

Citation for an Award of Merit for Jim Connor, Eltham District Historical Society

21 May 2019

Jim Connor has worked tirelessly and continually since becoming the Eltham District Historical Society president in 2009. He served as Vice-President from 2002–2008 and has been a member for more than 25 years, regularly dedicating 30 to 40 hours per week to benefit the society. He led the society through its 50th anniversary in 2017, injecting new energy and skills to manage a haphazard but important collection within a cluttered heritage building.

By gaining support from significant community figures, including Shire of Nillumbik Councillors, Jim secured the renovation of the society's Local History Centre without cost to membership. He has negotiated three-year sponsorship packages with local commercial organisations

Jim is actively involved with the local community and regularly presents talks to schools and community groups. A keen photographer, he documents current events and places. He is the editor of the society's excellent bi-monthly newsletter and uses it as an important advocacy tool in the community. He often organizes the guest speaker for bi-monthly meetings. Under his leadership the society's membership has increased to 110.

Recognising the importance of networking with the wider community region, Jim regularly attends and contributes to the Eastern Regional Historical Societies network and the Yarra Plenty Heritage Group Network, and he was instrumental in forming the new Our Eltham History Network.

A talented leader with excellent communication skills, Jim Connor inspires and encourages committee members and others to contribute to the society. During the past two years under his leadership the society has developed a digitization program, upgraded collection management, revamped weekly collection workshops, and improved the education program for local primary schools, scouting groups and others.

It is with great pleasure that the Royal Historical Society of Victoria honours Jim Connor with an Award of Merit for his invaluable contribution to the Eltham District Historical Society and the history of the much wider region.