

MASTER



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2025

VOL 80  
ISSUE 01

# BUILDERS

V I C T O R I A



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

A Call to Accelerate Action  
for Women in Construction **PAGE 08**

# SUPPORTING THE INDUSTRY FOR 150 YEARS





# Master Builders Victoria's 150th Year Anniversary



**In 2025, the Master Builders Association of Victoria (MBV) proudly celebrates the milestone of supporting our industry for 150 years.**

**F**ounded in 1875 by a group of distinguished builders committed to elevating standards within the building and construction industry, MBV has steadfastly supported members through periods of hardship including wars, recessions, and more recently, a global pandemic.

Throughout these challenging periods, construction never ceased. Homes were built, and infrastructure projects across both Regional and Metropolitan Melbourne continued, with MBV persistently advocating, educating, and representing the sector and its members.

As one of the largest industry associations in the country, MBV have played a pivotal role in advancing the industry, growing the organisation from the ground up to benefit past, present, and future builders. Our legacy is one that all MBV members can take pride in. Alongside our advocacy, services, and renowned training programs, we also celebrate the achievements of our members through the prestigious MBV Excellence in Building Awards.

These awards recognise the outstanding achievements across civil construction, commercial, and residential building. They highlight the exceptional craftsmanship, dedication to building excellence, and professional standards of our members. The awards provide an important platform for members to showcase their projects to a broader audience and attract potential clients. Additionally, our Apprentice Award series celebrate the achievements of the next generation of tradespeople, offering them invaluable opportunities to connect with the MBV network and a pathway to membership, helping shape a future-ready industry.



Over the past 150 years, MBV has developed award-winning training programs through our MBV Training Institute, alongside the world-class Leadership Simulation Centre (LSC). As one of only three such centres in the world, the LSC and MBV Training Institute, provide best-practice, industry-standard training, highlighting MBV's dedication to the long-term growth of the industry and advancing sector development for the benefit of future generations.

As a proud Life Member of our Association that has represented us all, through good times and bad, my contribution to Master Builders Victoria has been as a builder, that helped pave some of our great State's landscape, along with more recently Government advocacy. MBV has become one of the leading organisations that State and Federal Governments turn to for matters pertaining to planning, advice, and building regulations. Members can be confident that our voice will always be heard by the MBV executive team and board, who are committed to

presenting their concerns and ideas to key decision-makers and government representatives whenever possible.

A huge thank you to all members, employees, board members, executive team, and volunteers at Master Builders Victoria for their unwavering commitment and contributions over the past 150 years. **To celebrate this milestone, MBV will be hosting a special 150th Anniversary Event on Friday, 14th November 2025, at Victoria Pavilion.** Further details, including updates on additional events and exclusive 150th Anniversary merchandise, will be shared throughout the year.

Looking forward to all that is to come for Master Builders Victoria as we continue empowering people to build a better future.

## ARTICLE AUTHOR

**MBV Ambassador,  
MBV Member 40 years,  
MBV Life Member:**  
Glenn Jones





A look back at MBV...

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1928. Building and Construction and Casualty's Contract Reporter.

# Master Builders!

Are You a Member of a Master Builders' Association?

If Not, Why Not?

## THE VICTORIAN MASTER BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION

exists for the purpose of safeguarding the interests of its members in their regular business as Master Builders or Contractors, protecting them against injustice or oppression in the fair and proper execution of such works as they may from time to time contract to carry out.

Full particulars upon application,  
W. T. BARNES, A.Q.I.A., Secretary,  
Manufacturers' Buildings, 312 Flinders Street,  
MELBOURNE.

Telephone: Central 6509.

MBV original advertisement from 1928

# THE AUSTRALIAN BUILDER

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF  
THE MASTER BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA  
and THE BUILDERS EXCHANGE

PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
Melbourne

FREE ENTERPRISE

VOLUME 1, No. 1

JULY 1949

The first volume and issue of the original Master Builder Victoria Magazine 1949

THE AUSTRALIAN BUILDER—JULY, 1949. Page Seven

# EDITORIAL

## A POLICY

ALL too frequently people seek to summarize a policy with a crisp word or phrase which indicates a general idea but none of the thoughts which surround it. It is right, therefore, that in this first issue of a journal which has a policy, proper expression should be given to its underlying purpose and the thoughts which initiated its publication.

The building industry is the third largest in our economy, but because of its many components and somewhat complex nature it is frequently looked on as a disjointed entity subject to turbulent fluctuation. It is sometimes maligned as inefficient, corrupt, risky and unorganized; and because shelter is a basic essential of life, the industry from time to time becomes the hobby-horse of politics, just as it is now.

Daily newspapers serve the public with events of the moment, but have no reason to afford time and space to record industrial accomplishments or deal instructively with requirements outside the general ambit of their reading public. It is necessary—more so now than ever before—for industry to tell its own story and express informed views so that they who read may learn.

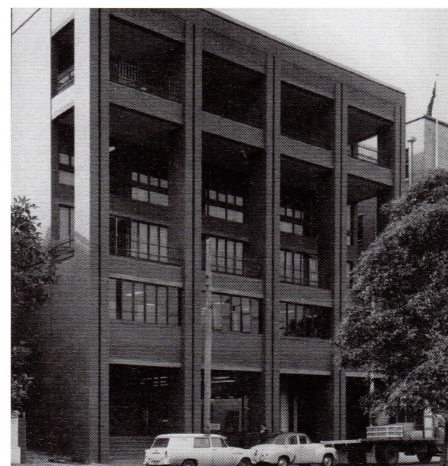
Since 1875 this Association has represented the interests of free enterprise in building construction. Those interests now demand authoritative expression in written form so that the fallacious arguments and distortions of Socialism and Communism may be refuted. It is equally important in these days of detailed administration, variable economy and technical development that accurate information should be regularly disseminated among those executive responsible for business undertakings.

Policy, then, is clearly defined by the requirements of the building industry as a whole; and acceptance of such a policy bespeaks a task of some magnitude aptly expressed by a famous English architect, Sir Peter Nicholson, in 1823 when writing of his own publication:

*"The grand principle of the undertaking is obvious; it is equally calculated to instruct the untaught and to assist the intelligent; to promote a generous emulation, and at once to incite and satisfy enquiry into the elements and practice of those branches of science (building) than which no others are more conducive to the comfort and happiness of mankind."*

A task has been established which necessitates the co-operation of all sections of a vast industry. This journal is an important building project which is accepted in like manner to all constructional works and, as such, must be accomplished.

The first editorial in the original Master Builder Victoria Magazine 1949



Master Builders Victoria original building in East Melbourne

