



ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000

RHSV Barbara Nixon Award Nomination of Alison Cameron 7 April 2020

Alison Cameron has been a member of the RHSV for just short of twenty years and for much of that time she has been a conscientious and generous volunteer.

Alison has worked as one of our site search team which generates a large income for the RHSV. Her site search work is meticulous and professional. Alison also works in the library and on the Collection.

Alison was seduced out of her comfort zone in 2018 to start work as curator of an exhibition based on our vast collection of glass slides and scrapbooks belonging to our earlier member, Isaac Selby. This exhibition opened in mid-2019 and ran for 6 months under the title, *Isaac Selby, Lecturer, Historian, Assassin!*

She quickly found her feet with Isaac Selby and spent a full year doing research both here and in the University of Melbourne archives, curating the vast amount of material available into a comprehensible narrative and devising a new and arresting way of presenting the exhibition so that Isaac Selby's own words were used to tell his story. Alison also generously funded the production of the entire exhibition. Alison's model of hanging lightweight panels using bulldog clips was admired and will be much copied.

Isaac Selby, Lecturer, Historian, Assassin! was a very popular exhibition through Alison's promotion and refreshing design. Selby, in his very long life, connected to many history and heritage organisations. Alison invited Professor Geoffrey Blainey to open the exhibition as Professor Blainey had wonderfully vivid memories of attending Selby's lectures when Blainey was starting out as an historian.

Since the Isaac Selby exhibition was launched Alison has been able to reuse the fruits of her extensive research to add new information to the catalogue records for Selby's extensive slide collection.

We have much pleasure in nominating Alison Cameron for a Barbara Nixon Award in 2020.

Rosemary Cameron
Executive Officer

Jillian Hiscock
Collections Manager