

Our History

Foundations in education

The first seeds for AILDm were planted in May 1993, when a group of Applied Science (Landscape) students at Charlestown TAFE met to discuss their idea for a professional body to support graduates of their course. Over the next two years, they spent many hundreds of hours in Convening and Steering Committees as they built support for the association.

TAFE teacher David Copland, was asked to advise the committee, and they sought advice from a local civil engineer and council members. Initially it was formed as an association of landscape technicians within the Hunter and Central Coast regions.

The Institute was incorporated as a public company on 29 July, 1994. Allan Correy, a foundation member of the Landscape Architects' Institute and a lecturer in Landscape Architecture at Sydney University, agreed to be Patron of the Institute and the Sydney Chapter was officially inaugurated.

Advocating for landscape designers

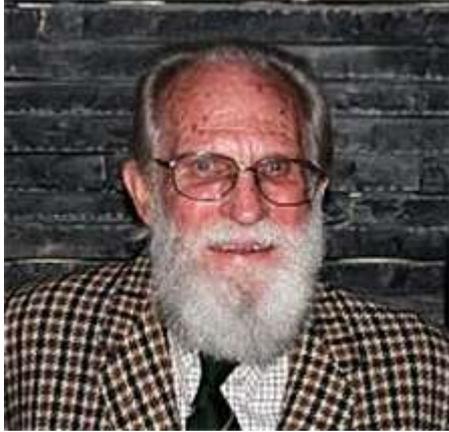
On Friday, 10 February, 1995 at an evening cocktail party at Hyde Park Barracks in Sydney, the Hon Robert Webster, Minister for Housing & Planning officially launched the Australian Institute of Landscape Designers & Managers Ltd.

The Sydney Chapter held its first meeting at Ryde TAFE on Friday, 16 June, 1995 and elected associate Graham Fletcher as the first Sydney Chapter Convenor. Members of the Institute quickly began representing the interests of landscape designers on the Rural Training Council and the Amenity Horticulture and Landscape Council, judging Landscape Awards and organising AILDm displays at exhibitions. Today they work closely with TAFEs and other associated bodies to represent the interests of this profession, and help to shape the future of landscape design in Australia.

We would like to thank all the members of the 1993 Convening Committee, Steering Committee and Interim Council for their commitment to bringing this association to life. Over the past 20 years it has provided valuable advice, support and inspiration to many thousands of members.

- › Yolanne Ellam
- › Mim Woodland
- › Kevin Mahoney
- › Gwen Savia
- › Darryl Barkley
- › Carolyn Gillard
- › Ray Boyle
- › Theo Drinkwater
- › Janelle Harvey
- › Marie Fowler
- › David Copland
- › David Grant
- › Maryann Searl
- › Russell Brown
- › Helen Geosits (Mansfield)
- › John Hollins

Founding Patron



Allan Correy (AILDM Patron 1994-2012)

Allan Correy is one of a handful of landscape architects who trained overseas in England and America in the 1950s, and returned to be one of Australia's landscape architecture pioneers.

He gained practical experience as a gardener at the Sydney Botanic Garden before moving overseas, and on his return to Australia in 1961 became the first landscape architect appointed in South Australia. There he designed a new botanic garden at Mt Lofty near Adelaide.

Between 1961 and 1967 Allan practised widely in SA experimenting with both an ecological and modernist approach. For the Mt Lofty Botanic Garden Masterplan, he applied systematic ecological planning for the first time in Australia and used the overlay mapping techniques learned from Brian Hackett in England and Ian McHarg in America to inform the design. His geometric design for the Sculpture Court of the National Gallery of South Australia took a modernist approach, as did his stylised mounds for the forecourt, carport and entry to the Highways Department Building.

In private practice he designed domestic gardens using recycled building materials, ground modelling, local stone, native trees and mass shrubs and groundcover to create places that soothe the human psyche and celebrate nature.

Allan returned to Sydney in 1967 to head the new Landscape Section of the Government Architect's Branch of the Public Works Department heralding the beginning of landscape architecture in the public domain in NSW. Work from this period set new standards for the profession and included the Australian Section of Taronga Zoo. It's organic approach to the geometry and use of local plant species and materials to frame the Sydney Harbour view created a strong Australian identity and sense of place in the spirit of, but pre-dating, the Sydney Bush School. This project also marked the introduction of a sophisticated level of detailing, unusual in the public domain of the time.

Allan did not restrict his interests to design. His later work in the public domain helped to build a framework for environmentally responsible site evaluation and impact assessment as an essential part of landscape architecture. He has applied his knowledge to teaching, writing and speaking, thereby contributing to landscape architecture in an all embracing way.

AILDM was very proud to have Allan as its Patron until he resigned due to poor health in 2012. It was with great sadness that AILDM received news of his death in May 2016.
(Allan's history written by Terry Boyle)