



ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000

Nomination of Ashley Smith for an Barbara Nixon Volunteer Award

Ashley Smith started as a volunteer at the RHSV in 2016. He has qualifications in creative writing, museum studies and cultural heritage. Over the years his contribution to the society has been very important. He has catalogued manuscripts and photographs, sorted maps and moved and demolished furniture. But his most important contributions relate to his qualifications – he is a fabulous writer and for years he produced monthly articles for Docklands News on behalf of the RHSV. Many of his stories are also to be found in our Collections Lounge on the RHSV website and also on our social media sites.

This is Ashley's first love – researching and writing history. And we all are beneficiaries of his passion.

Ashley also curates small exhibitions in our Cabinet of Curiosity. His exhibitions are usually driven by his love of sport – the first one he did was on the VFL.

He also does research for the many reference enquiries which come in to the RHSV daily and his work is always careful and well thought out. He will often go the extra mile when finding information, such as going to Albert Park to take photos of Lowe Kong Meng's house for an article, or going to the Ephemera Fair to find football ephemera for his exhibition.

Some of Ashley's other articles have been about theatre tickets for an early event in Richmond, Cremorne Gardens and George Coppin and Colin Ferguson Macdonald's scrapbooks, a wide range of topics.

Ashley is a rare volunteer who works two days a week at the RHSV and is always engaged fully with his work.

The Barbara Nixon Award is for volunteers who may not have completed the requisite 10 years of our other RHSV awards but nonetheless have made a splash – made a difference – and Ashley has certainly done that.

We have no hesitation in recommending Ashley for a Barbara Nixon Volunteer Award

Jillian Hiscock
Collections Manager

Rosemary Cameron
Executive Officer