



ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000

25 June 2023

Garry and Jan Wallden AWARD OF MERIT NOMINATION

The executive of the Katandra District History Group Inc. would like to jointly nominate **Garry and Jan Wallden** for RHSV Award of Merit for most valuable volunteers. We cannot nominate one without the other as they are equally dedicated and deserving.

Garry and Jan were foundation members of our History Group, with Garry being elected President at the inaugural meeting in 2003 and continuing in that position until 2018. Since then he has been Vice President. Jan has held the two positions of Advertising and Cataloguing Officer since our Group's inception.

Garry built our Group website and continues to respond to public email queries about our district's history. In 2004/5 Garry and Jan were instrumental in marking five former State School sites, arranging the placement of stone cairns with appropriate plaques and organising unveiling ceremonies.

During the writing of our Group's 2010 major publication, "Hope and Hardship", about the post WW1 Soldier Settlers and the late 1920s Closer Settlers Schemes, Garry and Jan made numerous 430 km round trips from Katandra to the Public Records Office, to gain information on each of the 28 soldier settlers and the 128 closer settlers, including details of the Royal Commission that followed and the recompense offered to the overseas settlers. They also designed the book and arranged publication with a local printer.

In 2012 Garry and Jan, together with local Ken Gervasoni, took the lead in memorialising the site of the Katandra Memorial Hall with a stone cairn and plaque and unveiling ceremony.

They assisted a member publish her own story including that of her community, in the small book "Marionvale Memories".

Our Group has almost completed our second major project "Adversity to Prosperity", covering the years 1930-1960. This is the sequel to the first book recording the lives of those who survived and prospered and of new families who came to the area. It also describes the sporting, social, schooling, religious and major events through these times. Once again Garry and Jan are to the fore collecting family stories and photographs, researching articles from "Trove" and drafting the book design for this publication.

We have had a number of reminiscing days at the Katandra West Hall to view information and items collected by members. As we do not have a permanent home all these items had to be collected from storage and put on display and later packed away. Once again Garry and Jan were among the main contributors.

Garry and Jan Wallden have been the backbone of the Group since its inception, not hesitating to come forward when work needed to be done and being the driving force behind our publications and activities.

Nominated by Janice Senior, President and Bob Kennedy, Secretary