

Nomination of Les Hutchinson for Award of Merit to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Les Hutchinson is a life member and been President of the Croydon Historical Society for over 40 years and during that time has made a remarkable contribution to its development. His historical writing has included *Bright Hopes for Tomorrow* in 1988 and *How Muriel made History* in 2000 as well as contributing to various Heritage Walk brochures for the Maroondah Tourism Advisory Board where he served as a representative of the Croydon Historical Society

In April 2000 Les accepted an appointment as Project Director of a Commonwealth funded project to conduct over 170 interviews with older residents in the Casey electorate. In this role he successfully managed a team of interviewers and the production of a book titled *Sharing memories of the twentieth century*. Les has also been involved in other research projects with other writers which includes *Highlights of Croydon History*, *Croydon then and now* and *Croydon inside and out*.

Les has been a caring mentor for other researchers and writers which has resulted in other publications which includes the recently published book titled *The ANZACs of MAROONDAH LEST WE FORGET*. Les has given numerous talks to school groups and organisations and is renowned as a very popular speaker. He has also taught a short course at Swinburne on writing family history.

Les has been involved in radio eastern FM where he had a regular monthly segment and appeared on channel 31 where he outlined the work of the Croydon Historical Society museum. His initial work in this area has now inspired other Croydon Historical Society members to be involved in community radio and channel 31 programs.

Les now spends two days a week in the Croydon Historical Society museum where he deals with enquiries from the public with regard to aspects of family and local history. He is a regular speaker at society meetings where he chairs all of the meetings of the society.

On Australia day 2001, Les Hutchinson was declared Citizen of the year by the City of Maroondah in recognition of his outstanding community service and in recognition of being a role model for others in terms of active citizenship. More recently Les was provided with a Deakin community services award in recognition of his ongoing involvement in the community.

Les Hutchinson and his work with the Croydon Historical Society provides sufficient grounds for being nominated for the award of merit in 2020.

Nomination
Geoff Arnott
Vice President
Croydon Historical Society