

## Honorary Fellowship Citation for **JOHN ACTON DAWSON**

John Acton Dawson was born on 13th August, 1932. He completed primary education by correspondence in Queensland as no local school was close enough to attend. Then John attended Haileybury College, Brighton as a boarder for 5 years to complete secondary school.

John was familiar with surveying as a career as his great-grandfather Henry Charles Kempson was the Shire Engineer and Surveyor for Berwick in the 1860s. More importantly, Henry Kempson had joined the Institution of Surveyors Victoria as a foundation member in 1874.

John's pathway into surveying started with serving articles under Mr. E. S. Crouch at Dandenong and attending night school at Melbourne Technical College (now RMIT University). John passed the Surveyors Board examinations and was issued with Certificate of Competency and licence to practice on 6th May, 1958.

Two years later John joined Bryan Hill to form the partnership of Hill and Dawson in 1960. This business grew into a well- respected surveying and town planning practice at Dandenong.

John's association with the Institution of Australia, Victoria Division, commenced as a student on 15th July, 1952 and continued with up-grading to Associate on 29th July, 1958 and Corporate member on 27th July, 1960.

John served as Honorary Treasurer between 1972 and 1976 a period that saw the introduction of the Finance Sub-Committee with John as Convener to budget the Victoria Division's resources. John was the Honorary Treasurer in ISVs centenary year.

John was elected as Vice President for the year 1977. In this role, John became heavily involved in implementing the effects of the new Trade Practices Act on the Code of Ethics and the surveying profession. This included frequent discussions with the Victoria Division's solicitors and a trip to a seminar sponsored by the New South Wales Division in Sydney.

John was elected President of the ISV in 1978 and carried out the duties of President in his normal quiet but very capable manner.

As Immediate Past President in 1979 John convened the Legal and Legislative Sub-Committee, and remained an active member of the ISV's Executive Committee and advisor until his retirement.

John was elected a Fellow of ISV in 1979, nominated by luminaries of the profession including Surveyor General Ray Holmes, James Thompson, Ray Smith, Francis Culliver, Ed Sim and Geoff Thomson.

Together with Gordon (Don) Valentine, John also served as an ISV representative on the Victorian Council of Professions. Don went on to become president of the Council and John was appointed secretary.

John retired from Hill and Dawson in 1994, but remained very active in ISV for a further 10 years, being appointed or co-opted to assist the profession in several roles. The Surveyors Board of Victoria gave him the job of reviewing and bringing up to date, Part 2, Survey Procedures, of the Survey Practice Handbook. John also spent several years as an examiner of cadastral survey projects for the Surveyors Board.

Consulting Surveyors Victoria appointed John to a panel of experienced surveyors who examine and report on the merits of insurance claims made against surveyors in private practice. This John did for several years.

For years during his practice and well into retirement younger surveyors would often seek out John's views and advice. John was well respected for listening and offering confidential and honest guidance.

John also promoted the profession through aspects of his personal life.

He worked as a member of Apex for 16 years resulting in his elevation to Life Member of Apex. John was a long-term member of Rotary serving a term as president and was named a Paul Harris Fellow.

John and his wife Nola expended an enormous amount of time and energy helping to run the Dandenong Festival of Music and Art for Youth, an event which helped launch the musical and artistic careers of many young people.

John's elevation to Honorary Fellow recognises his dedication and value to the profession for over 70 years as a member.