

Nomination of Geoff Arnott for an RHSV Award of Merit

Geoff Arnott has been Vice President of the Croydon Historical Society (CHS) for 30 years and President for the last three years after Les Hutchinson, was in the role for 48 years.

Geoff's contribution over the years has been remarkable and extends well beyond his involvement with the CHS. For the last 15 years he has a regular monthly segment on Radio Eastern FM where he broadcasts on Croydon and generic history topics. He has also been actively involved with three history programs on community television.

Geoff has represented the CHS on committees which includes the City of Maroondah on the development of a new Croydon history museum and the naming of new streets and roads to honour WW1 veterans. He has also been a contributor to the relocation of the Croydon war memorial and input into the Croydon RSL which includes writing an outline of its 100-year history. Geoff is a community representative on the new railway station project team where he has provided input into history design features for the new railway station.

Geoff has been a sought-after speaker on history and has spoken to groups including the U3A, Apex, church groups, scouting and girl guides, the Croydon RSL, the Wedderburn RSL and historical societies including Ringwood, Lilydale, Inverloch, Wonga Park and Wedderburn. He has also been a speaker for the Croydon library on local history and war veterans from Croydon and Ringwood.

Geoff is a prolific writer who has applied his skills and knowledge, as a former history teacher and lecturer and published author of over 14 text books, to his history writing which he describes as his passion and community service. Geoff's local history publications on behalf of the CHS and the Wonga Park history group, where he has formed a working alliance with the CHS. are: -

- *The ANZACS of Maroondah; LEST WE FORGET, 2018*
- *WW2 Veterans from Croydon and District Saluting their Service 2021*
- *A History of Wonga Park and Surrounds Dream time to Communities 2022*

Geoff was also co-author for *Highlights of Croydon History 2005, Croydon Then and Now 2012* and *Croydon Inside and Out 2014*.

For all of these publications Geoff was responsible for winning grants to finance design and publishing costs and the marketing and distribution of the books to distribution outlets. Sales have been lucrative with money used to finance future history projects. In recognition of his contribution to Croydon history Geoff was presented with a Commonwealth Deakin award in 2014.

Geoff is also Vice President of the Wedderburn Historical Society and during his 10 years has produced the following books

- *The Golden Harvest; A History of Wedderburn, 2014 (with Keith Ring)*
- *The Ball family from Wedderburn; Pioneers and Community Leaders, 2018*
- *Remembering Wedderburn and Neighbouring Towns, 2020*
- *War Veterans from Wedderburn and District Saluting their Service 2023*

In recognition of his highly regarded publications Geoff was granted Life Membership of the Wedderburn Historical Society in 2021.

Geoff's books are in the RHSV bookshop

Lyn Lynch

Secretary Croydon Historical Society