

Marilyn Bowler

Nomination for a RHSV Award of Merit

Marilyn Bowler was a schoolteacher in her working life and more recently a teacher of copy editing at a university. She completed an MA in History at La Trobe University on the importance of teachers' studentships for the entry of both women and country students into higher education and the teaching profession. Her thesis became an article, 'Opening Doors. The Effects of Teaching Studentships and Teaching on Women's Lives in Victoria, 1950–2000', published in the *Victorian Historical Journal* in June 2019.

With such a background Marilyn became a perfect candidate to become editor of the *Victorian Historical Journal*; she produced four issues of the journal between November 2013 and December 2015. Marilyn took to the task with a zest. She brought a fresh approach to the writing of the Introductions for each issue of the journal. Several times she pondered why historians were moved to write about their subjects. To answer this Marilyn undertook a small survey among members of the RHSV's Publications Committee and wrote up their responses. Marilyn also affirmed the importance of historians imagining themselves into the pasts they studied. She strongly defended the need for the journal to publish the works of community historians as well as those of academic and professional historians.

During her time as editor Marilyn updated the guidelines to authors and brought a renewed rigour to the editorial process, which has continued to this day under Judith Smart. The work of editing an issue of the journal is demanding, not only of detail, but of coordinating eight to ten authors in each issue and ensuring a smooth flow of work between editor, author, proof-readers, designer, and printer. Marilyn did all this magnificently before standing down as editor to pursue further study.

Since 2015, Marilyn has remained an active member of the Publications Committee and an active proof-reader of articles in each issue since. For this selfless work for the *Victorian Historical Journal*, an icon of the RHSV along with the Collection, I have no hesitation in recommending Marilyn Bowler for an RHSV Award of Merit.

Richard Broome AM FRHSV (Chair of the Publications Committee)