

2021 MARGARET FEILMAN MEDAL

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

Judy Williams

Judy took on the role of Volunteer Coordinator at Strawberry Hill at Barmup at a time when the National Trust really needed strong leadership, a steady hand, a great organiser and someone willing to devote more hours than we could sensibly have asked. The Volunteer Coordinator role is complex and demanding and Judy has performed to a very high standard since taking it on in 2017. Strawberry Hill's Albany location means that all the day-to-day running is performed entirely by volunteers and Judy has been the hub around which all the volunteer activities have rotated.

Strawberry Hill at Barmup is the only place the National Trust opens seven days a week, meaning Judy is either volunteering or makes herself available seven days a week. Always ready to lend a hand, Judy volunteers in the house, garden and kiosk herself and, if needed, fills the role of a volunteer unable to meet a scheduled session. She has taken responsibility for house and garden volunteer coordination and, since the launch of the Visitor Hub, has taken stewardship of the kiosk as well.

Judy personally interviews potential volunteers and then trains them in their roles once they are appointed, building on the basic training provided by the National Trust. She mentors all the volunteers on an ongoing basis. In addition to looking after volunteer rosters, which often need last minute adjustment due to variables in availability, Judy liaises with contractors working at the property, looks after funds received, does the banking and makes ad hoc purchases of equipment as authorised by the National Trust.

As the key contact for staff in Perth, Judy has regular meetings and phone calls on a broad range of planning, management and operational matters. Her keen insights and on-the-ground knowledge ensure practical solutions to issues are found quickly and efficiently. During the design and construction of the new Visitor Hub, Judy was a very effective on-site presence, providing an important conduit between the site and the National Trust architects. Her efforts in liaising with the architects contributed much to the smooth roll out during the construction and commissioning of the Visitor Hub.

The National Trust is extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated, talented and committed Volunteer Coordinator and her drive has been a major contributor to the successful new era we are witnessing at Strawberry Hill. As increasing numbers of visitors arrive each day to experience the significant heritage stories embedded in the cultural landscape of this place, which played a key role in the establishment of the colony of Western Australia, we thank Judy and her volunteers for their ongoing commitment and stamina.