



ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000

RHSV Distinguished Service Award Nomination of Margaret Fleming 7 April 2020

Margaret Fleming first joined the RHSV in 2004 and has been one of stalwart volunteers since 2008.

As I write this citation Margaret is in COVID-19 self-isolation at home however, not one to throw in the towel, she is busy doing RHSV site-searches long-distance to ensure that this important income-earning activity does not die.

The historical site-searches have been a major commercial income stream for the RHSV and Margaret leads the team with great skill. Site-searches are required by local councils for every development and each report requires not just good research skills and an attention to detail but an understanding of the minutiae of Melbourne's built history. The body of work that the site-search team has built up over many years is a formidable collection in its own right and we are looking at ways to link this information to other parts of the Collection (other histories, maps and photographs) to capitalise, yet again, on the thousands of hours of research and documentation of sites and buildings across Melbourne.

Before retiring Margaret was a teacher of English as a Second Language and she used these teaching skills to develop a 15 hour training program for would-be site-searchers and through her training has inducted many people over the years.

Margaret is also a passionate family and local historian with 3 published family histories and a local history under her belt (*Moray to Moira: the descendants of Margaret Ramsay Kemp, Ramsay - Crawford - McGowan; Loch Alsh to Laen and Lygon Street: Alexander & Margaret Matheson; Pioneer brothers: Henry and John Muller; their heritage and descendants 1715-2015; and Gum trees, lagoons and flat plains: a history of Yarroweyah, Koonoomoo and Yarroweyah North 1878 to 1962*). She is currently working on another family history about her Fleming forebears. In early 2020 she mounted a wonderful exhibition in the Cabinet of Curiosities to complement a seminar we were conducting in partnership with the Genealogical Society of Victoria. Margaret has spoken and written about family history and she has also represented the RHSV at external events, especially those related especially to family history.

In 2019 Margaret became a member of the Collections Committee.

Margaret is the first to put up her hand for extra duties and has been invaluable at our large events managing crowds and book-sales with great aplomb. Margaret is pragmatic, generous and well respected. She is much loved by her fellow volunteers and RHSV staff.

We have much pleasure in nominating Margaret Fleming for a Distinguished Service Award in 2020.

Rosemary Cameron
Executive Officer

Jillian Hiscock
Collections Manager