



## ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000

### Dr Cheryl Griffin

#### Citation for acceptance as a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Cheryl Griffin has had a long involvement in history and historical organisations. She was a secondary school teacher of English, Media Studies and History, and then a teacher-librarian, developing a wide understanding of many historical periods and settings. She was awarded a PhD in 2005 from the Department of Education Policy and Management, University of Melbourne, for her thesis on Doris McRae, a significant educationalist and unionist.

Upon retirement Cheryl devoted much energy to the community history movement, first at Coburg Historical Society, where she joined the committee, became Secretary and was deeply involved in its work. Cheryl created and developed a Coburg cemetery walk to commemorate the Coburg veterans of the First World War. In 2017 Cheryl published *The Old Boys of Coburg State School Go to War*. In more recent times, she has assisted several others in the complete revival and rebuilding of the Brunswick Historical Society after a period of ennuï.

In 1984 Cheryl joined the RHSV for a time and rejoined upon retirement in 2011. She was soon very active. In 2012 she joined a project developed by Diana Phoenix to systematically list the RHSV archives, and together they produced the valuable 'RHSV Archives Description List'. Cheryl also created a detailed description of RHSV inward correspondence for the society's foundation period 1909 to 1910.

Cheryl Griffin was an RHSV councillor from May 2015 to November 2017 and convenor of the History Victoria Support Group from 2016 to 2017. In 2020 Cheryl became the convenor for the RHSV History Writing Group, which she has led with distinction. With the onset of the Covid pandemic Cheryl successfully switched this seminar to a zoom format and contributed to the RHSV's effort during the pandemic.

For several years she has promoted the RHSV's profile in the *CBD News* with a regular monthly column on an image from the RHSV's collection that she has researched and explicated for readers. It is one of the most effective ways to maintain our presence in the minds of those in postcode 3000. She also writes a quarterly article in the Genealogical Society of Victoria's magazine. Cheryl also completed commercial research for Yarra Trams and Hilton Hotels.

Her research work has been powerful and important to the public face of the RHSV. Her long interest in women's history has made her a strong supporter of the RHSV's Women's History Month. This interest together with her passion for retrieving the stories of people lost to history moved her to explore the biographies of the women of the RHSV, of which too little was previously known. She created the ongoing resource, the RHSV Women's Biographical Dictionary, which is found on the RHSV website. Cheryl curated 'Kaleidoscope', an exhibition on the women of the RHSV which grew out of her dictionary project. "Kaleidoscope" opened to much acclaim in March 2022.

Cheryl Griffin has supported history and the history movement for decades, has been an extremely able and active researcher, and more recently has enriched the RHSV in most distinctive ways. I have no hesitation in recommending to Council that she be made a fellow of the RHSV. In this role she will continue to enhance the standing of the RHSV in the community history movement and the wider community.

Richard Broome AM FRHSV  
May 2022