

YARRAMBAT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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Incorporated Association Reg. No. A0024138M ABN 89395408923

Award of Merit Nomination

John Szekfy – President of Yarrambat Historical Society Inc. 1991-2019 (Vice President 1989-1990)

On December 11th, 1989 John, an ex-pupil of Yarrambat Primary School living in Montmorency attended a meeting at that School to discuss the possibility of forming a Yarrambat Historical Society. (YHS)

Following discussions the meeting agreed to form a Yarrambat Historical Society. An election of office-bearers was held. Mr. Edwards elected President and John Szekfy as Vice-President.

At the 14th Feb. 1991 YHS meeting Mr Edwards advised that due to other commitments he could not continue as President.

“Vice-President John Szekfy then chaired the meeting.” (Quote: Minutes 14.2.1991)
This date started a long, influential commitment of service to the YHS and community.

In 1993 under John’s leadership the YHS Inc. commenced a Grade 6 Students Historical Speeches program with the Yarrambat Primary School. This successful program continues annually, 2019 being the 27th continuous year.

1995 - Yarrambat Primary School Centenary Book reprinted - with a re-launch community celebration very well attended

1996 - Historic poppet-head from Clayton’s Yarrambat goldmine relocated to the Yarrambat PS grounds – the poppet-head now the school logo and on uniforms.

Suggestion made that a Heritage Museum could be developed at Yarrambat Park on farmland owned by Mr Len Young which included an old woolshed.

Clayton’s Yarrambat goldmine property had been sold for sub-division and it was possible that the historic gold-mine crushing battery and mining equipment could be relocated to form a Yarrambat Heritage Museum.

John’s influence led to a community meeting and following discussions attendees approved the concept of developing a Yarrambat Heritage Museum..... and so the huge task commenced.

The first task was to relocate the large gold-crushing battery and equipment from Clayton’s mine to the new Museum – completed one Saturday with assistance from many volunteers.

1998 - The new Yarrambat Primary School was opened which meant demolition of old school buildings, the first classroom dating back to 1878.

2000 - The first classroom relocated from the school site to become an important aspect of the Yarrambat Heritage Museum.

Over three decades, under John’s continued leadership, much has been done to develop the Yarrambat Heritage Museum and new website to benefit both local and wider communities.

The Heritage Museum is well used by the community with regular visits by school children and especially on community Open Days with demonstrations, displays and interesting activities.

The success of the Yarrambat Heritage Museum and activities of the Yarrambat Historical Society Inc. are largely due to the leadership of President John Szekfy who has been a quiet but most influential leader of these two groups for almost 30 years!