

AWARD OF MERIT NOMINATION – William Thomas (Bill) Gleeson.

The Yarrawonga Mulwala Historical Society is pleased to nominate Bill Gleeson for the 2022 RHSV 'Award of Merit.'

Bill and his wife Anne returned to Yarrawonga in 2003 and they joined the Historical Society in 2006. Bill immediately became active within the Society applying his practical skills to the such tasks as the extensions to the Museum and generally to the maintenance of the building. He was an active participant in the 'Save Our Station' sub-committee which eventually prevented the demolition of the Railway Station. Bill was elected to the Presidency in August 2010.

He reluctantly surrendered this role in November 2020 because of his failing eyesight and general health problems but he continues, with technical assistance from Anne, to organise the staffing roster and the group bookings for the Museum. He remains a member of the Committee.

During Bill's years as President the Society remained very active and he oversaw a number of successful projects. Some of these were: -

- In 2011, the extensions to the Museum.
- Refurbishment of the Yarrawonga Railway Station and its reopening as a community meeting place.
- Sponsorship of the Museum by Mulwala Water Ski Club.
- Acquisition by the Pioneer Museum of the valuable Briggs Rock Collection. He was personally responsible for preventing the Moira Shire destroying the collection.
- The \$14,000 extension to the storage shed in the Machinery Yard.
- Renovating the Security System for the Museum.
- Upgrading of the airconditioning, heating and lighting systems. (Costing approx. \$50,000.)
- Publication of the history Book "A Bridge Across Time."
- In 2018, the successful events to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the first survey of Yarrawonga.
- Donation of a defibrillator to the Museum by the Mulwala Water Ski Club.

Bill's other interest has been as President of the Northern Branch of Prospectors & Miners Association of Victoria for 16 years. He has now had to relinquish that role.

Bill has always undertaken a 'hands on' role in the Historical Society's projects and has carried out such tasks as the inspection and collection of donated items such as the 1890s treadle lathe and farm machinery. He has overseen the maintenance and repairs to the Museum and, in particular the Society's landmark windmill. In fact, the only way that he has been prevented from venturing onto the roof of the Museum is Federation Council, the owner of the building, specifically disallowing any member of the Society to do so.

A further indication of Bill and Anne's value to the Society is that their daughter Cyndi has now become a member and is contributing to activities by seeking to have the Yarrawonga Mercury, a former local newspaper, digitised by Trove.