

## **Royal Historical Society of Victoria**

### **Nomination for Linda Barraclough for Award of Merit**

Since 1976 Linda Barraclough has been at various times an active member of historical Societies at:

- Bairnsdale (1976-1986)
- Maffra (since 1986, managing the catalogue since its inception in 1995)
- Stratford (managing the collection 10+ years)
- Traralgon (managing catalogue 2014-2019) and at
- Old Gippsdown at Moe, managing a catalogue of the contents of over 50 buildings, 2006-2011

During this time she led four labour market schemes that catalogued in seven collections.

In 1981 Linda established Kapana Press with Debbie Squires, which published multiple facsimiles and original works. These included Gippsland Heritage Journal (also with Meredith Fletcher) that published thirty editions over 20 years. Linda has been published widely by Kapana Press, Gippsland Heritage Journal, Maffra and Stratford Historical Societies and Old Gippsdown.

Linda established and co-chaired the Gippsland Cataloguing Network, and with it compiled a database of 82,000 entries from 19 collections. It is shared between those collections.

In 2016, Linda founded the Gippsland History Facebook page. With some help, she administers and moderates the page that currently has more than 26,000 members with very regular engagement from some hundreds of regular contributors. She uses this as a vehicle to market historical societies to that wider community, and the "Brains Trust" there brings her much joy.

Linda currently volunteers for the Gippsland and Regional Studies Collection (Federation University Gippsland Campus). This involves many tasks including presenting workshops to users/historical societies, helping library staff and users, cataloguing and managing its social media.

Linda's on-going commitment to the promotion of the history of Victoria, especially Gippsland, is an inspiration to the leaders of many local history groups across Gippsland. We heartily recommend Linda Barraclough be recognised for this work, through the Royal Historical Society of Victoria's Award of Merit.

Nominated by Graham Peters and Debbie Leathem