

Thursday 17 March 2016

Renowned heritage expert to address Indigo Heritage Awards night

This year's coveted Indigo Shire Heritage Awards presentation night will feature a guest speaker with an extensive and diverse background in heritage conservation both in Australia and South East Asia.

Professor Robyn Sloggett AM PhD is Director of the Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation at the University of Melbourne. She manages the diverse conservation, teaching and research programs of the Centre including the conservation of the cultural collections of the University of Melbourne (with over 32 separate collections owned or managed by the University).

Indigo Shire Heritage Advisory Committee Chairman Pamela Thomas said Professor Sloggett's research is grounded in the belief that strengthening research capacity in conservation and mentoring the next generation of researchers are essential to the conservation of culture. The same can also be said about mentoring and encouraging the children of the Indigo Shire, she added.

"In 1995 Dr Sloggett was on the steering committee for the development of AusHeritage. She became a founding director of this very successful industry organisation," Ms Thomas said.

"Since 1996 she has developed training opportunities for museum and conservation practitioners in Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Timor Leste and The Philippines. Her 'pedigree' is quite extensive and we are thrilled to have her address our Awards night."

The Yackandandah Historical Society is hosting the presentation night at the Yackandandah Public Hall on Friday 20 May from 6pm.

Ms Thomas said nominations for awards were still coming in with the closing date 31 March.

"Heritage is not always about bricks and mortar. It can cover intangible elements such as oral traditions, stories, music and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage; performing arts; social practices, rituals and festive events; knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe; and traditional craftsmanship," she said.

"The purpose of the awards program is to recognise those people and groups who have made outstanding contributions to cultural heritage conservation, research, education, promotion, interpretation, heritage building trades, training and awareness-raising within the Indigo Shire."

Indigo Shire Mayor Cr James Trenergy said the awards were instrumental in promoting the fact that Indigo has some of the best heritage towns in Australia.

"Indigo Shire's heritage and environment makes it a unique place in Australia and Council has a strong commitment to work with our communities to protect and enhance the rich history of the shire," Cr Trenergy said.

"These awards recognise the great efforts that residents make in preserving heritage aspects on their own land or in their town and rural landscapes. Our partnership with the National Trust Victoria, which began in

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1979, continues to give the awards a real boost. The Trust was established in Victoria in 1956 and celebrates 60 years this year.

“Our community values our heritage and are active and keen to see it looked after.”

Nominations are open until 31 March. Categories are:

- Creative Re-Use of a Heritage Place
- New Work/Development within a Heritage Area
- Restoration of a Heritage Place
- Specialist Heritage Trade Skills
- Sustainability and/or Greening of a Heritage Place
- Open Heritage
- Junior Heritage
- Individual Heritage Advocacy
- The Indigo Shire Heritage Advisory Committee Heritage Gold Award.

Full details of the award categories are on the nomination form which can be downloaded from Council’s website www.indigoshire.vic.gov.au/heritageawards

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Captions:

Heritage Advisory Committee’s Pamela Thomas.

For more:

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