



ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000

Nomination for a Distinguished Service Award 2023

Gordon Moffatt AM

Gordon Moffatt AM was a Melbourne City Councillor and Melbourne's first Deputy Mayor in the 1980s when he answered the call from the RHSV for a City of Melbourne councillor to sit on our Council. Gordon served, with distinction, on the RHSV Council for three years 1983-85.

Gordon never forgot the RHSV and, from about 2004, has been the most generous of donors to the RHSV. Early on his donations were vital to the RHSV's very survival and, in recent years, his giving has allowed the RHSV to go beyond mere survival to really expand and enhance the RHSV's activities. Gordon advocated for the creation of a capital fund for the society, directly inspiring the establishment of the RHSV Foundation. He gave much wise advice about the Foundation's structure and operation. Another significant donation in 2021 stimulated the Council of the RHSV to forge an investment policy, create an Investment Committee, and engage a financial planner, Yarra Lanes Group, to husband our financial resources. Therefore, Gordon Moffatt has stimulated the RHSV to transform itself through better financial governance. In honour of this long-term giving, the Society named its meeting room, 'The Gordon Moffatt Room'.

Gordon Moffatt was also the stimulus to create a historian-in-residence program. This arose out his interest in the unrecognised service of those in the Second World War period who could not enlist due to the provisions of the Essential Services Act. Gordon lobbied on this matter to government and the RSL but was without satisfaction. In 2021 he enlisted the RHSV to commission research on this matter to convince the wider public about the need to recognise publicly such service.

Dr Bart Ziino of Deakin University was commissioned to do this work, funded by Gordon Moffatt, and Bart was made the RHSV's first historian-in-residence, 2022-23. Dr Ziino will present his findings in June 2023 at the Weston Bate Oration, which will become an article for the *Victorian Historical Journal*. A second historian-in-residence, Fiona Gatt, will commence in late 2023 on a project about the social importance of shopkeepers in late nineteenth century North Melbourne.

Gordon Moffatt has displayed the best face of philanthropy, making no claims on the RHSV, but just giving generously. He is most deserving of a Distinguished Service Award.

Richard Broome AM

President RHSV