

## **Nomination: RHSV Award of Merit.**

### **John Douglas Stirling**



This year [2022] Doug Stirling turns 100. Despite that eye-watering chronological milestone, he remains a strong, active, erudite, and engaging man who, nearly two decades ago in 2004, published his 'Lorne: A Living History' [ISBN 0646441000: NLA Bibliography ID 3307315]. Even then, at the tender age of 82, he was widely regarded in the Lorne Community as Doug, 'Our Living Legend'. Indeed, there are few in communities nationwide who no longer need surnames—but the simply mention of 'Doug' in Lorne yields instant identification.

While to this day, his 2004 book remains our 'go to' reference for anything remotely connected to Lorne, its author has grown even more in stature and legend. 'Ask Doug' ... 'check with Doug', ... 'Doug will know' ... he is a veritable living encyclopedia of the history of Lorne. Born into one of the original Lorne families in 1922, he has seen, lived, and breathed Lorne through the timber industry, the coastal steamers, the building and opening of the Great Ocean Road, the fishing fleet, the Great Depression, the war years, the tourism boom, and most latterly, modern Lorne.

Doug has presided over the Foreshore Committee, the local RSL, has been our Lorne councillor and, of most importance to this application for recognition by the RHSV with an Award of Merit, he has been a member, secretary, vice president, and long-standing president of the Lorne Historical Society for a span of more than 60 years.

Among his many and varied other community awards, he was named 1992 Winchelsea Shire Citizen of the Year and has had Lorne's premier cliff walk named in his honour. Perhaps most attesting his value to our community—the biannual award to honour outstanding service to and leadership in the Lorne Community is the Doug and Mary Stirling Cup.

In our view, no one is more worthy of recognition at RHSV state level for his work to preserve, document, and grow the life and times of Lorne. It is rare, indeed, where a single community has benefited from the longitudinal wisdom of one man for such a protracted period.

As an active society with strong links with and a powerful voice into the forward development of its local community, the members of the Lorne Historical Society are honoured to put forward Doug Stirling's name as a worthy recipient of the RHSV Award of Merit 2020.

Peter Spring  
President: Lorne Historical Society