

# Media Release

## Building industry icon honoured on Australia Day

January 28, 2020

Building innovator Robert Torrance has been awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for his outstanding service to the West Australian construction industry in the Australia Day Honours.

Master Builders WA put forward the award nomination and Executive Director John Gelavis said Mr Torrance was a hero to the association.

“Rob Torrance is an icon in the WA building industry but few outside it would realise how much he has done to create the landmark buildings of our state while also introducing innovations which lower noise levels on construction sites and make work safer,” Mr Gelavis said.

“Rob is a registered builder but his expertise focused on piling and underpinning multi-storey construction, including almost every new project on St Georges Terrace for 20 years from 1970.

“Under challenging site conditions, Rob pioneered methods to keep Perth’s high-rise structures standing strong. He worked on the AMP site, Swan Brewery redevelopment and many other projects.

“Rob’s specialty was in coming up with solutions to difficult situations, such as supporting old buildings including Trinity Church and developing a construction method to build the first boardwalk in WA over a lake in Booragoon with minimal disturbance of the lake bottom. His system has been adopted for many other boardwalks in the state.

“Passionate about beautiful heritage buildings, he built the UWA bookshop in the late 1960s, faithfully matching the stonework to that in Winthrop Hall.

“Rob is the founder of Torrance Constructions and has been a Master Builder member since 1965. He has served as President and Western Australia’s representative on the national board as well as serving on Western Australia’s Construction Safety Advisory Committee, Building Regulations Advisory Committee and Building Disputes Tribunal.

“In 2007, Rob was awarded the Robert Law Award for his extraordinary contribution to our industry and to Master Builders WA. He has also been granted life membership.

“On behalf of Master Builders and the building and construction industry I would like to congratulate Rob for his national honour and his great contribution to Master Builders Western Australia and the entire building and construction industry.”

**For more information please contact: John Gelavis, Director – w: 9476 9800 m: 0428 884 392**