



ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000

27 June 2023

Heather Andrea Arnold AWARD OF MERIT NOMINATION

Heather has been and continues to be a devoted soul dedicated to her community's local and broader history. Over the decades she has given of herself unstintingly to this, her most passionate area of interest.

BACKGROUND:

- grew up on a potato farm at Cora Lynn and attended local public schools
- library training at RMIT
- public and school librarian for over forty years
- Local History Librarian at Casey Cardinia Libraries for sixteen years

LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY & RELATED POSITIONS:

- Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society member since 2000
- Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society Vice-President since 2004 - 2013
- Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society President since 2013
- Secretary of the South Eastern Historical Association since 2006
- Carlo Catani Centenary Committee member 2018 - 2022
- Casey Cardinia Branch of the National Trust Committee member from 2020
- Koo Wee Rup Hospital Centennial Committee member from 2022

PUBLICATIONS:

- Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society newsletter since 2004
- Casey Cardinia Links to Our Past Blog from 2007 with over 400 posts (commended in the Victoria Community History Awards in 2010)
- Koo Wee Rup Swamp History Blog from 2012
- Casey Cardinia Commemorates (WW1) blog from 2014
- Carlo Catani Blog since 2018 with over 100 posts (commended in the Victorian Community History Awards in 2019)
- Victoria's Past – Rescued and Retold Blog since 2019 with over 100 posts
- monthly history articles for the Garfield Spectator and the Koo Wee Rup Blackfish for over 10 years
- Co-author of Victorian Collections articles, 2021
- Vanished Victoria website from 2022
- newsletters for the Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria since 2023
- Co-author of forthcoming book, 'Enchanted Beneath the Bluff', 2023

TALKS & TOURS:

- presented scores of talks and tours on the history of the Koo Wee Rup Swamp, Carlo Catani, the history of postcards and their stories, and many other topics to various groups ranging from primary school age to nursing home residents

SUMMARY:

Heather is truly a local history enthusiast – she loves research, writing and sharing history. When it was said of Heather “that she has a passionate interest in the parochial and the obscure”. she responded “it’s true – no story is too small to write about, no person is too unimportant to write about – everyone has a story, everything has a story and I love writing them!” Heather Andrea Arnold is a long-time local treasure who continues to safeguard local history; generating interest and appreciation wherever her voice is heard and her words are read.

Nomination by Isaac Hermann

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