



## A Very Brief History of Aubrey Russell Houghton Licensed Surveyor, Registration No.695

**Aubrey Houghton** was born on 17 June 1923 on a soldier settlement allotment in Pound Round, Warrandyte and attended Warrandyte State School before receiving his secondary education at University High School. At age 16 he joined the Forest Commission of Victoria as a draughtsman alongside **Jim Love** and one year later, was articled to **Roy Camm** to become a licensed surveyor. At age 19, and just one month after being married, he enlisted in the Australian Air Force. He was sent to Canada to receive training in long range navigation before being posted to Gibraltar to navigate Catalina flying boats for the Royal Air Force in both the Mediterranean and the North Atlantic seas on convoy escorts and anti-submarine patrol.

After Aub's demobilisation from the Air Force, he returned to the Forest Commission and attained his Licence and Certificate of Competency in September 1947, just over 60 years ago. The occasion of the awarding of his licence in the Office of the Surveyor-General at 1 Treasury Place, was a 'low key affair'. Aub's licence is signed by **Mr Oscar Pearson** (Surveyor-General), **Mr Jim Thornton-Smith**

(founder of the School of Surveying and later Professor at Melbourne University) and **Mr Frank Arter** (who was later to become Surveyor-General of Victoria).

With the exception of discussions with the Secretary of the Surveyors Board from time to time with respect to articles for his subsequent pupils, Aub had no further contact with the Board for another 50 years on the occasion of his first audit!

Aub continued with the Forest Commission for another 17 years and enjoyed the experiences shared in the field with the likes of **Rex Downes** (later Lands Department Divisional Surveyor) and **Don Grant** (later Professor and Surveyor-General of both SA and NSW).

In 1964, Aub left the Forest Commission to become a lecturer in surveying at the RMIT and was reacquainted with his former Forest Commission colleague, **Mr Jim Love**. He found this role in the "big smoke" to be challenging but rewarding and during this time, completed an Associate Diploma of Civil Engineering, an Associate Diploma of Cartography and a Fellowship Diploma of Surveying. All of these he simply describes as "letters" and in his opinion, the only true qualifications he has received are his Certificate of Competency and of course, his Licence. Ultimately, the desire to *be* a surveyor and not a teacher got the better of him and in 1968, he resigned from RMIT to further develop his own practice in Noble Park which continues to this day.

Aub is one of nature's gentlemen, with a profound sense of the role and value of a licensed surveyor within the community, but he regards navigation as his 'first love'. He sees significant similarities between aircraft navigation and surveying and differentiates them by describing surveying as being "done at a slower pace but with increased levels of accuracy".

The Board congratulates **Aubrey Russell Houghton** on his personal contribution to surveying in Victoria and presents him with this *Certificate of Achievement* in attaining 60 years of registration and continuous practice as a Licensed Surveyor in Victoria.



[L to R] David Boyle, Aub Houghton and John Tulloch

David Boyle

Patron  
Professor David de Kretser, AO,  
Governor of Victoria