

CITATION FOR HONORARY FELLOW
Institution of Surveyors Victoria

Alan Edward Timcke, LS, FISV

Alan commenced his surveying career with the State Rivers & Water Supply Commission (SR&WSC) as a chainman in 1953 under the direction of Mr Syd Saunders. Three years later in 1956 he commenced his articles under the watchful eye of Mr Arnold Windsor, located at Kerang and in the serenity of Bonnie Doon.

During his period of articles Alan was involved in title surveys, engineering and construction surveys across various survey zones administered by the SR&WSC. In addition, like many other surveyors going through the Articles system, Alan spent six months at the then Titles Office learning all the tricks of the trade from a vast array of experienced surveyors. This wealth of training led to Alan passing all of his Board exams and he was granted his certificate of Competency on 21st June 1963. Alan was admitted as a Student Member of ISV in 1953 advanced to Associate Member in August 1963.

Following his elevation to a licensed surveyor within the SR&WSC, Alan continued to work on title and engineering surveys as development in the irrigation sector was rapidly expanding in the northern areas of the state. However, in 1965 Alan spent six months with the then Dandenong Valley Authority showcasing his talents and skills as a surveyor in a smaller water authority.

In September 1965 Alan was elevated to a Full Member of the Institution.

When you sight the information on Alan's applications to become an Associate and Member, it refers to his training and a couple of things stand out. He was a member of the C.M.F. in the Royal Australian Survey Corps and his training included 1st Order Tellurometer traversing, topographical surveying and photogrammetric control and machines. Alan is well known for his love of tellurometers and using them to measure extraordinary long lines for coordinating map control. Younger surveyors, technicians and chainmen working under him, would endure long days carrying the heavy gear up to the top of Pyramid Hill, Mt Hope, etc., to take a range of measurements to places far away. To this day Alan has a tellurometer in the ceiling of his house in Glen Iris, waiting for a chance to be used again. Compare this to carrying a GNSS receiver up there today.

Alan took over as Superintending Surveyor at the Kerang and Mildura offices in the 1970s and stayed in that position until the late 1980s when he was transferred to Armadale to run the southern region. By this stage the SR&WSC had changed to the Rural Water Commission and/or Corporation. During his time at Kerang, Alan was a well-known professional in the surveying industry and he endured a period of significant change and challenges for the water industry. Various salinity schemes were being put in place during the late 1970s to late 1980s and Alan was involved in doing the fieldwork as well dealing with office duties. Alan could be seen on Lake Tyrell in temperatures of + 30 wearing a tie and holding a staff. He maintained he was protecting his skin from the sun, which certainly was the case in that part of the world.

Fortunately for Alan in the Kerang office he had an experienced team of operators from licensed surveyors, survey technicians and survey assistants all eager to please the "boss". Some would sneak into the vehicle Alan was going to use that day and turn the music up as loud as possible, driving him to near insanity. When a new Ute was purchased, a concrete slab was poured into the tray to give it stability. It surely worked!

Occasionally new technology was introduced, although Alan shied away from this and has done so successfully to this day. He does have a mobile phone and can send the occasional email but talking to people is far better. Barbara Timcke makes an excellent secretary for all of these new bits and pieces.

On leaving the Rural Water Corporation in 1995, Alan commenced his own private surveying business Timcke McIntosh, with a Scottish pipe playing surveying colleague Doug McIntosh. Alan and Doug rarely agreed on the

same procedure for a project but in all that achieved a significant amount. They continue to practice to this day, although Alan says he is slowing down and finds it a little difficult to climb fences these days. No wonder, as he is in his mid-80s and still working. The Government is proud of him.

Alan also proved to be an effective teacher of surveying in the water sector and also the TAFE sector in Shepparton. He taught for a number of years at the Certificate III and IV levels, particularly in survey practice and surveying computations. Just to prove that blackboards do not always get cleaned, there is one at TAFE still showing a variety of computations for students. Alan always taught from first principles so that students knew exactly where results came from, and not just from pressing a button.

During all his time as a surveying professional Alan has been a keen member of the Institution of Surveyors and has served at committee level for a number of occasions. He is currently a Director of the Board, although he is thinking of retiring this year, which is what he said in 2017 when elevated to Fellow.

Alan has served on the committee and Board of ISV at various times from the late 1960s to early 1970s, the late 1980s and again from 2005 to this current day. Not too many members can lay a claim to this devotion to a professional body. Alan held the portfolio of SSI/ SSSI from 2006 to 2011 and the Sustainability/Governance portfolio from 2015 and has worked on various ISV Strategic Plans. Alan has also served on the Professional Practice sub-committee, later the Standards committee, and remains the ISV Board representative on that committee. He has not just been making up the numbers but has been a passionate and reliable contributor. Alan has also played a lead role in updating ISV's constitution over the years. In 2009 he was presented with his 50 Year Membership certificate.

Anyone who has served with Alan will acknowledge his committee wisdom and wordsmith skills.

Whilst Alan has been a significant contributor to the surveying profession, particularly in the water industry and in the Royal Australian Army, this citation is about his significant contribution to the surveying industry by way of his involvement in the Institution of Surveyors. Not too many surveyors have served effectively on both committee and the Board as much as Alan and for this he must be commended.

Alan has now retired from Timcke McIntosh, but continues to serve on ISV Board bring wisdom and a lifetime of proper practice and good governance.