



## ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000

### RHSV Fellowship Nomination of Elisabeth Jackson

Elisabeth Jackson, through the library world, local historical societies and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, has made a major contribution to the history of Victoria.

After graduating MA Prelim. from the University of Melbourne and gaining a Diploma of Librarianship from RMIT, Elisabeth worked as a reference librarian for four years in the Australiana collection (then known as the La Trobe Library) of the State Library of Victoria. She later held impressive managerial positions, including Collections Manager at Moonee Valley Regional Library, Executive Officer of the Hume-Moonee Valley Regional Library Corporation, Chief Executive of the Yarra-Melbourne Regional Library Corporation and Executive Officer for Public Libraries Victoria Network.

Strongly oriented towards community service, Elisabeth became a Brunswick City Councillor 1979 to 1985 and 1988 to 1994 and served as Mayor from 1990 to 1991. Her major achievements on Council were seeing through the building of a new Brunswick public library and the commissioning of a local history. Elisabeth herself was a contributor to *Brunswick: One History, Many Voices* edited by Helen Penrose and published in 1994. As a member of the Brunswick Community History Group since the 1980s, Elisabeth has contributed further to the history of the district where she lives. About five years ago she also joined the Coburg Historical Society.

Elisabeth was co-opted onto RHSV Council, effective from January 2013 and then successively elected. As convenor of the important Collections Committee since 2013, she has guided policy decisions, acquisitions and digitisation. In 2017 she oversaw absorption of the library of the Genealogical Society of Victoria into the RHSV collection and the expansion of storage into a basement area of the Drill Hall. As assistant secretary 2013 to 2018, Elisabeth took Council minutes; her prompt and meticulous work was of substantial benefit to the society and secretary. Strongly collegial, Elisabeth has fostered good relations at RHSV. Always versatile, she has often helped out on the reception desk, dealing with diverse matters.

Elisabeth joined the new RHSV Heritage Committee in 2016; she uploads reports to the RHSV website, shoulders her share of heritage disputes, and completed the groundwork for partial victory on the Sarah Sands Hotel issue. A keen traveller, Elisabeth has visited some of the great historic sites of the world, experiences which have enriched her knowledge of heritage subjects.

As RHSV vice president since 2017, Elisabeth has assumed additional tasks and a leadership role when the president is absent. As a member of the Council of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies, Elisabeth's responsibilities have a national scope.

Elisabeth was a key member of the RHSV editorial team for the magnificent book *Remembering Melbourne*, published in 2016. She coordinated the volunteers who wrote the captions and she herself wrote numerous explanatory captions. Together with Richard Barnden, she selected images and wrote captions for the successful *Melbourne's Twenty Decades*.

A humanitarian, Elisabeth has volunteered for Animals Australia for many years and has been a regular blood donor.

Elisabeth has strengthened the governance and performance of the RHSV, and raised and enhanced the society's profile. I commend Elisabeth Jackson for the award of a Fellowship.

Carole Woods OAM, FRHSV  
Hon. Secretary RHSV

19 March 2020