



ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000

RHSV Distinguished Service Award Nomination of Dr Cheryl Griffin 7 April 2020

Dr Cheryl Griffin has been a member of the RHSV since 2011. In April 2012 she joined a project developed by Diana Phoenix to systematically list the RHSV archives and in December they jointly produced the valuable 'RHSV Archives Description List'. In the same month Cheryl produced a detailed description of RHSV Inward Correspondence for the society's foundation period 1909 to 1910.

Her volunteering has covered many roles. She was an RHSV Councillor from May 2015 to November 2017 and convenor of the History Victoria Support Group from 2016 to 2017; she brought her customary enthusiasm, energy and skills to the HVSG but was forced to resign owing to ill health. She is currently a member of our Collections Committee and also a researcher-at-large.

She has successfully tried many volunteer hats on in the last 8 years but her true metier is as a researcher, teacher and writer. Her great love is bringing to light the unsung women of our history and in 2005 in the Department of Education Policy and Management, University of Melbourne, she was awarded her PhD for her thesis on Dorothy McCrae, a significant educationalist and unionist. In 2017 Cheryl published *The Old Boys of Coburg State School Go to War*.

Cheryl is a natural researcher and a writer of great talent. She currently writes a monthly article for *CBD News* and a quarterly article for *Ancestor*, the GSV Magazine. She also has completed commercial research for Yarra Trams and Hilton Hotels. Also she has instigated an ambitious research project to create biographies for women who have a significant presence in their own right and are represented in the RHSV collection including women (councillors, volunteers, staff and benefactors) who have contributed to the RHSV. Cheryl is concentrating on those women who don't already appear in the Australian Dictionary of Biography or the Australian Women's Register. In 2020 Cheryl willingly became the convenor for the RHSV History Writing Group which she is leading with distinction. Not allowing the group to be vanquished by COVID19 she promptly took it online. Although we only see Cheryl one day each week, her output is prodigious as she is constantly researching and writing from home.

Cheryl has described herself as 'Tiggeresque' after the much-loved supremely-enthusiastic Tigger from *Winnie the Pooh*. And it is true. Cheryl has unbounded enthusiasm and a belief that we can do it all! This, coupled with her great intelligence and ever-enquiring mind, makes for a very attractive colleague and none of us is immune from taking up Cheryl's good ideas. She is much loved and a joy to work with.

We have much pleasure in nominating Cheryl Griffin for a Distinguished Service Award in 2020.

Rosemary Cameron
Executive Officer

Jillian Hiscock
Collections Manager