

Nomination of Deidre Hawkins for an RHSV Award of Merit

Deidre has a passion for history and writing and particularly a passion for the history of Kinglake where she grew up and spent the majority of her adult life. Her early family days were spent living behind the local Pheasant Creek (part of Kinglake) Post Office and shop run by her family. We are extremely lucky that Deidre was able to talk with the descendants of the pioneers and record our history before it was lost.

Deidre was a founding member of the Kinglake Historical Society (KHS) in 1984 and for the most part of the past 40 years, she has been the President and quite often the Secretary as well! She is a teacher by profession, so has the skills to research, write, edit and has published many books to record the history of Kinglake. Deidre has been the driving force for all this time behind the KHS and the production of many publications for KHS including;

Kinglake A Pictorial History To Celebrate the Bicentenary 1988
Kinglake Pioneering Days Vol 1
Kinglake Pioneering Days Vol 2
Kinglake: A Collected History of the Kinglake District 1861-2011 (321 pages).
Living with Fire: A brief history of Fires in the Kinglake Ranges by Kath Stewart and Deidre Hawkins.

These were produced in collaboration with the 3 schools. Most of the research/editing and production was completed by Deidre;

Kinglake Primary School No. 2188, 1879-1979
Kinglake West Primary School No. 3255, 1896-1996
Middle Kinglake Primary School No. 3315, 1898-1998

Deidre is a very good communicator and fosters lots of connections within our community and also visits other Historical Societies. She was also the driving force to establish the 'Heritage Centre' as a home for the KHS and a space that showcases Kinglake history. The Heritage Centre is open on Sundays or by appointment. This Centre enables the KHS to host schools as part of their curriculum, as a major display of the fires of the area particularly the 2009 fires has been developed. Probus and other visiting groups are also hosted with morning teas and talks by Deidre with other members assisting as they view the collection and display.

Deidre was one of the long-time editors of the Kinglake Newsletter/Magazine '*Mountain Monthly*'. In her 80's now, she continues to write a Kinglake history article every month which promotes KHS and Heritage Centre.

Deidre has always made herself available to the community to talk to schools and community groups and has often provided displays in the community for History Week. She also finds it rewarding to be able to provide information to people who are looking for their family history. The publications she has worked on so diligently for over 40 years are a lasting testament to her drive and skills to promote and leave a record of the Kinglake History for those that come to live in or visit our area.

Nominators: Lynn Coon and Pam Lawless, Kinglake Historical Society Inc.