



ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000

RHSV Nomination of Linda Barraclough for Associate Fellowship

Linda Barraclough received an Award of Merit in 2022 for her keen promotion of the study and understanding of history in Victoria, with a special interest in Gippsland, for more than forty years. The nomination came from Graham Peters and Debbie Leathem (Federation University in Gippsland). The RHSV has now established the award of Associate Fellow for 'a member of ten years' standing of an RHSV affiliated society who has rendered outstanding service to the member society and to the Australian history movement with special reference to the history of Victoria'. Linda Barraclough unquestionably fulfils these criteria.

Since 1976 Linda Barraclough has been at various times an active member of the following historical societies: Bairnsdale (1976–1986); Maffra (since 1986, managing the catalogue since its inception in 1995); Stratford (managing the collection for more than ten years); Traralgon (managing catalogue 2014–2019); and Old Gippsdown at Moe, managing a catalogue of the contents of over fifty buildings, 2006–2011

In 1981 Linda, together with Debbie Squires, established Kapana Press which published multiple facsimiles and original works. These included *Gippsland Heritage Journal* (with Meredith Fletcher), which published thirty editions over twenty years. It is a critical source for those seeking to better understand Gippsland's history and a starting point for much further research. Linda has been published widely by Kapana Press, *Gippsland Heritage Journal*, Maffra and Stratford Historical Societies, and Old Gippsdown.

Linda established and co-chaired the Gippsland Cataloguing Network, and with it compiled a database of 82,000 entries from nineteen collections. It is shared between those collections. In 2016, Linda founded the Gippsland History Facebook page. With some help, she administers and moderates the page, which currently has more than 26,000 members with very regular engagement from some hundreds of regular contributors. She uses this as a vehicle to market historical societies to that wider community, and the 'Brains Trust' there brings her much joy.

In 2019 after much planning and organisation she launched the Combined Gippsland History Database, which has over 82,000 records from the following Historical Societies—Briarolong, Drouin, Gippsland and Regional Studies Collection, Heyfield, Leongatha, Maffra, Moe, Morwell, Old Gippsdown, Port Albert, Rosedale, Sale, Stratford, Traralgon, Walhalla, Warragul, Yallourn North, and Yarram. In the same year she collected Gippsland entries in all the Victorian Municipal Directories and made these available to Historical Societies. Both were massive tasks needing remarkable commitment over a sustained period.

Linda currently volunteers for the Gippsland and Regional Studies Collection (Federation University Gippsland Campus). This involves many tasks, including presenting workshops to users/historical societies, helping library staff and users, cataloguing, and managing its social media.



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She has also been a passionate advocate for historical societies in forums organised by the RHSV and Museum Australia (Victoria), and she is the first port of call at the RHSV for information about Gippsland. Linda has been an individual member of the RHSV since 2013.

Linda's continuing commitment to the promotion of the history of Victoria, especially Gippsland, is an inspiration to the leaders of many local history groups across Gippsland. I heartily recommend that Linda Barraclough be recognised for this work through the award of Associate Fellow of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

Judith Smart AM, FRHSV

23 April 2024