

NOMINATION FOR RHSV AWARD OF MERIT 2019 - JUDITH BIDDINGTON.

It is with great warmth and appreciation that Carlton Community History Group nominates Judith Biddington, our colleague, friend and inaugural president, for the RHSV Award of Merit 2019

About 13 years ago, Judith identified the need for a local community history group in Carlton and set out to achieve this goal.

In 2006, Judith placed a notice in the Carlton Library in Rathdowne St, Carlton North and this led to the establishment of a pattern of monthly meetings with presentations by people with some light to share on the experience of growing up and living and working in Carlton. Within a year the Carlton Community History Group was meeting regularly, became incorporated, and achieved affiliation to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

Judith's approach has been to engage with local people directly, including shopkeepers, teachers, potential speakers for meetings, long term residents, representatives of organisations like churches and our local mosque, gathering history on the ground, and most importantly, involving and enthusing people. It was her passion, her persistence, her belief in community and the importance of people and places, and her direct, uncomplicated manner, that was the force behind the establishment of CCHG.

One member of CCHG provided this comment on Judith's contribution to the establishment of the Carlton Community History Group; "she pretty much did everything herself - if nobody else was prepared to take on a task, then she would do it."

Many people have given their time to making presentations at our meetings and together with CCHG they have created some very memorable evenings of recollections shared, recorded and valued.

Along with several other hard working and dedicated CCHG members, Judith began recording a series of interviews with present and former Carlton residents. These oral histories are now to be digitised and made more accessible.

Judith also began a series of special events, starting with an exhibition on the late Carlton resident and film-maker, Giorgio Mangiamele in 2007 which became part of a wider reawakening of interest in his work.

She began the series of regular publications produced by the CCHG, commencing with her own booklet; "Some Women of Davis Street: 1891 and 2008." Judith recently contributed a chapter to the most recent CCHG publication "Carlton Voices" launched in 2018.

Judith Biddington has been a Carlton resident since the early 1970s, and while raising 3 sons, she and her husband Ralph have a long history of social and political involvement. A teacher by profession, Judith has always had an interest in community initiatives including working with schools and more recently, local history. Importantly Judith has always demonstrated an ability to make interesting connections with historical facts and events. We greatly value her contribution to the CCHG.

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