



ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000

RHSV Award of Merit Nomination of Chris Manchee 7 April 2020

Chris Manchee first joined the RHSV in 2000 and has been one of our most consistent volunteers since 2012.

Chris joined the RHSV because of his love of history, nurtured by his mother and a great-uncle. His interest was also fuelled by a history of the Catholic Church in Victoria written by Reverend Bourke which inspired Chris to research further into this institution, which is absolutely central to his life.

In his time as a volunteer Chris has performed various duties including administration, reception, helping with exhibitions, general research and site-searching but he found his passion when the RHSV instituted a guided walking tour of Flagstaff Gardens.

Come rain, hail or shine Chris is in Flagstaff Gardens every Monday spruiking its important history to tourists, curious Melburnians and school students. Chris is a tour guide par excellence. He has a lovely easy manner of delivering what could be dry information and, for those of us who work with Chris, it is no surprise that his spiel is also full of 'dad jokes'. The tour was instigated and initially researched by Andrew Lemon however Chris has really made this tour his own. He has done further research and is constantly adding to his information and, inspired by tours he has taken overseas, he now makes use of many images and maps to illustrate the history. He also links the tour to whatever exhibition is on display at the RHSV. Chris has also generously trained some other volunteers to take his place should he be unable to deliver. As well as coming in on Mondays he is often called in for extra school groups which he does willingly, despite a very heavy workload volunteering for many other community organisations.

Chris has also delivered seminars on how to be a good tour guide and often speaks at external organisations about the history of Flagstaff Gardens - he is a wonderful ambassador for the RHSV.

We have much pleasure in nominating Chris Manchee for an Award of Merit in 2020.

Rosemary Cameron
Executive Officer

Jillian Hiscock
Collections Manager