



ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000

Nomination of Sharon Betridge for an RHSV Distinguished Service Award

In 2017 Sharon Betridge responded to a notice in *History News*: 'Publication Volunteer Help Needed'. She has risen quickly from a novice volunteer to be the seasoned editor of *History News*. Sharon is eminently qualified for this role as she has a B.Ed with majors in Librarianship and History and over twenty years of experience as a school Librarian. She has written chapters for a Pearson school textbook.

Sharon's passion for editing became quickly evident once she joined the Publications Committee. In 2018 she was appointed co-editor of *History News*, and a year later in 2019 became editor of this key RHSV publication. *History News* is a key conduit to our affiliated societies and provides lighter and more timely reading than the *Victorian Historical Journal* for many of our members.

Sharon is an energetic editor continually striving to implement new ideas to make *History News* more significant and interesting. Sharon ensures it is always published on time, and she assisted and implemented a new layout. At times it has expanded to 20 pages from 16 when the volume of articles warranted it. Sharon completed an indexing course several years ago and works actively as an indexer, yet still manages to provide sufficient time to edit *History News* with her customary expertise.

Sharon is full of ideas for the newsletter. She has increased its coverage of our affiliated historical societies, understanding how important it is to service their needs efficiently and at the appropriate level. She introduced new features to *History News* such as the popular and long-running series on stained glass windows by Bronwyn Hughes called 'Windows on History'. Sharon has also introduced special themes, including summer holidays, which proved immensely popular. Other themes include fashion, immigrant community stories and Indigenous history.

Sharon Betridge joined the RHSV in 2015 and has provided exceptional service to the society for almost 8 years through her passion, energy, and ideas. She has made an outstanding contribution to the work of the RHSV, especially in terms of outreach to our affiliated societies. Sharon has also facilitated the dissemination of knowledge about Victoria's past to wider audiences.

She has clearly met and exceeded the criteria for an RHSV Distinguished Service Award.

Richard Broome AM, FAHA, FRHSV, FFAHS
Chair, Publications Committee