



19 April 2023

Noel Withers AWARD OF MERIT NOMINATION

Greensborough Historical Society Inc. (GHS) foundation President 2010-2022

Noel Withers has led GHS with distinction, good humour and drive and it is no understatement to say that without Noel GHS would not have achieved all we have, and likely not even come into existence.

A retired engineer and former employee of Shire of Diamond Valley, Noel has long been passionate about Greensborough's local history. He delivered talks, which he fully researched himself, to various community groups over several years leading up to 2010, when he chaired a public meeting to assess community interest in establishing an historical society for Greensborough. The rest is history. In addition, one of Noel's particular interests is the once neglected Greensborough Cemetery. Under his initiative it has been refurbished and Noel continues to maintain the information boards and leads regular working bees.

Noel was elected GHS foundation President in 2010 and led the Committee of Management until September 2022. During these 13 years, he has:

- Found the Society a home and overseen the process to make it both suitable for use and a welcoming community resource centre.
- Co-written the Statement of Purpose and Constitution and Rules of the Society
- Solicited ongoing support with Banyule City Council and Shire of Nillumbik
- Personally managed successful grant applications including the Main Street Plaques Project
- Been responsible for installing and maintaining computers and IT services at the Resource Centre
- Represented GHS in the wider community, including the Yarra Plenty Regional Library Heritage Group network.
- Supported GHS to join Victorian Collections for collection management. GHS were one of the first community groups to join and subsequently received several awards and nominations from AMAGA Vic.
- Prepared and installed displays at Greensborough Plaza Shopping Centre.
- Contributed to and/or edited historical content for 4 publications, historic plaques at significant local places, and postcard captions.
- Prepared a President's Report for all 47 Society Newsletters from 2010 to September 2022
- Led many guided walks pointing out places of local historical interest.
- Given many talks on local history at schools and to community groups.
- Chaired Committee and monthly member meetings and social morning teas
- Initiated Zoom meetings to keep people engaged during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Noel's leadership has been recognised via:

- Life Membership (GHS) awarded in 2015.
- Banyule Council Community Group Award for the work by GHS volunteers in 2017
- Receiving a Jagajaga Community Award in 2017

Noel Withers is very much a local historical treasure and still very active in the Society, though he has now stepped back a little from his leading role. Noel has given exceptional service, well beyond the routine holding of office while constantly advocating for the preservation and sharing of Greensborough's local history. Thank you for considering Noel for the 2023 RHSV Awards of Merit.

Nominated by Sue Ballantyne
Vice President and Archivist, Greensborough Historical Society