

**MINUTES OF THE 20TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE BUILDING DESIGNERS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA
HELD ON MONDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2002
AT RYDGES CARLTON, 701 SWANSTON STREET, CARLTON**

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**CHAIRMAN:** Geoff Hoare, BDAV President

**ATTENDANCE:**

103 Members, as per Attendance Register  
Brian Morison, Assignments Australasia Pty Ltd  
Giselle Grynbaum, Assignments Australasia Pty Ltd  
Apologies: 9 formal apologies, as per Apologies Register

**1. OPENING**

In declaring the meeting open at 6.03 pm, the Chairman welcomed all in attendance, especially Fellows of the Association, members and new members. He also acknowledged the BDAV's sponsors.

**2. SPONSORS PRESENTATIONS**

Presentations were made by the following BDAV Sponsors:  
- James Grandison, on behalf of Woodlogic, spoke about their new product 'Termiflor' – a termite treated particleboard flooring with a resin-enriched surface;  
- Ian McNichol, from Whirlpool, whose presentation was organised by Clive Peeters. Ian spoke about their range of products.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 15 October 2001, which had been circulated to members on the membership register at that time, were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Moved: Sean Hamilton  
Seconded: Andreas Sederof

**5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The President, Mr Geoff Hoare, presented his report, observing that the BDAV had experienced another busy and productive year, and had introduced a number of new initiatives, including:

- its representation on numerous industry forums;
- its successful inaugural State Conference, with the next conference planned for March 2004;
- introduction of its suite of building contracts;
- formulation of its Code of Professional Conduct;
- continuation of its technical Practice Notes, for which he particularly thanked the assistance of Mr Michael Mettes;
- a membership growth of 40%;
- continuation of its Mentor Program with RMIT;
- the co-ordination of its Regional Group activities, for which he thanked Mr Darryl Crumpton;
- introduction of a sustained marketing campaign to profile the profession of Building Design;
- another successful Awards event;
- frank discussions with State BDA representatives to attempt to resolve Victoria's concerns regarding the national body – he outlined those concerns to the meeting;
- the BDAV's position on the current Professional Indemnity insurance crisis, noting that the BDAV had established a committee to investigate alternative insurance options, and to lobby government, with the hope that such position does not recur.

He thanked those sponsors who had supported the BDAV during the year, especially acknowledging the BDAV's new Diamond Sponsor, Colorbond (a brand of BHP Steel). He also thanked the Executive Committee, the BDAV's CEO – Assignments Australasia Pty Ltd – and the membership for their support and assistance to him during his term as President. He also expressed special thanks to Mr Paul Simmons who was stepping down from the role of Treasurer after having served on the Executive Committee for four years.

**5. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer, Mr Paul Simmons, presented the Treasurer's annual report, noting the Association's busy year had resulted in a strong financial outcome of just over \$25,000 on the balance sheet. A number of the BDAV's initiatives had incurred significant overheads, in particular the new standard form contracts, and it was hoped the resultant revenue would be received in the next financial year. He advised he was standing down from the Executive Committee, and expressed his thanks to his colleagues on the Committee, as well as to Brian Morison and Giselle Grynbaum and the membership for their assistance and support.

**6. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Chair of the Membership Committee, Mr Noel Perkins presented his report, noting that the BDAV had again achieved a strong membership growth, with a 40% increase since the last AGM. The BDAV's membership currently stands at 625, the strongest membership base it has ever had. Only six members (1%) had been removed from the membership for non-renewal of subscriptions this year, which was a record result. He noted the importance of a strong membership base, and encouraged anyone who may know of anybody interested in becoming a BDAV member to provide their details to the Secretariat.

**7. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

The President advised that two long-serving members, Mr Graeme Hewitt, and Mr Roger Daniel, had retired from the profession during the year after many years, and as a result had resigned from the Association. Both had contributed significantly to the Association and to the industry. Mr Hewitt, a Ballarat member, had served as BDAV President during 1987-1989. Mr Daniel had very capably represented all Draftspersons on the Building Practitioners Board when it was first established, and was an outstanding ambassador for both the Association and the industry in general. Accordingly, the BDAV Executive Committee had unanimously agreed that both should receive Honorary Membership of the BDAV in recognition of their outstanding service. The President presented them with their Honorary Membership certificates, and invited them both to say a few words to the meeting. Mr Daniel acknowledged the achievements made by the Association over the years, and commended the Association on its continued strength. Mr Hewitt commented on the change in the Association over the years, and commended the BDAV for the recognition it was achieving. He congratulated everyone involved in the professionalism of the Association.

**8. CONVENOR, INDUSTRY SERVICES**

Mr Geoff Hoare presented his report, covering Government Liaison, Professional Development, and Industry Liaison activities undertaken by the BDAV during the past 12 months, noting particularly:

- his appointment to the Victorian Design Advisory Council representing the Association at this new government forum;
- the BDAV's continued efforts to resolve the current PI Insurance crisis;
- the BDAV's participation on various industry and Government forums;
- the BDAV's work on developing a structured Professional Development program;
- the Professional Development activities the BDAV had conducted over the past 12 months;
- the BDAV's monitoring of the review of the Architects Act;
- national moves in relation to competency standards; and
- the issues evolving around the BDAV's return to the BDAA.

The Chairman then invited Ms Narelle Lockwood to report on activities of the Building Practitioners Board. Ms Lockwood expressed the Building Commission's thanks to the BDAV for its input into their recent insurance survey. She also observed that the Board was still pursuing the introduction of Compulsory Professional Development for building practitioners, which is now anticipated to come into effect in 2004, due to the legislative changes required. She also reported that she and BPB representatives had been visiting various of the BDAV's regional meetings, with the last of such visits programmed for November 2002.

#### **8. CONVENOR, MARKETING SERVICES**

The Convenor, Marketing Services, Mr David Mulhall, reported on the BDAV's marketing activities over the past year, which had focussed predominantly on the BDAV's new marketing slogan "Building Designers Design Buildings". He also advised that the BDAV would shortly produce new member decals in line with the slogan. He also reported that BDAV had produced new promotional banners early in the year, which had been widely used over the previous months. He noted that the BDAV would be exhibiting at the HIA Home Show in March 2003, and encouraged members to assist with such representation when announced, as the BDAV will need strong member support to man its stand at that event. This would also provide a strong marketing opportunity for members.

#### **9. CONVENOR, MEMBERSHIP SERVICES**

Reports were presented on the following services activities during the year:

- a) **Design Office Software** (report by Geoff Hoare)  
This project had been shelved. Instead, the BDAV was developing an Industry Handbook.
- b) **Building Design Awards** (report by Giselle Grynbaum)  
This year's Awards was another outstanding success. A shortened version of the Powerpoint presentation presented at the Awards Gala Presentation evening was screened at the meeting, for the information particularly of those members who had not attended the Awards. Congratulations were extended to all winners, in particular, the winner of the Building Design of the Year, Tantarò Design. All entrants were thanked for their participation in the Awards competition.
- c) **Regional Activity** (report by Darryl Crumpton)  
The BDAV's Regional Groups had continued to meet during the year, and Mr Crumpton thanked the various speakers who had presented at the meetings, and the sponsors who had supported the regional activities, in particular Caroma and Clive Peeters. He also thanked the Regional Co-ordinators for their assistance. He also expressed his personal thanks to Brian Morison, Giselle Grynbaum and their staff for their help in relation to co-ordinating the regional activities.

#### **10. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

The Chairman declared that all positions were vacant for the BDAV's Office Bearers for the ensuing 12 months, and requested the Executive Officer to announce the results. The Executive Officer then announced that written nominations had been received for the following positions:

|                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>President:</b>         | Geoffrey Hoare  |
| <b>Deputy President:</b>  | Roy Hodgson     |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>         | Darryl Crumpton |
| <b>Committee Members:</b> | Paula Hanley    |
|                           | David Mulhall   |
|                           | Noel Perkins    |
|                           | Bryan Punshon   |
|                           | Rodney Smith    |

He reported that the number of nominations did not exceed the number of positions available, therefore no election was required. Accordingly, the above people, together with the Immediate Past President, Mr Tony Iseppi, were duly elected as the BDAV's Executive Committee for the forthcoming 12 months.

#### **11. MAJOR DISCUSSION ITEM : PI INSURANCE**

Mr Geoff Hoare led discussion on the current Professional Indemnity Insurance crisis currently impacting registered building practitioners, noting that the BDAV had been involved in forums with the Building Commission, numerous discussions with the insurance industry, and had conducted a survey of its membership to attempt to obtain a clearer picture on members' claims history, and increases in insurance premiums. A summary of the survey results were distributed to the meeting. He also advised that the BDAV had established a committee to look at the issue of insurance, generally. The BDAV's future directions in relation to PI Insurance will cover three components:

- gathering of data;
- education; and
- policy negotiation.

He emphasised that the data collected by the Association would be used in a collective sense, to enable the BDAV to obtain a detailed profile of its membership, particularly in relation to the types of services that members provide, the identification of areas of risk, and the type and amount of claims lodged against members' PI cover. He stated that the BDAV will do everything in its power to work towards ensuring that the profiteering by insurance companies in relation to PI insurance premiums will not occur again.

A document titled 'Scope of Services' was distributed, which had been prepared by Mr Hoare to enable members to accurately describe the scope of their work. This would be of assistance to clients, insurance brokers, underwriters, and other interested persons, and would also provide a management tool for members themselves.

Mr Brian Morison then reported that the major issue of contention in relation to the PI Insurance crisis was the insurers' reluctance to continue to provide 'run-off' cover. He tabled a draft letter to the Building Commissioner, Mr Tony Arnel, and read the letter to the meeting. In the letter, a proposal was put to the Commissioner to enable building practitioners whose registration renewals were due at the end of October 2002 to have the ability to delay their renewals for up to four weeks, by which time it was hoped the issue of the 'run-off' cover may be resolved. Such approach had been recently adopted by the Queensland Building Services Authority which rushed through changes to make run-off cover no longer compulsory in Queensland from 30 August 2002. If this could be achieved in Victoria, then members could deal with the insurer of their choice, and have the ability to 'shop around' to obtain competitive quotations for their PI insurance, instead of the the current position which only enabled practitioners to deal with their current insurer.

Messrs Morison and Hoare fielded numerous questions from the floor on this proposal, and on the insurance issue in general.

A motion was then put to the meeting that the draft letter be formalised, and submitted to the Building Commissioner.

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| Moved:    | Sean Hamilton |
| Seconded: | Mick Ginnane  |
| Carried:  | Unanimously   |

The meeting further discussed insurance-related issues, and Mr Hoare presented an overview of the types of claims made against building designers in respect to PI insurance. Further questions were then fielded from the floor.

#### **12. CLOSE OF FORMALITIES**

The Chairman thanked everybody for their attendance, and declared the meeting closed at 8.17 pm, inviting everybody to partake of refreshments at the venue.