**Citation for an RHSV Award of Merit to Christine Gray**

**21 March 2019**

Christine Gray was a foundation member of the Lilydale & District Historical Society formed in March 1971 and served as secretary for many years. The society was formed to assist the then Shire of Lillydale with centenary celebrations in 1972. Christine was a member of the committee that supported Dr Marian Aveling’s writing of *Lillydale: The Billanook Country*, and she organized a display of the shire’s flora and fauna and Aboriginal artefacts.

A former primary school teacher with a flair for writing, Christine produced the society’s first publication *Lilydale: Historical Notes on the Township and Environs*, which became the basis for many of the society’s walks and talks. Later she wrote a history of the Lilydale Baptist Church.

After the opening of the society’s museum in 1976, Christine organized acquisition and loan records and these were basic to the collection when it was transferred to the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum in 1989.

Christine’s interest in natural history and Aboriginal artefacts led to her discovery of a former Aboriginal camp on the site of a proposed housing development. She saved various Aboriginal implements and donated them to the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum.

Christine gave years of unstinting service not only to her local society but also to the Eastern Region and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria; she was a regional member of the RHSV Council from 1985 to 1990 and vice-president from 1989 to 1990.

A driving force in the Lilydale & District Historical Society, Christine received life membership in 1989; soon after she moved to Grovedale near Geelong. She was no longer able to provide her usual steady, guiding hand, but to this day she retains her strong interest in the society.

The RHSV is delighted to honour Christine with this Award of Merit.