

NOMINATION OF DAVID LANGDON FOR RHSV AWARD OF MERIT

By Cr Jackie M Fristacky and Dr Judith Biddington

We are very pleased to nominate David Langdon, longstanding President of the Richmond & Burnley Historical Society (RBHS) and a member of and contributor to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV), for a RHSV Award of Merit for 2020.

David has been President of the RBHS for well over 10 years, and Secretary for over 10 years, and plays a major role in research and managing, cataloguing and protecting the wealth of historical records of the Society to record Richmond's lengthy political, cultural and social history. Our interaction with David has been over decades: for Cr Jackie Fristacky as a Councillor of the City of Yarra for in excess of 18 years and Dr Judith Biddington for a similar time. David's role as the mainstay of the RBHS and his persistence and dedication in the pursuit of local history over such an extensive time render him a noteworthy candidate.

More specifically David Langdon is commended for:

- undertaking substantial research on and contributing to local history for the RBHS Newsletter;
- publishing and distribution of the newsletter for over 10 years;
- managing the society website and responding to up to 100 enquiries a month;
- applying and successful gain grants for the promotion of local history;
- promoting local history in articles in newspapers, the Age, the Herald Sun, Yarra Melbourne Leader and on radio such as the ABC 774, and 3AW, as well on television news items;
- working with developers on promoting local history, including Lend Lease, Poly Corporation and others
- member of the Yarra Heritage Advisory Committee for over 2 years
- initiated and contributed to large scales community celebrations such as Richmond's 150th birthday, the commemoration of Australia's first successful balloon ascent, the 100th Anniversary of the Richmond Dispensary, etc;
- promoting history through walks and talks for local schools, as well as conducting monthly talks to the Mecaware Rositano Aged Care;
- organised member meetings of the RBHS covering a wide range of historical topic from original Aboriginal settlement, to the foundations of Richmond as a municipality, the history of Richmond and historical Richmond identities;
- research to record sources of names of Richmond Streets for Council to include on its Street signage;

- organising with the Richmond Returned and Services League a memorial and retrospective of Richmond soldiers enlistment in WW1 and regular contributions to annual Anzac Day events;
- attending Council meetings to successful argue for Council grant categories being able to cover historical society research;
- research on the link between Ned Kelly and the Richmond Police Station – locating the police record of the receipt and storage of Ned Kelly’s bulletproof armour at Richmond, Melbourne on 10 December 1880 before Kelly’s transfer to the Melbourne Goal
- contribution to the accuracy in wording of heritage plaques commemorating Richmond identities eg Nellie Mitchell (Dame Nellie Melba) and Ned Kelly.
- leading the project for digitisation of the Richmond City Council Rate Books, mentioned in a nomination in 2019 of RBHS Vice-President Robert Ousley

David Langdon is highly deserving of being nominated for the RHSV Award of Merit and would be a most worthy recipient. We very much look forward to his extensive work as part of the RBHS being recognised through such Award.

Jackie Fristacky
Judith Biddington

Cr Jackie Fristacky
Councillor, City of Yarra since March 2020

Dr Judith Biddington
Carlton Community History Group