Australian Institute of Building

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The Australian Institute of Building(AIB) is a professional society founded in 1951, incorporated in 1955 and granted a Royal Charter in 1969. The Institute is an association of building professionals, associate professionals and technicians engaged in building practice, teaching, or research throughout Australia and overseas. It has chapter offices in Hong Kong and Singapore and had a chapter office in New Zealand until the formation of the New Zealand Institute of Building in 1984.

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1. Mission and History

Serving building professionals, the AIB has helped create standards for professional competency and regulation of education standards for the various educational programs related to its mission. It has played the lead role in the establishment of all building and construction management undergraduate programs offered by Australian universities.

The mission of AIB is to be a leading body of focus for the building industry, valued for its services to its members, reflecting its ideals for education, standards and ethics and the source of authoritative and visionary comment on behalf of professionals in the industry. Its objectives are: to promote excellence in the construction of buildings and just and honourable practices in the conduct of business; to advance the study of Building and all kindred matters, arts and sciences; to encourage the friendly exchange between members of knowledge in practical, technical and ethical subjects; and to uphold the dignity of the profession of Building and the status of the Institute.

Following World War II the building industry was confronted with a huge programme of civil and commercial building. This called for improved productivity, more intelligent use of resources available and the development of new techniques and new material. Leaders of the industry appreciated that building was developing from empirical craft processes to a technological discipline spanning physical sciences and involving construction techniques which were unknown in the early part of the 20th century. Development in the science of environment and building services had also added a new dimension to building technology.

As building involved investment of public and private capital to a greater extent than any other commodity, rational, economic and efficient working was essential. Skill in the management of building work is as important as the technology itself. A trend to higher educational standards and a more positive approach to training executive and technical staff of Building organisations was clearly required.

The effect of this impact on the building industry was to highlight the need for a professional body to promote efficiency and establish a high standard of technological education for those engaged on the construction side of the industry.

A 'Committee of Investigation' was set up in 1947 by a convention called by the then Master Builders' Federation of Australia (MBFA) which, although firmly established since 1890, was not acceptable as a professional body because it was an employers' organisation. There was agreement that an Institute should be constituted on professional lines to represent the construction side of the building industry, and both the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) and the Institution of Engineers Australia (IEAust) agreed to assist in selecting the foundation membership.

The Australian Institute of Builders was established in 1951 with a foundation membership determined by a selection committee in each state, comprising two representatives of the RAIA, one representative of the IEAust and two representatives of the MBFA. The Foundation Members also included members of the Building Diplomats Association of NSW, associated with the Sydney Technical College.

On 23 November 1951 the Foundation Dinner was held in Sydney and the then Mr Robert Menzies, Prime Minister of *Australia* , was presented with a Certificate of Honorary Membership. The Institute was incorporated on 15 November 1955, granted Armorial Bearings on 20 August 1960 and incorporated by Royal Charter on 7 October 1969, despite the protests of the CIOB(UK). It had, on 26 May 1967, changed its name to The Australian Institute of Building (AIB).

Having established itself and received recognition accorded by a Royal Charter, the Institute began to redefine its educational requirements at Licentiate and Corporate grade. It then set about ensuring that the then degree and certificate courses in building which were available met the standards which the Institute required. From this has developed a course assessment/qualification accreditation system which has proven to be of great value to academic institutions and the industry.

While graduates in building were recognised immediately by the private sector, recognition in the public sector was harder to achieve. The breakthrough came in 1977 with the recognition by the Public Service Board of Degrees in Building for the positions of Project Manager Class 1-3, Area Manager Class 1-3 and Construction Manager. Recognition of the AIB as a professional institute was accorded in the Commonwealth Gazette in March 1983. This approval, under the Industrial Research and Development Incentives Act, recognises Corporate members of the Institute as professionally qualified.

Since its establishment in 1968 the Australian Institute of Building Research and Education Foundation has funded developments in education and specific research projects. One of these projects determined the duties and responsibilities of, and the levels of competence required by, professionals and technicians in the Building industry. In 1990 the AIB became an Associate of the International Council for Building Research (CIB). The AIB Papers, a journal of refereed academic papers, has been published by the Institute since 1986.

The By-laws and Regulations were amended to allow for changes to grades of member in 1981, 1992 and 1997.

With the Foundation of a New Zealand Institute of Building (NZIOB) in 1984, the New Zealand Chapter of the AIB was closed down. The AIB continues to have a close relationship with NZIOB.

In 1997 the AIB became a foundation member of the International Association for the Professional Management of Construction (IAPMC).

So as to streamline management decisions, in 1996 the Council delegated most of its authority to an Executive Board of Management.

Pending development of industry wide competency based standards, the Institute produced standards for its own membership purposes. These standards are also used for assessing applicants for the National Building Professionals Register (NBPR) which the AIB launched in 1997.

A Hong Kong Chapter was established in 1998, and AIB's overseas operations expanded considerably ten years later.

AIB is also the convenor of the Australian Building and Construction Higher Education Round Table, the peak body to bring together the construction industry and Australian universities.

HRH Prince Philip is an Honorary Fellow.[1]

2. Notable Past and Present Office Bearers

- Manuel Hornibrook (President 1952–1956) was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1957[2] and a Knight Bachelor in 1960 for services to the building industry.[3]
- Bert Jennings (President 1964–1966)[4] was made a Knight Bachelor in 1969 for services to commerce.[5]
- Dr William Mansell, (NSW Chapter President 2009–2010) was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2016 for his services to the building industry through technological innovation in design and construction, and for his services to professional associations. He holds an honorary doctorate in engineering from the University of Sydney.[6]
- Adj Professor Paul Heather AM JP FRSN FAIB (current National President) was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2017 for "significant services to the building and construction industry through leadership of professional bodies, and to industry based education". He holds Masters Degree of Project Management from the University of Newcastle, and is an adjunct Professor at Central Queensland University, in keeping with the AIB's motto 'Advance through Learning' he continues his professional development studies at the University of Canberra working on his Higher Research Degree, (PhD).

3. Building Standards

AIB participates in generating building standards[7] and helping regulate bringing new and existing buildings up to code in areas like asbestos[8] and bush fire safety.[9]

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