



Building Designers
Association Victoria

BDAV AGM REPORT 2005

MINUTES OF THE 23ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BUILDING DESIGNERS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA HELD ON MONDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2005 AT LEONDA, 2 WALLEN ROAD, HAWTHORN

CHAIRMAN: Roy Hodgson, BDAV President

ATTENDANCE:

144 Members, as per Attendance Register
Giselle Grynbaum, Assignments Australasia P/L
Apologies: 24 formal apologies, as per Apologies Register

1. OPENING

In declaring the meeting open at 6.05 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' PRESENTATIONS

Supplier presentations were made by:

- Ross Garner, of XInfo, on Building Designer Information Manager software, assisted by BDAV Member, Mike Mettes, who has been using the software for some time;
- John Mercieca of Architectural Window Systems on their window products;
- Paul Holmes of OneSteel on their flooring system;
- Graham Paulin, of Tilling Timber on their SmartFrame software.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 11 October 2004, 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: Robert McLauchlan
Seconded: Bruce Pittard

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President, Mr Roy Hodgson, presented his report, observing that he had enjoyed his first year as BDAV President. He outlined some of the activities undertaken by the BDAV in the past 12 months, which included:

- consolidating the BDAV's relationships with its sponsors;
- importance of members participating in Continuing Professional Development, given consumers are looking to engage professionals who constantly upskill their knowledge;
- BDAV CPD events have been achieving record attendance;
- BDAV Advanced Design Course has finally completed the accreditation process, and will be launched in 2006;
- BDAV has been in dialogue with WorkSafe Victoria on the VWA's "Duties of Designers of Buildings and Structures" and had some wins on behalf of members;

- planning process still generates frustration for both designers and clients;
- membership growth has continued, with a 10% increase since last year's AGM;
- a BDAV delegation participated in an exhibition and Trade Mission in Dubai in September 2005;
- BDAV website achieved an international 'Standard of Excellence' award in the 9th annual WebAward competition;
- BDAV members continue to represent the Association at key government forums;
- the BDAV's Insurance Committee has monitored the developments in relation to PI Insurance, with several new players having entered the marketplace this year, resulting in keen pricing for practitioners;
- the BDAV continues to nurture students entering the building design profession, particularly through the RMIT's Mentor Program;
- the BDAV continues its commitment to regional members, with regular meetings at regional centres. These have been very well supported by the BDAV's sponsors this year;
- the BDAV's annual Awards competition grows from strength to strength, with the 10th – and most successful – Awards having just been staged;
- planning is well advanced for the next BDAV Conference, in April 2006;
- the BDAV held an 'Observer' status with the BDAA during the past 12 months, during which it monitored the activities of the BDAA. Following due consideration, including a survey of members earlier in the year wherein an overwhelming majority of members indicated they did not wish the BDAV to rejoin the BDAA, the BDAV's Committee of Management advised the BDAA that it would not be seeking membership of the BDAA, but would, instead, continue to focus its energies on providing quality member services at an affordable price;
- he urged members to respond to any surveys issued by the BDAV quickly, as the BDAV often needs hard data to adequately lobby on behalf of members' interests;
- he thanked the BDAV's Committee of Management, and the Executive Officers, for their support to him during his first year as President.

5. LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

The President presented Life Membership to the following seven Fellows of the Association, in recognition of their many years of service to the BDAV:

- Peter Condos
- Colin Mellett
- Ron Pickford
- Bruce Pittard
- Kevin Slater
- Malcolm Trompf
- Ray Watts

The President also awarded Fellow of the Association to Mr Geoff Hoare, in recognition of his contribution to the BDAV, particularly during his years as BDAV President.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Mr Darryl Crumpton, presented the Treasurer's annual report, noting a record high year of trading, as a result of the BDAV's continued membership growth, and the generous support of our sponsors. He reported that the BDAV's books had recently been audited, and the auditor's report reflected a healthy and viable financial position, with a surplus of \$16,500 after provision for tax commitments. He also reported that subscription fees for the coming year will be maintained at the same level as the current year, due to the healthy financial position.

7. INSURANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Mr Darryl Crumpton, who also chairs the BDAV's Insurance Committee, reported that the BDAV had continued to monitor the insurance scene over the past year. He reported on the BDAV's investigations into the possibility of setting up a BDAV insurance scheme for members but, with the advent of new players in the insurance market, the Committee of Management determined to monitor the position over the coming 12 months before making any decisions re any possible BDAV scheme. He also reported that the BDAV has put forward Building Industry Solutions – who are agents for CGU Insurance – as its preferred insurance provider for some time, and that position had not changed. However, members are at liberty to deal with any insurance provider, they choose, but the BDAV does urge members to carefully check the wording of any insurance proposals to ensure that all risks required for each member's individual business are adequately covered. Members are urged to not solely make that decision based on price.

8. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Membership Committee Chair, Mr Rodney Smith, presented the membership report, noting that the BDAV had continued its solid membership growth during the year, with a 10% increase since the last AGM. The BDAV's membership currently stood at 846, the strongest membership base it has ever had. He mentioned the Committee of Management was keen to achieve a membership of 1,000 by the end of 2006, so he urged members who may know of anybody interested in becoming a BDAV member to provide their details to the BDAV's Secretariat.

9. GOVERNMENT LIAISON PORTFOLIO

In the absence of the BDAV's Government Liaison Chair, Mr David Mulhall, the President presented the Government Liaison report, noting the following activities over the past 12 months:

- the BDAV's involvement in the Building Commission's review of its Guide to Tolerances & Standards;
- submission prepared by the BDAV to the Victorian Competition & Efficiency Commission's Inquiry into Regulation of the Housing Construction Sector;
- submission prepared to the Planning Minister expressing the BDAV's concerns in relation to delays in the planning process. This was followed by a meeting that David Mulhall had with DSE planning staff, and also a meeting held with the Shadow Planning Minister. Subsequently, the BDAV issued a Planning Survey to its members, but the response rate was disappointing;
- the BDAV's participation in forums in relation to Professional Standards in Victoria, attended by the BDAV's Treasurer, Darryl Crumpton;
- continued dialogue and representations to the Building Commission on a variety of industry issues.

10. INDUSTRY LIAISON PORTFOLIO

The Industry Liaison Chair, Mr Tim Adams, presented his report, highlighting the BDAV's involvement in relation to WorkSafe Victoria's draft "Guide to Duties of Designers of Buildings or Structures to be used as Workplaces".

He also observed that sustainability continues to be a hot topic for building designers and, to ensure that members have the latest information, the BDAV had been involved at government and industry levels. He also reported that a new association had been established, the Association of Building Sustainability Assessors, which is primarily involved with energy raters.

The BDAV has been represented on a Reference Panel set up by Sustainability Victoria to assess the viability of AccuRate, a new energy rating tool.

He also reported that the BDAV had introduced a new initiative at member gatherings of a drink voucher, to encourage networking amongst members. This had been trialled at the last BDAV Information Night, and was very successful.

The Chairman then observed that, normally, there would be a report from the Building Practitioners Board representative; however, as Mr Geoff Hoare had only recently been co-opted onto the Board, and there was no report from the previously co-opted member, Mr Frank Masten, no such report was presented. However, he did acknowledge the input by Mr Noel Perkins on the Building Practitioners Board, and moved a vote of thanks for Mr Perkins for his efforts. He also acknowledged the contribution of Mr Frank Masten to the Board during his co-opted period.

He then invited Mr Chris Goss of Orbit Solutions to talk about the recent BDAV delegation to Dubai, and Mr Goss, accompanied by Mr Graham Jones, and Mr James Couper, spoke briefly about their experiences.

11. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Professional Development Chair, Ms Paula Hanley, presented her report, outlining some of the excellent PD events held by the BDAV since the last AGM.

She also urged members to continue to participate in CPD, as clients are now demanding the professionals that they engage to be up-to-date with the latest techniques, products, and trends. She also observed that the Building Commission had recently announced it will identify at its website, from December 2005, those RBP's who have been participating in CPD activities, which will give those practitioners a greater marketing edge.

She also noted that the BDAV's Advanced Building Design Course had been accredited, and will be offered in the new year.

She also advised that planning was well advanced for the next BDAV State Conference, to be held in April 2006, on the theme "Technology".

Certificates were also presented to 35 members who had satisfied the requirements of the BDAV's voluntary Professional Development Program over the preceding three years.

12. MARKETING SERVICES CONVENOR

The Marketing Services Chair, Mr Andreas Sederof, reported on marketing activities, and particularly urged members to purchase and display the BDAV's new Site Signs, which are an inexpensive means of promoting your membership and the profession of building design to the community.

He also acknowledged the efforts of the BDAV's Committee of Management, who contribute many unpaid hours in their commitment and representation of the Association, on behalf of the membership.

13. CONVENOR, MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

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

- the BDAV's continued monitoring of the PI Insurance scene;
- the partnership with XInfo, offering members an information management software to help streamline their business administration;

- the completion of the BDAV's Certificate of Design, which provides a safeguard to members, to ensure their designs are used for the purpose intended;
- the BDAV's continued revision of our various Practice Notes. He particularly acknowledged the efforts of Mr Mike Mettes in this regard;
- the BDAV's excellent Professional Development Program, which is well supported by the membership;
- the introduction of new membership badges and site signs during the year, to assist members to promote their membership;
- the BDAV's continued commitment to the various regional groups, with regional meetings co-ordinated regularly around Victoria;
- the BDAV's continued commitment to the Mentor Program, in conjunction with RMIT, which assists young people entering our profession;
- the BDAV's participation in the Form & Function exhibit in Melbourne in April 2005, which helped to raise the profile of the Association. He thanked those members who had volunteered to man the BDAV's display at this exhibition;
- the BDAV's 10th Building Design Awards recently staged in Melbourne, which was our most successful Awards event to date. At this stage in the proceedings, Mr Ron Pickford – who had chaired the Awards for the first time – spoke about the event, while a Powerpoint was screened of the Award winners.

14. **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

In the absence of the BDAV's Executive Officer, Mr Brian Morison, the Chairman invited Ms Giselle Grynbaum to announce the results of the nominations for the BDAV's Committee of Management for the coming two years. Ms Grynbaum reported that the following had been nominated to the Committee (in alphabetical order)

Tim Adams
Darren Cole-Sinclair
Darryl Crumpton
Paula Hanley
Roy Hodgson
David Mulhall
Andreas Sederof
Rodney Smith

She observed that, together with the Immediate Past President, Mr Geoff Hoare, these members would comprise the new Committee of Management.

15. **GUEST SPEAKER**

The Chairman then introduced Messrs Trevor Fasham and Brian Stacey of Fasham Johnson who spoke about their experiences as one of Australia's leading builders and designers of individual homes, noting that they have had to adapt to the changing needs of their clients, and that clients' briefs had changed significantly over the years, with many now demanding home theatres, hobby rooms, etc. Floor plans have also changed, with many of their clients having downsized their properties, due to the changing needs of their families. This trend was anticipated to continue, with Australia's ageing population. Designers need to be able to offer flexible floor plans, to meet the needs of their clients. Environmental issues have also impacted clients' demands, with increasingly more consumers being aware of environmental issues. They also commented on the importance of developing relationships with builders, to be able to offer a "one stop shop" service to clients.

16. **CLOSE OF FORMALITIES**

The Chairman then thanked everybody for their attendance, and declared the meeting closed at 8.55 pm, inviting everybody to partake of refreshments at the venue.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO BDAV 2005 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

I can't believe that 12 months have gone by...it seems like yesterday that I was installed as your President here last October. I've certainly enjoyed the past 12 months, and it's fair to say the BDAV has solidified its position as the premier association representing the needs of the design profession.

It's also fair to say that our sponsors have contributed significantly to the BDAV's stable position, and I'd like to thank all our sponsors for their continued support. Without this support our Association could not have delivered the various initiatives that we have over the past year, as quickly as we have. And in particular I would like to acknowledge the continued strong partnership we have with our Diamond Sponsor, Bluescope Steel. We look forward to working with all our sponsors in the weeks and months ahead to continuously improve our services to our membership.

Newer members may not know, but the BDAV is run by volunteers – other members such as yourself, who give freely of their time to manage our Association.

I would like to thank the BDAV's Committee of Management for their support and input; and I would especially like to thank Brian Morison and Giselle Grynbaum – our Executive Officers – for their tireless efforts on our behalf.

I am also pleased to observe that, in my representation of the BDAV at various industry forums and events this year, it is clear the profession of Building Design continues to flourish.

Consumers have come to recognise Building Designers as skilled professionals, who produce quality design outcomes that cover the broad spectrum of the projects in the construction industry. Today's Building Designer provides a diverse range of services that continue to evolve, in line with market needs, hence the high demand in which many of our members find themselves.

It is an exciting time to be part of this profession, and all Building Designers should be very proud of their contribution to our vocation.

But the challenges of our profession lie in the future. The need for continuing professional development within the industry continues to be paramount. Our Professional Development events continue to attract sell-out crowds, and that is a true testament of the importance that our members see in continually upskilling their knowledge. No other industry association can boast these sorts of attendance numbers for an AGM, and it is terrific to see so many of our members here tonight, and supporting our activities.

Our Advanced Design Course has finally completed the accreditation process, and I can say with conviction that it will be launched next year. We are currently exploring the delivery of that course with some of the TAFEs, and I'd like to acknowledge the efforts of both Geoff Hoare and Brian Morison in this regard.

Equally important (for different reasons), are the demands of Occupational Health and Safety, and its impact on our profession. The BDAV is currently in dialogue with WorkSafe Victoria on the Duties of Designers of Buildings and Structures, as we do not entirely agree with the Government's direction in this area.

Whilst this piece of legislation may only impact some members, it does have the potential of a "flow-on" effect to the broader building design community, and we are actively monitoring the direction this legislation is taking. Again, I'd like to acknowledge the efforts of Brian Morison on this issue, as well as Tim Adams on our Committee of Management.

Unfortunately the frustrations with the planning process have not improved since my predecessor, Geoff Hoare, delivered his report to you here last year. Planning departments and planning personnel continue to deliver inconsistent policy and planning decisions, to

the aggravation of our members, and their clients. Such inconsistent decisions and the lack of certainty of an outcome, cause anyone considering building to carefully weigh their options rather than trying to deal with the various tiers of frustration within the planning regime. The current planning process continues to fail Victoria and, unless the Government is prepared to undertake sweeping reforms, it will continue to stifle our industry. Our Vice-President, David Mulhall, has been working assiduously in this area, and I thank him for his time and effort.

Now, on the good news front....

Membership growth continues, with a significant increase in membership since last year's AGM. Up until last month, we had seen another 10 percent growth in the BDAV's membership since last year and we had close to 900 members. However, with the annual "tidy up" of some unfinancial members, our total membership currently stands around 850 members. These impressive membership numbers do assist us to have our "voice" heard when we endeavour to battle any issues that impact our profession, and to implement pro-active initiatives on behalf of our members. So if you know of anybody who might be a prospective member, please do refer them to the BDAV's office for follow up. It is only through continued membership growth that we can adequately lobby on behalf of all members, and our profession.

We are also proud that a delegation of our members was in Dubai last month representing our Association at one of the world's largest and most influential building exhibitions, with an associated Trade Mission as part of that, and we know they did us all proud. Hopefully I may convince one or two of them to give you a brief report on their trip later in tonight's meeting. But I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Immediate Past President, Geoff Hoare, for co-ordinating that delegation....I know he put in many hours at pre-departure briefings and preparatory work for our team.

I am also aware that some of our members are doing work in Indonesia and China and, given the importance of our Asian neighbours on our economy, it is terrific to see our members working 'outside their comfort zone' in these overseas locations.

And, just last month, we were advised that our website had won an international 'Standard of Excellence' Award in the ninth Annual WebAward Competition for website development. More than 2,000 sites, from 33 countries, competed for the various awards in the competition. That really reflects the professional organisation that is now representing your interests at every level.

We continue to be represented on numerous government forums, such as:

- Professional Standards in Victoria;
- the Building Practitioners Board;
- the Building Commission's Continuing Professional Development Committee;
- and, as I mentioned earlier, WorkSafe Victoria's forum on Design, and its impact on Occupational Health and Safety.

We have continued to monitor the developments on the insurance front, and there's been a fair bit of activity there, this year. A report on this will be presented later in the meeting.

We have continued our commitment to nurture students entering the profession, through our Mentor Program conducted in conjunction with RMIT, and through other representations and gatherings.

Our commitment to our Regional Groups continues, with regular meetings in key provincial centres, and I would like to thank our Regional Co-ordinators for their ongoing efforts, and also our various sponsors for sending their reps to talk to our regional members. It's a "win-win" for all concerned.

And we just staged our best, and most impressive annual Building Design Awards event – our tenth such event, which had a record industry attendance. That was a fabulous night, as those of you who were there on the night will confirm. Again, it is events like our annual design awards that enable us to tell the world at large about the amazing talents within our membership. So do consider entering next year's competition. Win, lose, or draw, your involvement goes a long way to profile the skills of building designers. The Committee of Management is currently reviewing the Awards categories and other aspects of the Awards, so watch out for details when they're released later this year.

Planning is also well underway for our third State Conference next April, which will explore the various developments in technology, so I do encourage you to attend that event, as it's not just a great learning experience, but also a terrific networking opportunity, and a lot of fun!

As reported at our last General Meeting, the BDAV's Committee of Management reviewed its relationship with the Building Designers Association of Australia during the year, while we held an 'Observer' status with the BDAA. In the preceding 12 months, the BDAV saw little progress or initiatives taken by the BDAA that may have given us confidence that the BDAA has the capacity or commitment to be a dynamic organisation to adequately represent the interests of building designers nationally. Since our departure from the BDAA in 2000, the BDAV had put forward a number of initiatives to the BDAA, particularly to reform itself to become an effective organisation, but the BDAA continued to operate in an uncommercially viable infrastructure, and continued to not meet its various business plan objectives. As you may know, since our departure from the BDAA, we have been able to focus on member services and benefits here in Victoria, and, as a result, our membership has grown significantly. We also conducted a survey of members earlier this year, the results of which showed an overwhelming 93.4% of respondents did not wish to see the BDAV rejoin the BDAA. After weighing up all the factors, including the strong response by members, the Committee of Management determined that the BDAV would not seek membership of the BDAA and this was conveyed to them. Instead, we will continue to focus our energies on providing quality member services at an affordable price.

One thing I would encourage members to do...and that is to respond to any surveys quickly that are issued by the BDAV. These are done in consultation with the Committee of Management, and are generally on important issues on which we really need hard data to be able to adequately represent your interests. I know, sometimes, these surveys arrive at inconvenient times, but really, we are only trying to help you, our members, so I do urge you to help us by responding to any future surveys.

As I said earlier, this has been my first year as your President, and I have really enjoyed it. But I could not have done it without the fantastic support of our Committee of Management, and our Executive Officers. They really have been a terrific support mechanism to me, and I'd like to encourage a heartfelt round of applause for all the Committee members.

And, in doing that, that completes my first report to you as your President.

Roy Hodgson
BDAV President
10 October 2005