

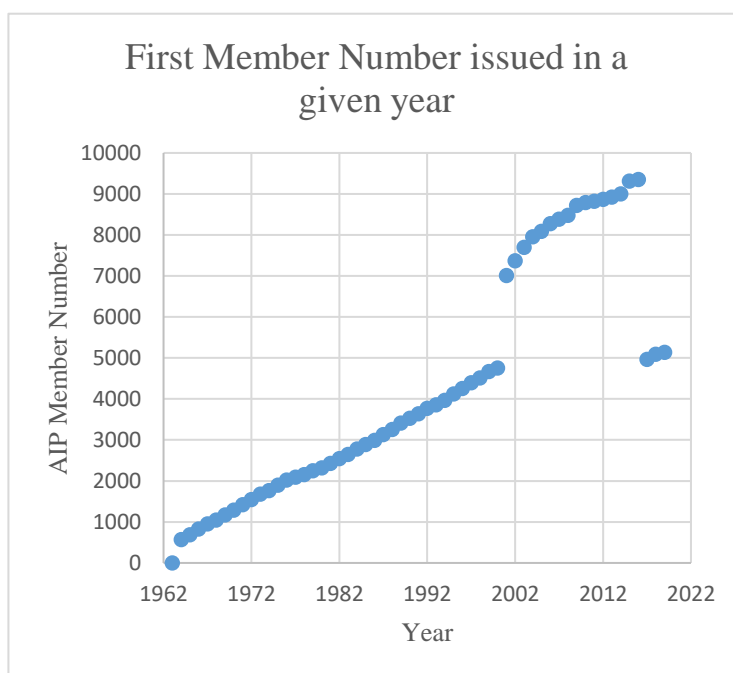
# 60 Years of the Australian Institute of Physics

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The Australian Institute of Physics (AIP) was established in early 1963, evolving from the Australian Branch of the Institute of Physics (IOP) in the UK. As the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its formation approaches an overview of its achievements, operations and challenges is provided, building on the detailed account of its formation provided some years ago [1], facilitated by accessing the archives of its operations (held in storage).

Almost 500 members of the IOP had their membership moved to the AIP, providing the new Institute with a solid foundation for establishing itself as a separate entity. Full members were issued with a Member Number, and the Figure illustrates the AIP's recruitment of new Members over the years, by plotting the first Member Number issued each year. However, due to the practices of the various secretariats, there are some discontinuities, and the total number of AIPs Members to date can only be estimated (about 6000); i.e., there have been around 100 new members added each year.



The newly-formed AIP in 1963 included people born in the last decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century as well as research students. Early Members included many well-known physicists, such as Sir Mark Oliphant, with the “honour” of being Member Number 1 going to Bart Bok (1906-1983) who was then at ANU (Director of the Mount Stromlo Observatory). The integrated list of AIP Members includes physicists who have had distinguished careers, in universities, research organisations or industry. Those in universities include those who have been Heads of Departments or Schools, or Deans and several have been a Vice Chancellor. Others have contributed in other ways in public life. There have been around 30 awards of a prestigious AIP Honorary Fellowship.

Over the past 60 years the AIP, through its Executive, committees, groups and branches, has been a staunch advocate of physics in Australia, including responding to governmental issues or other pressing national concerns. It continues to seek the provision of world-standard national research facilities and funding.

[1] A. Binnie, *Australian Physics* **44**, 39 (2007); **44**, 128 (2007); **45**, 93 (2008).