

# **Brief History of the Australian Institute of Traffic Planning & Management**

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## **The Australian Institute of Traffic Technology**

On 21st June 1965, 67 practitioners associated with the operation, planning and management of road traffic came together to form the Traffic Planning and Control Group for the purpose of promoting discussion and free exchange of ideas and information on Traffic & Transport Planning and Control amongst persons practicing and interested in these fields.

Many of those were not eligible for membership of professional institutions, and it became clear that there was a need for a non-restrictive association to foster developments in this emerging area.

On 4th July 1966 the Australian Institute of Traffic Technology was formed with about 60 members and a budget of \$33.29. Annual membership dues were set at \$5.00.

The foundation President was Bruce Sinclair, a life member of the institute. Within 4 months, membership had increased to about 100 and budget to \$500. Harry Camkin volunteered to write the first AITT Newsletter.

Membership was and is still based on a person's working experience, expertise and interests, as well as academic qualifications.

By 1976, the Institute had doubled to about 125 members mostly in NSW. However, during the late 70<sup>th</sup> the Institute went into a hiatus and lost over 25 percent of its membership we were less than 90 members and falling. Some committee members even suggested we should close the institute down. As a result the 1980 *committee was directed as matter of priority to make an appraisal of the role of the AITT.*

## **The Australian Institute of Traffic Planning and Management**

The outcome of that review was to stimulate the growth of the Institute by broadening its membership and focus, and to encourage transport and urban planners to join. To reflect this course of action, the constitution was amended on 22 June 1981 to change the Institute's name to the Australian Institute of Traffic Planning and Management or more affectionately known as AITPM. We had \$1,000 in the bank and annual membership fee was \$8.00. Fred Gennaoui was the first President of the renamed Institute.

A major innovation of the AITPM foundation committee was the organisation of the first Forum, in 1982 in Sydney, titled *Local Area Traffic Planning*, which was then followed by very successful one day Forums and National Conference initially established as one day event , but is now held over two or three days in order to cater for all interest. The national Conference has developed an unrivalled reputation for bringing together traffic planning and management practitioners from Federal, State and Local government, private practice and academic institutions.

From its beginnings as a small group of practitioners in Sydney, the Institute has now become a truly National organisation, with Branches in South Australia (1987), NSW and Queensland in 1989, Victoria (1997) and Western Australia (1999).

Each branch is active in organising technical meetings and seminars to provide opportunities for all members to meet and discuss common interests. In recent years a series of regional seminars has been established to provide members and practitioners in provincial centres with an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas.

The quarterly printed newsletter has become a monthly electronic one, sent to all members to stimulate discussion and exchange of views, and to keep members informed of technical developments and activities in all Branches.

Initiatives introduced over the last decade include the University Prizes for best Students in Transport or Traffic related fields. The Scholars Awards for appropriate candidates is another successful initiative as demonstrated last night.

The AITPM now has impressive range of Corporate members and sponsors including state road and traffic authorities, automobile associations, government departments and private industry.

Membership of the Institute is seen by many employers as a pre-requisite for employment in the profession.

Since the early 1980s, the AITPM has experienced continuous growth. It has more than 500 members and corporate members, representing practitioners in federal and state government agencies, local government councils, private practice, academic institutions and manufacturers. The AITPM is governed by a National Council in accordance with the rules and procedures set down in its Constitution and By-Laws, and enjoys the Patronage of the relevant Government Minister in each State.