

## Honorary Life Memberships awarded to Geraldine and Geoff Harris

*At the AGM on 8<sup>th</sup> March, Peter Turner, the retiring president, presented Geraldine and Geoff Harris with framed certificates confirming the Committee's decision (in Geoff's absence) to award their decades of service to the club with Honorary Life Memberships.*

Geraldine and Geoff joined the club in 1976, the year it was founded – 48 years ago! At that time Geraldine addressed her former science teacher as “Mr Broadway”, and she has written movingly about how much she – and Geoff, I m sure – learnt from George and other dedicated members about our natural environment over the years since.

I m sure I speak for most members who have been out in the field with Geraldine – she is an outstanding field naturalist who is keen to share her knowledge and new observations and write about them for the newsletter. And Geoff is right there too.

In 2003, Geraldine joined the committee as Assistant Newsletter Editor, becoming editor for the following 4 years. She was again on the committee from 2014 to 2016, and has for many years distributed the newsletter by post and email, working with Geoff in maintaining detailed membership lists.

The club s Roadside Cleanup work along the Pyrenees Highway started in 1999. Geoff has been leading this activity for many years now, liaising with volunteers, organising the equipment, taking the rubbish to the tip and preparing reports for the newsletter. The club can be proud of the way we keep the 4 km stretch of the road out of town free of much of the rubbish that gets thrown from vehicles.

And of course, Geoff has been Treasurer since 2016, and keeps the club s finances in excellent order, with monthly reports to the committee – even when he and Geraldine are away exploring distant parts of Australia. Somehow they find internet connections at the right time to send out emails and submit reports.

In 2018, SEANA hosted an Australian Naturalists Network (ANN) 10-day gathering, starting in the Grampians then moving through the volcanic plains to Warrnambool, and along the Great Ocean Rd to Anglesea. 74 naturalists from 22 clubs from across Australia attended. Geraldine and Geoff with two others organised this major complex activity, from the places



Geraldine and Geoff Harris with their Life Membership certificates.

Photo: Lou Citroën

where people could stay and eat to the many excursions and speakers to showcase this cross-section through Victoria s natural wonders.

We congratulate Geraldine and Geoff on their Life Memberships and thank them for their outstanding service to the club and the nurturing of our local natural environment.

Peter Turner