

MEDIA RELEASE

From apprentice to Master Builders National President

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From apprentice to Master Builders National President, WA builder Robert Shaw has just been elected to lead the building and construction sector's peak body.

Master Builders Australia is the national voice of the \$200 billion building and construction industry and represents eight state and territory associations, including MBAWA, and 32,000 members nationwide.

Mr Shaw's connection to the building and construction industry runs deep.

Starting his career over 45 years ago as a carpentry apprentice in regional NSW, Mr Shaw made the move to WA in the 1980s and co-founded decorated building company Daly & Shaw, where he remains Director.

But Mr Shaw wasn't content to just work in the industry – he's always been driven to help it.

Over his career, Mr Shaw has made a significant contribution to the industry nationally. He has a particular leadership focus in the residential building sector, and has been a long-standing Master Builders Australia National Board Member and Chair of the National Residential Builders Council.

Closer to home, Mr Shaw served as Chair of the MBAWA Housing Council for seven years, as a long-standing member of the MBAWA Board until 2025, and as its President from 2011 – 2013.

In 2023, he was a recipient of both the prestigious Robert Law Award and a life membership from MBAWA for his contributions to the industry.

Asked about what drives him in his pursuits, Mr Shaw answered simply: he just loves the industry.

"The building and construction industry has allowed me to earn a living and make a life; I feel passionately about giving back and ensuring others can do the same."

Mr Shaw acknowledged the outgoing National President, Tasmanian building and construction industry leader Craig Edmunds, who will conclude his term after three years as National President and a decade of service as a National Board member.

"Craig has successfully led Master Builders Australia into a new era of advocacy, ensuring our organisation is recognised as the pre-eminent national voice for the building and construction industry."

"His leadership has championed best practice and strengthened the foundations for reform."

Speaking about the current state of the industry and outlining priorities for the future, Mr Shaw said that he will continue to build upon the good work Mr Edmunds oversaw during his tenure.

“I look forward to building on Craig’s legacy and working with the Board and members to advance the industry at a time of both challenge and opportunity.”

“We face a complex economic environment, weak productivity, and workforce shortages, while also being called upon to deliver an ambitious housing and infrastructure agenda.”

“Master Builders will continue to lead with solutions, collaboration, and a commitment to supporting our members and the communities they serve,” Mr Shaw said.

Alongside his National Presidency, Mr Shaw is the inaugural Chair of the FutureBuild Academy, a new group training initiative by MBAWA that aims to attract new apprentices to a career in building and construction through a mix of improved workplace conditions, personal development opportunities and a focus on apprentice mental health.

Mr Shaw is also an Owner and Director of Western Ladders Pty Ltd, Western Timbers Pty Ltd, and Heritage Pioneer Developments.

Outside of building and construction, and reflecting his broader commitment to community and organisational leadership, Mr Shaw is a former President of Netball Australia.

MBAWA is proud one of our own is now our National President.

About Master Builders WA

Master Builders Western Australia (MBAWA) services the needs of the entire building and construction industry, from residential to commercial, civil engineering businesses, principal contractors to subcontractors, manufacturers and suppliers. We assist members by providing access to a wide range of specialised services, recognition through awards, and advocacy to government and industry. MBAWA also serves the Western Australian public by fostering best practice work standards.

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Images:

A selection of images of Mr Shaw and the new National Board are attached.

For more information:

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