

RHSV AWARD OF MERIT NOMINATION OF CRAIGE PROCTOR

Craige Proctor has made a significant contribution to the history movement in Mortlake and the Western District more generally over many years as an office holder, researcher, editor and author.

Craige joined the Mortlake and District Historical Society in the early 1980s while in his early twenties. After the society was re-formed in 2000, he became secretary in 2003, serving in this role for ten years. In addition to recording the minutes and managing all correspondence, Craige produced the society's monthly newsletter, promoted events, sought funding, liaised with other historical groups, maintained the membership database, and curated the society's photo collection. In 2011 Craige set up the Mortlake & District Historical Society Facebook Page which he still maintains and has several thousand followers.

Craige was also research officer for the society for seven years, gaining much goodwill with his prompt and detailed responses to the many requests for information received by the society.

Over the years, Craige has served in other leadership positions for the society, being always notable for his enthusiasm, energy and ability to encourage high levels of engagement.

Craige has long been involved in the wider history movement. He has done substantial and valuable work for the Royal Historical Society of Victoria's History Victoria Support Group under the convenor George Fernando. Among other things he travelled around Victoria giving presentations to many local historical societies on the development of social media platforms.

Craige is a member of the committee of the Western Victoria Association of Historical Societies and is currently Newsletter Editor.

Craige also has strong ties to the Wimmera and is a member of the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Committee and has recently joined the Warracknabeal, Dimboola and Nhill Historical Societies.

In addition to his contribution as a leader in the local history movement, Craige is a distinguished and prolific researcher, author and editor. He has written many historical articles for the *Mortlake Dispatch*, researched many of Mortlake's buildings and businesses since the 1850s, and researched and written hundreds of biographies of Mortlake and district pioneers. Craige has made a valuable contribution by researching and chronicling the Indigenous history of the Mortlake area.

In 1993 Craige began transcribing the Mortlake Cemetery Register and continued this over many years with the assistance of Fiona Woodhams of the Mortlake Cemetery Trust. Among many fascinating findings, he discovered that 16 people buried in the Mortlake Cemetery in the 1850s were former convicts who had been sent from the United Kingdom to Van Diemen's Land in the early 1800s.

Craige has produced by himself and in partnership with Florence Charles many historical booklets including 'Mortlake's Transportees', 'Mortlake's Botanical Gardens', 'Health Epidemics in Mortlake', 'Mortlake's Early Clergy (and the Kilnoorat Parish)', 'Mortlake Museum', 'The Mortlake Railway', 'Mortlake's Medical Practitioners' and 'The Squatters of the Mortlake District'.

Craige has written or edited seven books:

A Second Chance: The story of George Taylor and Staff and Taylor's College, Melbourne, (2005)

Help Soon Came: A centenary history of the Mortlake Urban Fire Brigade, (2013)

Women of the Mount: The lives of the earliest immigrant women to settle in the Mount Shadwell district, 1839-1864 (2009) with Florence Charles

Families of the Mount: The pioneers of Mortlake and District, 1839-1880, (2010) with Florence Charles

Darlington, (2017) written by Florence Charles, edited by Craige Proctor

150 Years of Public Schooling in Mortlake, 1858-2008, (2008) researched and compiled by Craige Proctor and Glenda Lehmann

The Grand Old Man of Kooreh: The story of Thomas Proctor and his family of Ulverstone, (1999).

We have much pleasure in nominating Craige Proctor for an Award of Merit in 2022.

Peter Yule, RHSV Councillor and member of the Mortlake and District Historical Society

Sue Potter, Secretary, Mortlake and District Historical Society.