



Building Designers
Association Victoria

BDAV AGM 2014

Minutes of the 32nd Annual General Meeting
of the Building Designers Association of Victoria
held on Tuesday, 7 October 2014
at the Victorian Arts Centre, Melbourne

CHAIRMAN:

Alastair McDonald, BDAV Vice-President

ATTENDANCE:

110 Members, as per Attendance Register
Giselle Grynbaum, BDAV; Kate Bell, BDAV;
Chris Webber and Daniel Webber, Webber
Insurance Services; Michael Fookes and
Peter Sandow, FMSA

Apologies: As per Apologies Register

1. OPENING

In declaring the meeting open at 6.05 pm, the Chairman welcomed all in attendance, especially Life Members and Fellows of the Association who were present. He apologised that the BDAV's President, Michael O'Sullivan, was not able to be present due to ill health. He also acknowledged the BDAV's sponsors, and introduced the members of the BDAV's Committee of Management who were present.

2. SPONSOR PRESENTATION

Mr Florent Hostein from James Hardie Australia spoke about their new HardiSmart systems, their EasyLap panels for a render look, and their architectural InVibe/InRaw pre-finished panels. He also reminded Members about James Hardie's Accel website, at www.accel.com.au which contains valuable information for design professionals.

3. INSURANCE PRESENTATION

Mr Chris Webber from Webber Insurance Services – the newly-appointed broker for the BDAV's Insurance Scheme – spoke briefly about the benefits under the BDAV Scheme, and advised that their firm had streamlined the process for BDAV Members, and looked forward to assisting Members with their insurance needs. He also indicated that, next year, his firm – in conjunction with the underwriter, Resource Underwriting – will present some Risk Management advice as an educational benefit for Members.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 7 October 2013, which had been made available to the members on the membership register at that time, were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Moved: Robert McLauchlan

Seconded: Darryl Crumpton

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr Alastair McDonald read the President's annual report on behalf of Michael O'Sullivan. (transcript attached).

6. FELLOW PRESENTATION

At the conclusion of the President's report, the Chairman asked Mr Tim Adams to join him on the stage, and presented him with a certificate upgrading his membership status to Fellow, in recognition of his assistance and contribution to the BDAV since he became a Member in 1999, and particularly in appreciation of the 11 years he had served on the BDAV's Committee of Management. Mr Adams responded that he had enjoyed his involvement, and encouraged other Members to get more involved in the BDAV's activities, observing that, whilst it had been a pleasure to be involved, he had also gained benefit from his involvement. He also observed that the BDAV's membership had increased and the Association was now widely respected, largely as a result of the benefits it provides to its Members. The BDAV had achieved a huge amount during his term on the Committee, and Tim urged Members to gain a fuller appreciation of the opportunities and benefits available through the BDAV by becoming more involved.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Ms Dominique Hunter, presented the Treasurer's annual report (transcript attached).

8. BUILDING PRACTITIONERS BOARD

Mr David Cooke, the Draftsperson representative on the Building Practitioners Board, presented a brief report about recent BPB activities, noting he had now served on the BPB for three years. The past year had been one of uncertainty on the BPB, given the transition from the former Building Commission to the Victorian Building Authority. The BPB was expected to be wound down under the *Building Legislation Reform Bill* currently before Parliament, however, given that legislation had stalled as a result of the pending Victorian State Election, the Board is still in existence, and David's term had recently been extended, he anticipated until early in 2015. He advised that the BPB had worked in tandem with the VBA to introduce some practical reforms in the areas of practitioner registration, consumer complaints resolution, regulatory matters, and owner-builder matters. David's

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continued next page.....

role has been multi-faceted: he is a BPB Board Member, Chair of the VBA's Registration SubCommittee, is involved in inquiries of practitioners, file review and interviews for persons applying for registration, and VCAT review of registration cases. In some instances he has been ably assisted by BDAV Past President, Geoff Hoare, who also has a role at the VBA. He advised that there were currently 2,040 practitioners registered in the DP-AD category, which was up by about 35 practitioners since last year, so the number has been relatively stable. He thanked the BDAV for nominating him to the role on the BPB, which he has thoroughly enjoyed.

9. COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The Chairman reported on the nominations received for the Committee of Management for the coming two-years, advising that the new Committee will comprise: (in alphabetical order)

- Marc Bernstein-Husmann
- Lindsay Douglas (Vice-President)
- Timothy Ellis
- Andrew Ferris
- Ingrid Hornung
- Dominique Hunter (Treasurer)
- Sven Maxa
- Alastair McDonald (President)
- Michael O'Sullivan (Immediate Past President)

He expressed appreciation to outgoing Members who had served on the Committee: Tim Adams and Zol Nagy, and indicated he looked forward to working with the new Committee in his new role as BDAV President.

10. DESIGNER PROFILE

The Chairman then invited Mr Marc Bernstein-Husmann, of Melbourne Design Studios, the winner of the 2014 BDAV Building Design of the Year, to present a profile on his winning project, 'Birkenstock Australia', which had won four awards in the BDAV's 2014 Building Design Awards. Mr Bernstein spoke about the project, highlighting the core values of his client, who is passionate about their healthy, sustainable products, and the natural materials used in their products, which reflected Mr Bernstein's values in the areas of sustainability. This had resulted in a successful partnership with his client, and a successful outcome in this project.

11. GUEST SPEAKER

The Chairman then invited Messrs Peter Sandow and Michael Fooks from FMSEA Architecture to speak about some of their successful projects. Mr Sandow spoke about some of their projects in the training arena, as well as their own office retrofit, which had improved the work environment for their staff and tenants. He also spoke about the Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre, a unique trade training facility for the plumbing industry which has a focus on sustainability. Mr Fooks spoke about the Roberts Street Apartments project, an Office of Housing project they had successfully tendered for under the Construction Supply Register. He also spoke about the James Hardie lightweight material used in this high-rise residential project.

12. CLOSE OF FORMALITIES

The Chairman then thanked everybody for their attendance, and declared the meeting closed at 7.50 pm, inviting everybody to partake of refreshments at the venue.



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BDAV AGM 2014 – PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It's hard to believe that my two-year Presidency will be over at the end of tonight's proceedings. The two years have been extremely busy, and it's been great to see some of our initiatives come to fruition.

The support of the membership continues to allow the BDAV to grow year on year, and to be recognised as one of the key stakeholders in the industry.

We also acknowledge the support of our sponsors, with whom we have established very solid relationships, which we value.

It is especially gratifying to see the BDAV's continued political recognition, and we acknowledge the efforts of our Lobbyists, FPL Advisory, for facilitating access to the key people within the public and private sectors. Over the past twelve months, through our lobbying program on behalf of the membership, we have continued to increase the profile and opportunities for building designers.

A lot of work has been done in our fundamental policy positions of Planning, Sustainable Design, and Education and Training, and the BDAV has attended many briefing sessions in these key policy areas over the past 12 months.

We have also developed a very strong relationship with the Victorian Building Authority, and we now have regular meetings with VBA CEO, Prue Digby, as well as other key VBA personnel. Whilst many of the recent briefings are awaiting the passage through Parliament of the Building Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 and the proposed Victorian Domestic Building Consumer Protection Reforms, which now appear to have been held over until after the forthcoming Victorian State Election, we have been made aware of some of the VBA's proposed strategies under these reforms, including proposed changes to registration of building practitioners. Indeed, we participated in a comprehensive workshop recently at the VBA on proposed changes to Draftsperson Registration procedures. Other briefings with the VBA have dealt with their proposed Dispute Resolution strategy, and a separate briefing on Disciplinary Measures. On a more technical nature, Alastair McDonald recently represented us at a VBA briefing on Slab Heave.

The introduction of new Residential Zones in Victoria on the 1st of July created a lot of work for our busy team. We particularly thank the assistance of our Planning SubCommittee who gave us solid guidance on these reformed zones. We especially thank Ashley Thompson of Clause:1 Planning and his senior directors who presented CPD events on these new reforms for our Members in both Melbourne and in our regional areas, to ensure our Members understand the new Zones.

We also conducted a Planning Survey amongst the membership in March to collect valuable data on how many planning applications members lodged in the preceding 12 months to assist us with our lobbying in the Planning

arena. Whilst we appreciate the input of those Members who did respond, we would like to see more Members respond to these types of surveys issued by the BDAV, as we do need data to be able to assist us with our lobbying activities.

One area that has concerned us recently is the proposed introduction of apartment design standards for Victoria. Whilst we have no difficulty with standards that improve design for the community that all design professionals have a role in, there is an insidious undertone to these proposed standards that, if not handled effectively, may have the potential of resulting in a similar situation as that in NSW where there SEPP65 regulations prevent anyone who is not an architect from designing any multi-residential project above three storeys. Our colleagues in WA are currently fighting undertones within their State for the possible introduction of that type of legislation.

Fortunately, because of the BDAV's sustained lobbying activities, we have a solid working relationship with Victoria's Planning Minister as well as the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure which reports to the Minister. We have been made aware that the Department is currently working with the Office of the Victorian Government Architect on an Issues and Options Paper on apartment design, and the BDAV will be included as a key industry stakeholder in the consultation process on this. Further, we have been advised that the role of Building Designers and Architects is not under review, nor is it to be considered as part of this project, so we are confident the outcome will be positive in Victoria for all design professionals.

On the Educational front, we reported last year about the BDAV's involvement in the mammoth task of the re-accreditation of the Advanced Diploma of Building Design (Architectural), which was a great achievement. Whilst this qualification is in place in Victoria until December 2018, we have been made aware that there is a push away from state-specific qualifications in all industries, and that federally-funded national training frameworks are the preferred model. As a result, we have recently engaged a consultant to help us map the competencies achieved under the Advanced Diploma against those of relevant federal qualifications, to ensure we are suitably armed with relevant data in preparation for the next hurdle in ensuring the retention of our preferred qualification for Building Designers in Victoria.

Also, on the Educational front, our Interior Design SubCommittee is embarking on a strategy for interior design, particularly to promote awareness to educators and students of the need to be eligible to become a registered practitioner for those in the interior design space. There are many in the community and in the industry who do not understand the difference between an Interior Designer and an Interior Decorator, and the pathway to registration for this sector. Our Interior Design SubCommittee is addressing this as part of its strategy.



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In our Industry Liaison program, you will recall we are now a Core Supporter under a sponsorship arrangement with Livable Housing Australia. In May this year, we conducted a Livable Housing Assessor workshop to assist those Members who wish to become registered assessors, to enable them to evaluate the design and completed construction of homes against the Liveable Housing Design Guidelines. Also, as part of our Industry Liaison program, we meet regularly with the TAFE network via the Victorian Advanced Building Studies Network, and we have a solid working relationship with the TAFEs in Victoria that deliver the Advanced Diploma.

One activity that has taken up more time than anticipated over the past year has been the establishment of the NABD, and the huge task in bringing together the inaugural NABD Building Design Awards which will be held later this month. We are pleased that Kevin McCloud – the host of the internationally-acclaimed series, Grand Designs – has agreed to present these inaugural Awards, and that he has agreed to be the Ambassador of the NABD Sustainability Award, and we have already achieved a lot of media coverage for NABD as a result of his involvement.

Given the significant expansion of this new peak industry body for building designers, it is now known as the National Association of Building Designers. NABD now represents the Building Designer Associations in Victoria, Queensland, Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia, and unifies more than 80 per cent of Australia's building design association members.

The NABD will continue to promote and develop the building design profession and its commitment to excellence. The NABD's ongoing objectives include formalising education programs, sharing expertise, and pursuing continuous professional development for the building design profession, and BDAV will play a role in assisting the smaller States in these key strategic areas.

I would like to thank Kate Bell for her assistance in setting up the NABD Awards. Without Kate's help, we would not have achieved what we have in the time that we have.

Back on the local front....

Our annual BDAV Awards program continues to be our flagship activity, and continues to profile the skills of our members to the broader community. This year's Awards was another great success, with almost 400 at our Annual Dinner where the Awards were announced. The projects submitted in this year's Awards reflected the sophisticated design responses for which our Members are becoming well known.

Our 10-Star Challenge continues to profile the sustainable design skills of our Members, and we appreciate the time and effort of those who participate in this program.

Our media advisors – Porter Novelli – continue to do a great job in facilitating access to appropriate media for us, and achieved more

than 55 pieces of media coverage in metropolitan and local media this year for award winners and finalists.

Next year we will celebrate our 20th annual Awards, so we hope to see lots of entries from lots of members, so that we can continue to profile the many and varied design skills from within our membership. We also aim to include a greater focus on sustainability in our Awards moving forward, as we recognise that many components contribute to a sustainable design response, including appropriate material selections, appropriate thermal mass and orientation. These vital considerations contribute to truly sustainable design outcomes and improved liveability for our clients.

Our role as an Assessor Accrediting Organisation continues to evolve, and we are in regular dialogue with the NatHERS Administrator. We know there are some assessors who have expressed concern about the requirement to undertake the Certificate IV in NatHERS Assessment by 1 July 2015, and we continue to lobby on this matter. The NatHERS Administrator is currently reviewing the Protocol for the two Assessor Accrediting Organisations, and we have some concern with some of the proposed changes, which may make it untenable for us to continue in this space; however, there will be a lot of work done to try to reach a workable position for all involved, and to minimise the burden on assessors, to ensure there is no detrimental flow-on impact to the building industry in Victoria, given a 6-Star energy rating is a mandatory requirement to obtain a building permit in our State.

Our Marketing campaign continues and, this year, we will have a greater presence at Grand Designs Live, which we believe is a great event in which to profile our Members' skills. We thank those Members who are volunteering their time to assist us at Grand Designs Live.

Our annual Golf Day now has a loyal following, and we hope to see that increased next year.

Our Continuing Professional Development program continues to offer relevant and timely seminars, webinars and workshops for our members, and continues to be well supported. Our regional members, in particular, have appreciated the webinars and the DVDs of our Melbourne seminars, which enables them to access the same information that is offered to our metropolitan Members.

We are currently developing another Timber Masterclass with our valued sponsor, WoodSolutions, which will be a great design-focussed program for our Building Designer Members.

Next year, we are planning a Study Tour to China, which will be a great opportunity to broaden your knowledge and experiences of different building techniques, materials, and building models, and the first in a series of overseas Study Tours that we are planning, provided we get sufficient interest from Members. We have achieved the minimum 16 Expressions of Interest to enable the China Tour to proceed, so anyone else interested, please support this activity. There is a brochure circulating tonight, which gives you all the details, and Mike Mettes – who has assisted us to put this Tour



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together – is here tonight, and will be happy to field any queries at the end of tonight's proceedings.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those Members who have given up their time and contribute their knowledge on our various SubCommittees and to assist us when called on for various external activities. The SubCommittees have their finger on the pulse, and are the driving force when it comes to enabling us to keep our Members informed.

Whilst we appreciate the efforts of all our Members who volunteer their time to assist us on SubCommittees, I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the assistance of one SubCommittee Member tonight – Allen Roberts. Unfortunately, Allen could not be here tonight, due to a family commitment; however, he serves on our Thermal Performance Assessor Technical Advisory Committee, and he also assisted us at our Golf Day this year. In particular, Allen also responds to many of the queries at our online Member Forum in a very timely manner, which is greatly appreciated by Members who post items to the Forum. The BDAV's Committee of Management determined to award Allen a Certificate of Appreciation tonight in recognition of his support and assistance, and that will be presented to him personally on another occasion.

I would especially like to thank those Members on our Committee of Management who drive the policy directions for the Association, and who give up their own time to serve our Association. They have been a great support to me during my Presidency.

Zol Nagy steps down from the Committee tonight, after eight years on the Committee, and we thank him for his involvement.

At this point, could Tim Adams please join me on the stage. Tim completes his role as Immediate Past President tonight, and steps down from the Committee of Management, having served on the Committee since October 2003. Tim, the BDAV has greatly appreciated your input and assistance since you became a Member in 1999, and the many initiatives you implemented during your Presidency. The Committee of Management has unanimously agreed that you be awarded Fellow of the BDAV tonight, in recognition of your contribution to the BDAV over the past 15 years.

Later this evening, the new Committee will be installed, and I know we have a great team who will be working on your behalf, under the leadership of incoming President, Alastair McDonald, and I look forward to working with them during my coming final two years on the Committee.

I would also like to thank to our hardworking joint CEO's Giselle Grynbaum and Kate Bell who, together with Chris Radford and Marlene Cartlidge at the BDAV's office, carry out the key objectives that are determined by the Committee of Management, and deal with the day-to-day queries from Members and consumers.

We have a great team working to look after our Members' interests, and we are gratified to see our membership continue to support our activities. We have a progressive Association of which we are very proud, and I know the BDAV will continue to evolve in coming years in the best interests of our membership.

Thank you.

Michael O'Sullivan
BDAV President



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BDAV AGM 2014 – FINANCIAL REPORT

First, I would like to acknowledge and thank our sponsors, whose support we value. Our sponsors are Architectural Window Systems, bankmecu, BlueScope Steel, CSR Building Products, CSR Bradford Insulation, James Hardie Australia, Kingspan Insulation, Rylock, and WoodSolutions. They all contribute to our healthy financial position. Our sponsors feel the pressures of financial constraints the same as we do, so it is tremendous that they continue to see a mutual benefit in sponsoring our Association; so if and when you are specifying products, we urge you to please consider our sponsors where you can.

Our membership has reduced slightly since last year, mainly due to the requirement for accredited thermal performance assessors to undertake the Certificate IV in NatHERS Assessment, which is a large financial burden on small businesses, and several of our assessors have determined to leave that space. However, with just over 1,700 members, we still continue to be the largest of any BDA around the nation and, indeed, we continue to have more members than the rest of the nation, collectively.

This year, the Committee of Management determined to not increase our membership fees despite ever-increasing costs, as we understand the financial burden faced by our Members in running their businesses. Our membership fees continue to be low compared to those charged by other comparative industry bodies, yet we continue to provide more services and benefits than a lot of other related industry organisations.

We have also retained our Loyalty Discount on membership subscriptions, recognising long-serving members who have been with us for ten or more continuous years, which recognises their continued loyalty to us. This program will continue.

We have again not increased the annual accreditation fees for Thermal Performance Assessors and Home Sustainability Assessors this year, despite the increased costs in providing this service. The NatHERS Administrator is currently redrafting the Protocol that we, as an Assessor Accrediting Organisation, are required to comply with, and some of their new requirements appear to be very onerous, and look like requiring significant expenditure and resourcing. If it goes through as drafted, the new Protocol may make it untenable for the BDAV to continue as an Assessor Accrediting Organisation; however, that is a decision for the full Committee of Management to make, once all the facts are known. The BDAV still views this as an important area for our membership to be involved in, and one that offers our designer members opportunities to include energy efficient and sustainability elements in their designs; however, we will need to weigh up this service once the full details are known to ensure the cost of delivering this service does not outweigh the benefits.

Our seminar fees have been retained at the same rate as in the past three years, and we actually reduced our webinar fees this year, to ensure CPD continues to be affordable for our Members, given the importance of our Members continually upskilling their knowledge. However, next year, we will reduce the number of seminars we offer, due to increased venue costs.

The Loyalty Program that we introduced several years ago for our CPD events still continues. This enables you to get your fourth CPD seminar free, if you attend three of our metropolitan BDAV CPD seminars which incur a charge.

And, of course, our commitment to our Student Members has continued, with free attendance by Student Members at our metropolitan seminars and regional meetings, in recognition of our ongoing investment in the future of our profession.

We again ran our Student Grant program this year, offering our Student Members an opportunity to be eligible for five grants, each of \$2,000 to help defray the cost of their studies. We also presented our second Brian Morison Award for the Most Promising Student, for which Student Member, Connor McGrath received \$4,000 from the BDAV towards the costs of his future studies. These two programs will continue. We take this opportunity to thank those TAFEs who supported these, and our Student Awards program this year, which again received some impressive entries.

Our other big-ticket expenditure items this year were, again, focussed on our marketing activities. Our annual Building Design Awards introduced a new element, where we engaged our PR firm to conduct personal feature articles on each entrant, which were well received by journalists and by the Members themselves, who were able to use these articles in their own marketing. In addition, we changed publishers for our annual Winning Design magazine to a more architecturally-focused publishing house, but at a significantly higher cost than in the past. In addition, our increased involvement in Grand Designs Live this year has come at a cost; however, we view this – and our other marketing activities – as good investments in promoting the skills of our members, and for the continued benefit and longevity of our profession.

This year, we stopped printing our monthly BDAV News in hard copy, and it is now only supplied in electronic format each month. This was done not only due to ever-increasing printing and postage costs, but also in order to pave the way for a new consumer-focussed publication that the BDAV plans to introduce once we know the wash-up of this year's Winning Design magazine. One pleasing aspect is that Winning Design has been more visible in newsagents than previously, so hopefully that is converting to sales of copies.

We added to our staff resources this year, with a fourth person – Marlene Carlidge – in the newly-created role of Association Support Officer, to primarily assist with the BDAV's Committee structure.



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We also continue to use outsourced consultants, especially in our lobbying and public relations activities, given our lean head-office team. These consultants continue to be sound investments, as the calibre of the people we have outsourced is excellent.

Our other major expenditure item has been the redevelopment of our new website, which has been a bigger task than we ever envisaged. As this is our major communications tool, and receives a high volume of traffic, we want to ensure we get the website right, and that the new site will reflect the contemporary and progressive Association that the BDAV is now. So, whilst it's taken longer than anticipated, the new website should be launched towards the end of the year, or early in the new year.

We have also been instrumental in the establishment of the National Association of Building Designers, and the inaugural NABD Awards, to which BDAV has contributed financially. As Michael indicated, given the NABD's ongoing objectives in formalising educational programs, sharing expertise, and pursuing continuous professional development for the building design profession, the BDAV views this as an important strategic direction that will continue to promote the skills of

building designers, and therefore we see this as a worthwhile financial investment.

As a result of all these activities – and our solid membership base – the BDAV recorded a profit of \$124,928 at 30th June 2014 after providing for income tax. This is down on last year by just under \$65,000, reflecting our increased activities, but I do believe that our financial strategies continue to be sound.

Again, the positive result is a testament to the Association's prudent financial management, and the strong support we receive from our Executive team in overseeing the administration.

The accounts have again been audited by the audit division of Hayes Knight, and the accounts have been found to be in good order.

The financial report is available to be viewed at the BDAV's office by any member, upon request.

I would like to again thank the Committee of Management, and our Joint Executive Officers for their support and assistance to me over the past year as your Treasurer.

Thank you.

Dominique Hunter
BDAV Treasurer



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