



Building Designers
Association Victoria

BDAV AGM REPORT 2004

MINUTES OF THE 22ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BUILDING DESIGNERS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA HELD ON MONDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2004 AT LEONDA, 2 WALLEN ROAD, HAWTHORN

CHAIRMAN: Geoff Hoare, BDAV President

ATTENDANCE:

89 Members, as per Attendance Register
Brian Morison, Assignments Australasia Pty Ltd
Giselle Grynbaum, Assignments Australasia Pty Ltd
Apologies: 40 formal apologies, as per Apologies Register

1. OPENING

In declaring the meeting open at 6.11 pm, the Chairman welcomed all in attendance, especially Fellows of the Association, members and new members. He also acknowledged the BDAV's sponsors, and introduced the members of the BDAV's Committee of Management.

2. SUPPLIERS' PRESENTATION

A presentation was made by Brett Stockdale of Caroma, on some of their latest products and initiatives.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 13 October 2003, which had been circulated to the members on the membership register at that time, were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Moved: Kevin Slater
Seconded: John Tigas

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President, Mr Geoff Hoare, presented his report, observing that the BDAV had had another extremely busy year. He outlined some of the activities undertaken in the past 12 months, which included:

- celebration of the BDAV's 21st birthday;
 - successful second BDAV conference held in March 2004;
 - launch of new BDAV logo;
 - launch of new BDAV website;
 - success of the BDAV's PD program, which now achieves capacity audiences, and has required larger venues to be sourced;
 - further 14% membership growth;
 - frustrations with the planning process still a major concern for members;
 - 12-month 'Observer' status with the BDAA since 1 July 2004. The President reported that he had put a proposal to reform the BDAA, in an endeavour to improve the effectiveness and viability of the national body. He addressed this proposal to a meeting of BDAA Directors on 3 October 2004, and the proposal was currently under consideration by the BDAA (details appended to these Minutes);
 - continuation of BDAV Design Office Administration Handbook;
 - commencement of BDAV OHS Induction training, including launch of BDAV OHS Management handbook;
 - revision of BDAV Engagement Agreement;
 - participation in our first RACV Home Show;
 - another successful BDAV Awards competition held, including an outstanding gala presentation dinner;
- He thanked those sponsors who had supported the BDAV during

the year, especially acknowledging the Diamond Sponsor, BlueScope Steel. He also thanked the Committee of Management, the BDAV's Executive Officer – Assignments Australasia Pty Ltd – and the membership for their support and assistance to him during past year as President. He particularly expressed thanks to Mr Tony Iseppi for his support and contribution to the BDAV. Mr Iseppi was stepping down from the BDAV's Committee of Management, by natural attrition.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Mr Darryl Crumpton, presented the Treasurer's annual report, noting another strong financial position, due to the BDAV's continued growth, and strong support by the membership for our various activities, including the 2004 Conference. He reported that the BDAV's books had recently been audited, and the auditor's report was satisfactory. The Association achieved a surplus of \$10,600 for the year which, given the launch of the new corporate logo, and new website – both of which were large financial commitments – was a good result.

6. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Membership Committee Chair, Mr Rodney Smith, presented the membership report, noting that the BDAV had again achieved solid membership growth during the year, with a 14% increase since the last AGM. The BDAV's membership currently stood at 813, the strongest membership base it has ever had, this despite 6% of the membership having been removed from the membership for non-renewal of subscriptions this year. A large number of those were student members who had completed their studies but had not yet entered the workforce. He noted the importance of a strong membership base, and encouraged members who may know of anybody interested in becoming a BDAV member to provide their details to the Secretariat.

7. CONVENOR, GOVERNMENT LIAISON

The Government Liaison Chair, Mr David Mulhall, presented his report, noting:

- the BDAV's involvement in a number of important Building Commission forums;
- the BDAV's representation, through Mr Roy Hodgson, on the government's "Year of Built Environment" committee;
- his own representation on behalf of the BDAV on the Government's Technical Reference Group;
- the various submissions made by the BDAV to government issues;
- the BDAV's continual monitoring of legislative changes, notably the Architects Act 1991, and the Maxwell Report into the review of the Occupational Health & Safety Act, which has ramifications for the design sector;
- the BDAV's disappointment at the superficial response by the BDAA to the Development Assessment Forum, a nationwide consultation program to improve inconsistency in the planning and development practices across Australia.

8. CONVENOR, INDUSTRY SERVICES

The Industry Services Chair, Mr Tim Adams, presented his report, noting the BDAV's involvement during the year with:

- the Sustainable Energy Authority;
- the House Energy Raters Organisation;
- PDDG, with a view to their members coming across to BDAV;
- monitoring other industry issues that impact members, including insurance issues and the James Hardie asbestos issue;
- the BDAV's presentations to other industry groups, including the AIBS' PD seminar.

9. BUILDING PRACTITIONERS BOARD

The Chairman congratulated Mr Noel Perkins on his appointment to the Building Practitioners Board, as Draftsperson representative. He also acknowledged the BDAV's appreciation to Ms Narelle Lockwood for her excellent representation of the industry during her three year on the Board. He invited Mr Perkins to address the membership.

Mr Perkins observed that he was still "finding his feet" at the BPB, but it was clear that the BDAV was held in high regard by the Board, due to the excellent work done previously by Ms Narelle Lockwood, and other predecessors on the Board, including Mr Frank Masten. He noted there were approximately 2,000 registered practitioners in the Draftsperson category, and it was important to maintain the high calibre of applicants in that category, to maintain the sector's high reputation.

10. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The PD Chair, Ms Paula Hanley, presented her report, noting:

- the high calibre of presenters at the BDAV's PD forums during the year;
- the strong attendance at our PD events;
- the highlights of the year were the 2004 Conference held in March, and the Planning Forum held in May.

She also announced that a record number of 66 members had satisfactorily completed the BDAV's voluntary PD Program over the past three years, and certificates were presented to those member who were in attendance.

11. CONVENOR, MARKETING SERVICES

The Marketing Services Chair, Mr Noel Perkins, reported on the BDAV's marketing activities over the past year, which had centred around the BDAV's marketing slogan "Building Designers Design Buildings". Advertisements had been placed in the Herald-Sun's Home magazine, and in The Age's Domain supplement profiling this slogan. The launch of the new BDAV logo was also a major marketing initiative. The BDAV had exhibited at Designbuild 2004 in July, and, for the first time, at the RACV Home Show in August. He also reported on the successful new BDAV website launched during the year, which continues to achieve a significant number of visits daily.

12. CONVENOR, MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

The Membership Services Chair, Mr Rodney Smith, presented his report, noting:

- the continuation of instalments to the BDAV's popular Design Office Administration Handbook;
- a key feature of the handbook was the BDAV's fee survey conducted late last year;
- the BDAV was currently developing a Certificate of Design;
- new membership badges were currently being investigated;
- the logo redevelopment and website redevelopment were major activities during the year;
- our continued commitment to the Mentor Program, in conjunction with RMIT. He expressed disappointment at the low number of members who participated in this program this year, and the need to encourage Design students to enter our profession;
- the successful BDAV State Conference held in March 2004;
- the introduction of the BDAV's OHS Induction training – another key service to the membership;
- our flagship event continues to be our annual Design Awards competition and gala presentation event;
- our continued commitment to the various regional groups, and regional meetings around Victoria.

13. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The Chairman invited Mr Brian Morison to announce the results of the ballot for one vacancy on the BDAV's Committee of Management.

Before doing so, Mr Morison invited Mr Tony Iseppi to the lectern. Mr Iseppi expressed the BDAV's appreciation to Mr Geoff Hoare for his outstanding leadership, commitment and representation of the BDAV during his three year's as President. He presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr Hoare. Mr Hoare, in turn, expressed how much he had enjoyed his presidency, and how proud he had been to hold that position, and how highly he cherished the friendships he had made along the way. He thanked all the people who had supported him in his role as President.

Mr Brian Morison then announced that a very strong contest had been held between the two nominees who had been nominated to serve on the Committee of Management, Messrs Darren Cole-Sinclair and Andreas Sederof. Both were clearly popular candidates. The vote had been 53 to 51, in favour of Mr Sederof. Mr Sederof was congratulated on his appointment to the Committee. Mr Morison then announced that the Committee will comprise:

President:	Roy Hodgson
Deputy President:	David Mulhall
Treasurer:	Darryl Crumpton
Immediate Past President:	Geoffrey Hoare
Committee Members:	Tim Adams
	Paula Hanley
	Noel Perkins
	Rodney Smith
	Andreas Sederof

The meeting congratulated the new Committee.

14. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

The Chairman invited questions from the membership, and a question was put seeking further clarification re the BDAV's position in relation to the James Hardie asbestos issue, as there was some sensitivity amongst the membership about this matter, particularly in relation to allegations regarding the adequacy/avoidance of funding for compensation of victims. The Chairman and the Executive Officer responded, advising that the BDAV's Committee of Management was monitoring the position, and was being kept informed by James Hardie personnel, who were aware of our members' concerns in this matter.

15. GUEST SPEAKER

The Chairman then introduced Ms Lauren Burns, Taekwondo Olympic Golf Medallist, who made a powerful presentation on her experiences in preparing for the Olympic Games, and her triumph at the Games, and the support of her family and friends along the way. She also spoke about her subsequent work in conducting healthy lifestyle clinics and touring with Athletes as Role Models, and the release of autobiography, Fighting Spirit. The Chairman thanked Ms Burns for her excellent presentation.

16. CLOSE OF FORMALITIES

The Chairman then thanked everybody for their attendance, and declared the meeting closed at 8.10 pm, inviting everybody to partake of refreshments at the venue.

Text of a letter issued by BDAV to BDAA Presidents for a Proposed Reform of the BDAA

TO: BDAA PRESIDENTS
CC: BARRIE WRIGHT
FROM: GEOFF HOARE – BDAV PRESIDENT
DATE: 22 SEPTEMBER 2004
RE: Proposed Re-structure of Building Designers Association of Australia

The Building Designers Association of Victoria is seeking your view regarding a proposed reform of the Building Designers Association of Australia of which your state is a member.

The Building Designers Association of Victoria resigned from the Building Designers Association of Australia in November 2000 as a result of continued frustration over a number of issues, which were unable to be satisfactorily resolved.

One of the issues of concern was the effectiveness and continued viability of the national organisation.

In Victoria's view the running costs of the national organisation were high, the return in services to the member states was low given the actual cost of membership, and the drain on state member resources was significant.

In August 2001, the BDAV Committee of Management established an independent review committee to make recommendations by the end of the year as to whether the BDAV should renew its membership of BDAA. Submissions were sought from former Committee of Management members and the BDAA itself.

The Review Committee observed that little had changed in the preceding twelve months, and recommended that the BDAV should not renew its membership at that time, but it should continue to monitor the BDAA with a view to a possible return sometime in the future.

A number of meetings between the BDAA directors and the BDAV have happened since that time in an attempt to reconcile our concerns and differences. Despite these concerns the BDAV, in March 2004, announced that it would rejoin the BDAA in an observer capacity. This has been the case since June 2004.

Following on from two telephone BDAA Directors' conferences, the review of the BDAA position paper on its achievements since 2000 and its business plan 2005, the BDAV Committee of Management has resolved that nothing short of complete reform is required of the BDAA. This, in our view, is necessary in order to ensure its survival and to prevent the BDAA from becoming a greater cost burden on the resources of the states, thereby restricting growth at the state level.

In light of this, the BDAV is now putting forward a number of points of reform for consideration by the other states and the BDAA directors. The purpose of these reforms should be seen in a positive light. They are not meant to be all encompassing and nor should they be seen as Victoria's final word on the matter of BDAA membership; they are simply a considered list of reforms that may lead to a more efficient and sustainable national organisation that will serve the needs of all Building Designers for many years to come.

Many of these reforms will cause some discomfort and will no doubt start some heated debate, but the BDAA, I believe, will be the better for having this debate.

Continued membership growth is of paramount importance within each state, and the resources saved from a more efficient national association will lead to greater member services at the grass roots state level.

The Building Designers Association of Victoria is testament to this fact. We have enjoyed a substantial growth in membership, a greater input within government, greater respect and recognition within the community – despite three other competitor associations for membership. The BDAV also has the lowest membership fees within the country.

Whilst I appreciate this is very short notice, I would be grateful for your written comments on the proposed points of reform enclosed with this letter prior to the BDAA Annual General Meeting which is being held on 3 October 2004, as I hope to have this matter included on the AGM agenda for discussion with the BDAA Directors. However, should the matter not be included on the AGM agenda, then it is unlikely a BDAV representative will be in attendance at the BDAA AGM, and therefore further discussion will no doubt proceed through other forums.

Should you wish to discuss this further over the telephone or directly via email, please do not hesitate to contact me on (03) 9787 8120 or geoff@graaph.com.au

Yours sincerely
Geoffrey Hoare
President
Building Designers Association of Victoria

Proposed Points of Reform

1. BDAV supports a Federation model to represent the interests of all building designers throughout Australia.
 2. The Board of Directors of BDAA should comprise the President of the day of all of the State/Territory Building Designer Associations or the nominee of the President (preferably Immediate Past-President or Vice President).
 3. The Board structure should be underpinned by specialist standing committees that comprise BDA members (minimum of six) from each of the States/Territory with appropriate expertise relevant to the specific standing committee.
 4. Committees to be established are –
 - Membership/Member Services Committee
 - Marketing Committee
 - Legal and Insurance Committee
 - Finance Committee
 - Federal Government Liaison Committee
 5. Infrastructure support for the above committees is to be provided by state secretariats who would each be allocated specific committees providing support to the Chairs of such committees. Chairs of each of the committees should be BDAA Board Directors.
 6. Schedule of meetings for Committees should be based on telephone conference meetings being convened every two months to ensure continuity of, and monitoring of activities, milestones and objectives.
 7. The position of CEO should be abolished and the BDAA office closed down.
 8. The figurehead of the BDAA should be the Chair of the Board of Directors of BDAA.
 9. Postal address for the BDAA should be that of one of the secretariats' addresses. The nominated secretariat is to have responsibility for processing correspondence to the appropriate Directors or others.
 10. One of the secretariats should be assigned the responsibility for financial management and financial performance reporting. An appropriate fee is to be paid to the nominated secretariat for carrying out this function.
 11. BDAA funds for the year 2005 should be expended on –
 - Ensuring the effectiveness of the various Committees, ensuring performance of the Committees' objectives and inculcating a culture of collective state membership input via the committee structure.
 - Promoting the collective membership of building designers, including the scope of services provided by building designers. All promotion should profile the individual State/Territory BDA's.
 - Adopting common strategy for increasing membership in each State/Territory (The "common strategy" for increasing membership amongst the various States/Territory must be based on universal agreement by all States/Territory that membership entry and eligibility criteria can never be based on an elitist/selective basis).
 12. Re-structuring of BDAA in accordance with the above criteria is to be in place and commence 1 July 2005.
 13. Lowering of the current subscription rates, with no review of State Association subscription fees for a period of three years.
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