also a Patron of the **Hawthorn Community Chest**.

Lesley became a director of the **Canadian Australian Chamber of Commerce in 2017** an organisation facilitating trade across the two countries.

Lesley's commitment to education stems back to her university days where her studies included a Diploma of Education. She has taught in Government and Catholic schools, with Loreto Mandeville Hall being the most prominent. The association with **Loreto Mandeville Hall** continues with Lesley being appointed to the School Board in 2018.

2020 was the year where the Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg announced the formation of the **Australian Business Growth Fund**. This fund is unique in that the major shareholders are the big four banks plus treasury and minor shareholders being Macquarie Bank and HSBC. The Treasurer ask Lesley to be a non-executive director. The fund is now up and running with Lesley on its Board.