

Yarrowonga Mulwala Historical Society Inc

A0030403P

151 Melbourne Street, MULWALA, NSW 2647.
yarramulhistoricalsociety@gmail.com
President: Bill Gleeson, annebill@bigpond.net.au (03) 5744 1263
Secretary: Bruce McKean, ksbmckean@gmail.com (03) 5743 1091

AWARD OF MERIT NOMINATION William Ewart Church.

The Yarrowonga Mulwala Historical Society is pleased to nominate William (Bill) Ewart Church for a 2019 RHSV Award of Merit.

Bill Church has always been involved with community activities. He served as a Councillor in the Tungamah Shire for 14 years and was the final Shire President prior to the Shire's amalgamation with four other Shires to form the Moira Shire Council in 1992.

Bill became a member of the Yarrowonga Mulwala Historical Society in 1991/92 when he retired to Yarrowonga. He became President in 1994, the year in which the Society opened the Pioneer Museum. He remained as President until 2008 during which time the Historical Society achieved many milestones under his leadership.

The Pioneer Museum was set up in the premises which had previously been an indoor sports centre. Consequently there was a need for structural alterations and additions. Bill Church's practical skills were important to these changes and he led by example.

During Bill's 14 year tenure as President he oversaw the following achievements by the Society.

- The extension to the northern section of the Museum building.
- The procurement of the CBC façade which now provides the entrance to the Museum.
- Two murals depicting historic scenes were added to the front wall of the Museum.
- The Richard Ruwolt annexe was attached to the Museum.
- The heritage machinery yard was fenced and gravelled and the machinery shed erected.
- The historic Yarrowonga Customs house was acquired and located on the Yarrowonga Foreshore adjacent to the traffic bridge.
- The Society installed information plaques at historically important sites during the streetscape project in Yarrowonga's main street.
- Mulwala's 150th anniversary celebrations in 2008.
- In 2007 Bill was instrumental in obtaining funding for the commencement of the Yarrowonga Mulwala history book which was finally published in 2018 after many difficulties were overcome.

Since stepping down as President Bill Church has continued to serve on the Society's committee. He has also been a valuable member of the sub-committees which oversaw the saving from demolition, of Yarrowonga's historic railway station and in 2018, the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the first survey of Yarrowonga township. Bill was granted Life Membership of our Society in 2015.

Bill Church and Jacye Symes (whom we have also nominated for an Award of Merit) made a formidable team during a period in which our Society expanded its horizons particularly in relation to establishing the Museum. We recommend that William Ewart Church be granted an Award of Merit for his contribution to our Society and to the recognition of the history of the district.



SECRETARY