



Essendon Historical Society Inc.

Incorporation No. A0017240P – ABN 33 706 980 895

768-770 Mount Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds

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Nomination of Bob Chalmers for an RHSV Award of Merit

Bob Chalmers is a true treasure for the Essendon Historical Society (EHS) and we take pleasure in nominating him for the RHSV Award of Merit 2024

From 1998 Bob has spent 25 years serving in a variety of Committee roles including ordinary committee member, Treasurer (1999-2006), Secretary (2006-2007), Vice-President twice (2007-2008, and 2011-2014), and President twice (2008-2011 and 2014–2023). He is still currently a serving Committee member and has been a financial member of the EHS for 46 years.

Awarded Life Membership of the EHS in 2011, Bob was also awarded “Spirit of Moonee Valley” Awards on three occasions (2004, 2012 and 2020).

In addition to his various Committee positions he has occupied the position of Editor of the EHS Newsletter March 2010 to the current time (14 years) producing an average of five issues per year (from Issue 2003 to Issue 268). He also spent time as an Editor of the EHS “Journal”.

Bob has always been an enthusiastic participant and/or leader of additional activities which promoted EHS as well as assisting to preserve our rich and varied history. Examples include participating in all “Fireside Readings”; participating in U3A Courses presented by EHS; as well as preparing and leading many Heritage Walks in Essendon, Essendon North, Moonee Ponds, Ascot Vale and Travancore.

He has been a knowledgeable presenter for the EHS as a Guest Speaker on many occasions including visiting schools and local organisations to promote the history of the Moonee Valley district.

His passion for our local history has been manifest in his research and publications which include:-

- Compiling the set of books (The Annals of Essendon – 4 volumes) recording events which occurred in the district between 1850 and 2000.
- Producing the book “House Names of Essendon – Volume 2”.
- Contributing as a researcher and writer for “Federation Times”, “Fine Homes of Essendon” and “Grand Mansions of Essendon and District” produced by EHS.

He also compiled histories of the Aberfeldie Primary School (“From Bead-frames to Computers” 1995) and Niddrie Primary School (“Silver Reflections” 1986)



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He attends the Courthouse each Sunday as a volunteer to meet with members of the public, and in addition has undertaken many research queries for the Moonee Valley Council, local residents and organisations.

Most exceptionally, Bob participated in a subcommittee of the EHS to work in conjunction with the heritage architects and contractors in the restoration of the Moonee Ponds Court House following the disastrous fire which badly damaged the courthouse in June 2016. This extensive work has meant the community is able to continue to enjoy learning about our history in our heritage building.

Many thanks for considering our nomination

Cate Hutchings
President of EHS