



ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000

Nomination of Michael Menzies for an RHSV Award of Merit

Michael Menzies is a former railway employee who has devoted his retirement to expanding our knowledge of railways history and family history through his research and leadership.

To take one example, through detective work Michael located hundreds of names of employees of the privately run Geelong and Melbourne Railway Company that was taken over by the Victorian government in 1860. The Victorian Railways Report of 1862 listed over 500 employees taken into government employment during the takeover. These were uploaded to the Geelong Family History Group website in 2020.

Michael has devoted his services and also provided leadership to many history groups in the Geelong region. He is or has been:

- President of the Geelong and South Western Rail Heritage Society
- President of the Geelong Museum Association
- President of the Geelong Family History Group
- President of the Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies

Michael is a life member of the Geelong Steam Preservation Society due to his great service to this group. The group gained a grant from the Geelong Community Fund in 2020 to restore Car 19, a 140 year old workman's rail car found in South Australia. The group set to work and as Michael Menzies reported to the Community Fund: *'Projects like this bring people together, people who might otherwise be alone at home, it gives them a reason to be active and social and a way to contribute skills and knowledge to the community. It's as much about mental health as it is about preserving rail history'*.

Michael is active in wider spheres. He is currently a member of the Geelong Heritage Advisory Committee, which gives advice to local government on cultural heritage and how it can be documented, protected, interpreted and promoted.

For all this research, involvement in many groups and leadership of key Geelong groups Michael is truly deserving of an RHSV award of merit.

Richard Broome AM