



## **ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.**

239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000

### **RHSV Fellowship Award Nomination**

**Peter McLaren Hiscock AM FCPA**

**13 March 2022**

Peter Hiscock has made a substantial contribution to the RHSV, of which he has been a member since 1973, most recently through his participation in the Heritage Committee, which he joined in 2017, shortly after its inception.

Peter has given a lifetime of service to preservation, conservation, museums and history. After 22 years in the private sector, he became Director of Sovereign Hill in 1980 and remained in that position until 2002. In that time he built substantially on its twin goals of valid museum and commercial viability. During his career at Sovereign Hill, he chaired the Board of Ballarat Tourism and served on the Board of Tourism Victoria with a period as Chairman.

During that period and subsequently, he served in an enormous variety of roles linked to museums and history in Victoria. He was State and then Federal President of the Museums Association of Australia and chaired the State Government's Museums Advisory Board. He was a foundation member of the Board of the Melbourne Museum Carlton Gardens — Museums Victoria — for nine years from its construction phase into its full operation (it opened in 2000). He chaired the Melbourne Immigration Museum from its inception through its opening in 1998 into its becoming an established major institution, for a total of eight years.

Peter's service included important roles in conservation. Before moving to Ballarat in 1980, he was an active member of the Save the Dandenongs League and served as its President. In addition, he was actively involved in the establishment of Kalorama Park and the Hamer Arboretum. He was a founding board member of Conservation Volunteers Australia and served two terms as President and on the Board of Greening Australia.

Peter has had major roles in founding and guiding two historical societies. He was the founding President of the Mount Dandenong and District Historical Society (1975-78). In 1982 he helped form the Buninyong Historical Society and served a several periods as its President, last in 2019-21.

Since retiring from Sovereign Hill, he has served as Deputy Chair of the State's Heritage Council, chaired its Finance Committee for 12 years, chaired the Emerald Tourist Railway Board (which runs Puffing Billy in the Dandenongs) , and served on the Board of the Art Gallery of Ballarat. He was Chairman of the Organs of the Ballarat Goldfields Festival for 12 years. Most importantly from the perspective of the RHSV Heritage Committee, he served on the Heritage Council of Victoria for

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what the Chair called ‘a record-breaking 12 years on the Council’, stepping down as Deputy Chair in 2008.

The Heritage Committee has profited immensely from Peter’s sage advice and support, founded on a wealth of experience. In particular, he has served the committee and the RHSV by providing advice on heritage issues in the Ballarat, Western District and Bendigo areas. His regional knowledge, together with his widespread engagement in heritage matters, has been vital to the committee’s operation. It represents the culmination of 49 years of service to the RHSV and to the community. Peter’s great contribution richly merits the Award of Fellow of the RHSV.

Charles Sowerwine and Judith Smart