

Eltham District Historical Society

Established 1967 Incorporated No. A0016285F

Local History Centre

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Citation for an Award of Merit from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria for Peter Pidgeon, Eltham District Historical Society

We are pleased to nominate Peter Pidgeon for an Award of Merit from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. Peter is a valued long term member of the Eltham District Historical Society Inc, (EDHS) where he is vice president. In this role he is responsible for managing our digital collections, website and social media.

Without Peter's dedicated contributions EDHS would still be trying to manage a haphazard but significant collection of photographs, documents, plans and maps, based on outdated technology. It is because of Peter's outstanding commitment and innovations EDHS now has over 10,500 digitized images accessible online.

Peter has worked tirelessly across various technologies while contributing to, purchasing and installing new equipment and digitizing our records, as well as initiating our collection management procedures. Prior to COVID 19 restrictions Peter operated weekly collection workshops at EDHS, where he successfully encouraged other members to also be involved.

He was instrumental in investigating options for EDHS to consider when we were confronted with a significant leap to be able to digitise, catalogue and provide online access to our records. He has expanded our collection by personally researching further heritage aspects of our local community, as well as encouraging others to investigate and record information.

During COVID restrictions Peter has worked from home to continue to digitise and catalogue our records, while responding to general local history enquiries.

Peter is active in chasing down potential resources for uploading and one outstanding example is how he engaged with a person who offered to donate one significant photograph to EDHS. As a result of the personal relationship developed by Peter, EDHS was offered access to over 400 quality photographs, which Peter has scanned and uploaded.

None of this would have happened without Peter's dedicated approach and commitment to establishing and then expanding our collection. We also would be without any effective website, Facebook or social media presence.

Peter also arranged onsite training for some of our members and has encouraged other groups to explore the benefits of digitizing and cataloguing their records. Peter has shown over many years a dedicated commitment to the Eltham District Historical Society with the result we now have developed an effective digitization program, upgraded collection management procedures and (prior to COVID) revamped weekly collection workshops.

He would be a worthy recipient of an Award of Merit from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria as recognition of his excellent commitment and contributions to our local community heritage.

Nominator: Jim Connor – President, Eltham District Historical Society

5 March 2021

Also supporting this nomination

Russell Yeoman – Social Secretary, Eltham District Historical Society

