

2021 MARGARET FEILMAN MEDAL

RECOGNISING INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANISATIONS WHO DEMONSTRATE MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE TO HERITAGE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Dr Robyn Taylor

Robyn is a Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts, with specialist interest in interwar architecture and design in Perth. Robyn is a long-established and experienced professional historian, heritage consultant, art and architectural historian and curator with expertise in public art and art history.

Over the last 25 years Robyn has worked on a wide range of projects across Western Australia including conservation plans and assessments, municipal inventories, providing heritage advice, guided walks, conference presentations and public lectures. She is also a published author having contributed to a number of journals, conference proceedings and the Australian Dictionary of Biography and Historical Encyclopaedia of Western Australia. She is also the joint author of *Toodyay Homesteads* with Rika Ericson. Following the devastating Toodyay bushfires, Robyn prepared a comprehensive record of the fires, compiling oral histories, photographs, media stories, official reports, and photographs of mementos and artworks from fire affected properties. Copies of this important archive are now kept by the Toodyay Historical Society and in the Shire's Museum archive.

Robyn was an inaugural Councillor on the Heritage Council of Western Australia from 1991–93. She has been a member of the Professional Historians Association (WA) since 1993, Vice President since 2016 and edited the Association's newsletter from 1995 to 2002. She has been a member of the History Council of Western Australia since 2003, Toodyay Historical Society since 2001, including stints as President and Vice President, the Society of Architectural Historians, Australia & New Zealand since the 1980s and a member of ICOMOS since the 1990s.

In 2004 Robyn was presented with a Champion Award for the Year of the Built Environment. The award acknowledged Robyn's "excellence in the field for championing improvements in the way we plan, design, construct and operate our built environment". In 2011 Robyn was awarded a High Commendation in the Western Australian State Heritage Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Heritage by a Professional in the Heritage Industry.

Robyn joined the National Trust in 1982 and served on the Council from 1993 until her recent retirement – a total of 28 years. During this time she has served as both Vice Chair and Vice President. These are elected positions and demonstrate the high regard in which she has been held over many years by other members of the Council and National Trust membership. Robyn continues as a valuable member of the Classification Standing Committee and her commitment as a volunteer for the National Trust was recognised with a 25-years plus WA Volunteer Service Award by the Department of Communities in 2020.