

FREDERICK BRUCE LUCAS

President November 1938 - November 1939

Born in 1898 at Brighton, Victoria, Bruce Lucas moved with his parents to live in Brisbane while still a child. There he was educated at Brisbane Grammar School before entering the office of Claude Chambers and Lange Powell to learn architecture while studying in random evening classes at the Brisbane Central Technical College. On his return from overseas service with the A.I.F. during 1917-19 Lucas enrolled in the School of Architecture at the University of Sydney. In 1922 he graduated as one of the first three holders of a B.Arch. degree in Australia. After travelling in Europe and the U.S.A. he returned to Brisbane to set up his own practice in 1927. In 1935 he entered into partnership with Robert Percy Cummings. In the same year both men became lecturers in architecture at the Central Technical College and in 1938 at the University of Queensland. It was the beginning of an intimate association both in practice and education that was to last until their retirement together in December in 1966—Cummings as the foundation Professor of Architecture and Lucas as a Reader.

Lucas became an Associate of the R.A.I.A. in 1930 and a councillor and Fellow in 1933. It was Lucas's enthusiasm and actions that turned the Queensland Institute of Architects into the Queensland Chapter of the R.A.I.A. in 1935. In 1938 he became president of the R.A.I.A. and in 1959, because of his service to his profession, he was elected a Life Fellow. Lucas's service includes work on numerous boards and committees, particularly in the fields of education and arbitration, in both of which he has the highest reputation for openness of mind, fairness, and sound judgment. He was founder and chairman of the Queensland Chapter Board of Architectural Education.

An active member of the Church of England and the Asthma Foundation, he is a living legend to his ex-students, the public and the architectural profession in Queensland.