



Building Designers
Association Victoria

BDAV AGM 2009

Minutes of the 27th Annual General Meeting
of The Building Designers Association of Victoria
held on Monday, 5 October 2009
at the Victorian Arts Centre, Melbourne

CHAIRMAN:

Darryl Crumpton, BDAV President

ATTENDANCE:

133 Members, as per Attendance Register
Brian Morison, Giselle Grynbaum,
Assignments Australasia Pty Ltd
Gary Macmillan, BlueScope Steel
John Shayler, Steel Frame Solutions
John Shaw, Building Commission

Apologies: As per Apologies Register

1. OPENING

In declaring the meeting open at 6.10 pm, the Chairman welcomed all in attendance, especially Life Members and Fellows of the Association who were present. He also acknowledged the BDAV's sponsors, and introduced the members of the BDAV's Committee of Management.

2. SPONSOR PRESENTATION

The meeting then received a presentation from Gary Macmillan, the Principal Technical Specialist from BlueScope Steel, the BDAV's Diamond Sponsor, who presented an update on BlueScope Steel's BAL-FZ steel roofing solution.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 6 October 2008, 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: Yvonne Ahmet

Seconded: John Tigas

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President, Mr Darryl Crumpton, presented his annual report (*transcript attached*).

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

6. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The President presented certificates to Mr David Mulhall and Mr Michael Mettes, who had both been elevated to the status of Fellow of the Association, in recognition of their contribution to the BDAV during their membership to date.

7. CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Chairman declared that the following members, listed below, had satisfied the requirements of the BDAV's voluntary Professional Development Program, namely, having achieved a minimum of 15 CPD points in the preceding 12 months. Certificates were presented to those members who were present.

Tim Adams	Susan Marriott
Kane Airey	Jennifer Marshall
Ahmet Akay	Christine McKenzie
Steven Arnheim	Michael Mettes
Darren Bowman	David Mulhall
Paul Brodrick	Kevin Murphy
Salvatore Campagna	Zol Nagy
Craig Cantwell	Keith Nancarrow
Leonie Clyne	Mel O'Donohue
Barry Cole-Sinclair	Ian Openshaw
Dennis Cooke	Michael O'Sullivan
Daniel Cramer	Mark Read
Darryl Crumpton	Allen Roberts
Michael Dawson	Fabio Sella
Sam Dolev	Simon Stagg
Alistair Elliott	Colin Stanley
Pauline Fildes	James Stapleton
Neil Fletcher	David Terry
Paula Hanley	John Tigas
John Harding-Smith	Tracey Toohey
Andrew Hayen	Malcolm Trompf
Geoffrey Hoare	Mark Watson
Roy Hodgson	Greg Watts
Ingrid Hornung	Andrea Wilkinson
Dominique Hunter	Ian Williamson
Anthony Jones	Helmut Wintergerst
Trevor Jones	Philip Wooley
Bohdan Kuzyk	Christina Zigouras
Charles Lithoxopoulos	

8. BUILDING PRACTITIONERS BOARD

In the absence of Mr Geoff Hoare, the Draftsperson Representative on the Building Practitioners Board, the Chairman read a report submitted by Mr Hoare on BPB and Building Commission activities (*transcript attached*).

The President acknowledged Geoff's continued representation of the industry on the Building Practitioners Board.

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9. NOMINATIONS TO COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

The Chairman noted that, as the existing Committee of Management had been installed last year for a two-year period, and there were no changes to the Committee composition for the coming 12 months, the current Committee would continue to represent the membership for the coming year. The Committee comprises: (*in alphabetical order*)

- Tim Adams
- Darryl Crumpton (President)
- Paula Hanley
- Geoffrey Hoare
- Dominique Hunter (Treasurer)
- David Mulhall (Immediate Past President)
- Zol Nagy
- Michael O'Sullivan
- Ian Williamson

10. DESIGNER PROFILE

The President then invited Mr Lindsay Douglas, of Dig Design Group, the winner of the 2009 BDAV Building Design of the Year, to present a profile on his winning project.

11. GUEST SPEAKER

The President then introduced Mr John Shaw, the Building Commission's Acting Manager, Technical & Research Services, to address the meeting. John highlighted the key features of the recently introduced Building Amendment Regulations 2009 and amendments to the Building Regulations 2006, which had come into effect on 1 September 2009. John noted that the current bushfire regulations are

interim, and that these lapse in March 2010, when it was anticipated that new bushfire regulations will come into effect. John also spoke about bunkers (referred to as "fire refuges"), noting that fire refuges currently do not have any classification within the BCA. Indeed, he noted that nowhere in the world are there any standards for the design and construction of bunkers. Therefore, work being done on these in Australia is cutting edge. At the national level:

- The ABCB Board, at its meeting held 24 September 2009, committed to developing a performance requirement, classification and Standard for fire refuges;
- The Standard was intended to be developed in 6 months mainly with assistance from Victoria's Building Commission and other state regulatory bodies;
- The classification and performance details were anticipated to be included within the 2011 BCA;
- The ABCB may also consider bushfire protection for other Classes of buildings.

At the State level:

- Victoria's Building Commissioner, Mr Tony Arnel, committed to enabling the Building Regulations Advisory Committee to accredit fire refuges;
- This means developing a performance requirement and classification;
- It was intended to have accreditation available by mid-November 2009.

12. CLOSE OF FORMALITIES

The President then thanked everybody for their attendance, and declared the meeting closed at 8.12 pm, inviting everybody to partake of refreshments at the venue.

BDAV AGM 2009 – PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has certainly been an interesting, challenging and eye-opening time, in my first year as your President, which has given me a deeper insight into how the BDAV works.

Clearly, the most significant event, this year, was the Black Saturday Bushfires in February. We are all aware of the devastation caused by this natural disaster, and our hearts continue to go out to those who lost so much in the fires. The Bushfires have added to the workload of our volunteer base, yet they also brought out the best in many of our members, who were very quick to volunteer their services when called upon. I take this opportunity to thank all those members who are on our Volunteer List, who generously provided – and continue to provide – their support and service to Victorians in need. We have had some wonderful feedback from the Victorian Bushfire Recovery & Reconstruction Authority, as well as from bushfire affected persons about our members. A Flowerdale resident commented as follows:

You ought to be very proud of the people you represent because, since my first contacting you yesterday, I have received seventeen offers of assistance. I am overwhelmed by this response – and a little humbled. Please

thank all the members of BDAV and tell them I cannot cope with any more responses. Your next task is to redirect all these wonderful souls to other people who need them.

It seems that so many generous professionals want to help that it should be broadcast. Once again – and this has happened a lot recently – I am all warm and fuzzy about my fellow humans.

With predictions of yet another harsh summer ahead, and the bushfire season less than 40 days away, we all need to brace ourselves for what the summer will bring, and band together when we can, to help our fellow members and Victorians in need.

Onto other matters.....

Over the past year the Association has continued to enhance membership benefits, continued to grow in overall membership, and has worked solidly to achieve a higher profile for building designers to consumers and government.

The Association continues to maintain a very solid foundation, and I would like to thank all members for renewing their membership subscriptions so promptly, as this contributes significantly to funding the various projects and services that we provide.



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In terms of membership numbers, we now have just over 1,100 members, which is a very solid membership base. Importantly, new members continue to join each week. As has previously been reported at this forum, continued membership growth is crucial to ensure the longevity of the Association, and I urge all members to encourage their colleagues or employees to become a member of the BDAV, as younger members are the key to our future growth, and vital to bring fresh ideas and fresh energy to our programs.

As we all know, the global economic downturn has had a savage impact on business this year, and the BDAV has also borne the brunt. We have lost several major sponsors as a result of their business downturn; however, we are delighted to report that several of our loyal corporate partners have continued their sponsorship, in particular our diamond sponsor, BlueScope Steel, and we are very grateful for their continued support. I also take this opportunity to welcome Tait Timber as our newest sponsor, and we look forward to forging a strong relationship with the Tait team.

Whilst the BDAV is not reliant on sponsorship income, it is an important contributor to the success of the Association, and we continue to work hard to endeavour to attract additional sponsors. I would like to particularly acknowledge the assistance of Michael O'Sullivan from our Committee of Management in this regard. I also urge all members to support our sponsors whenever you can, because it is only by our members continuing to specify their products or using their services that our sponsors will continue to support the Association.

Because of the difficult financial times, there has been an increase in the number of enquiries from members relating to contractual disputes and debt collection, and the Association continues to provide advice and assistance to members in these areas.

This year we held our 14th Building Design Awards, and the change of venue to Zinc at Federation Square was highly praised, not only for its architectural connections, but also for the high-level of service and ambiance offered.

I was also delighted to see the calibre of our members' entries showcased again at Federation Square. This exhibit provides excellent exposure for our profession to the community, and to consumers, and the standardised entrants' display boards depicts the Association in a very professional manner. Our annual consumer magazine, Winning Design, also complements the Awards activity, and also contributes to profiling our Association and our Members to prospective clients and the community.

I, again, thank all entrants for their commitment and participation in the Awards, and, of course, I congratulate all winners on their success. I also take this opportunity to thank everyone associated in delivering for us another very successful Awards event this year, given this is our annual flagship event.

The BDAV's Continuing Professional Development program continues to be one of our major successes. Our CPD events are well supported and praised by members and the industry. So much so, that we achieved a 'Highly Recommended' as CPD Provider in the Building Commission's annual CPD Awards late last year, which follows on from us winning CPD Provider the previous year. We have also moved

to a larger venue to accommodate the increased interest in CPD participation by our membership. The Victorian Arts Centre also offers excellent networking opportunities for our CPD events, and members and sponsors have praised the new location. It is also pleasing to see many members staying on and networking with their peers at our CPD events, as this is often almost as valuable as the formal educational component, especially for sole practitioners, as it gives members an opportunity to talk about issues of common concern with their peers.

Disappointingly, participation at our Regional Meetings has flattened off, as many country members now attend the CPD events in Melbourne. We hope that, with the assistance of our Regional Co-ordinators, we might be able to resurrect interest for our regional meetings for next year, and that is certainly a project I plan to be personally involved in.

This year, we trialed some day-long CPD events, but it is clear that our members are time-poor, as the take-up was disappointing. The Committee of Management has abandoned those events, and has also put a hold on any future BDAV biennial conferences, as we cannot sustain the associated loss in co-ordinating such events, if they are not supported by the membership.

However, one of our CPD successes, this year, was our Work Readiness Course, which is now gaining momentum, with the October intake having filled very quickly. This is a very valuable program for new employees within design practices, and I urge members to continue to send their drafting staff along. I also place on record my appreciation to Geoff Hoare and Brian Morison for having developed this Course, and their continued contribution in delivering the course, which has received outstanding feedback from participants.

Our relationship with Government continues to strengthen, both as a result of the work carried out by our lobbyist, and also through the representation by several members of the Committee of Management at government and industry forums. I particularly wish to recognise the work carried out by David Mulhall, Tim Adams, and Brian Morison towards our lobbying program.

One issue on our lobbying agenda this year has been the Department of Education's Contractor Supply Register, which currently only enables "suitably registered architects" to tender for government work, as a result of a technical definition of architectural services. This runs counter to the Minister for Planning's Ministerial Direction on Tendering Provisions for Public Construction. The BDAV has written to the key government agencies in this regard, and has met with some of the relevant Ministers. We will continue to lobby on this issue, as we believe there are businesses amongst our membership who have the necessary credentials to be eligible to be included on the Contractor Supply Register, and we will not tolerate such an anti-competitive approach.

We have also made submissions to a number of Government inquiries, including

- Draft Residential Zones
 - Modernising Victoria's Planning Act
 - Renewable Energy Projects in Victoria
 - VCAT Review
 - Urban Growth Boundaries
- to name a few.

The BDAV has also commenced a program of engaging directly with local councils and the Municipal Association of Victoria in relation to planning issues that cause concern to both us and to councils.



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The BDAV continues to have a strong relationship with the TAFE network, and one project we have been working on is the establishment of a design resource database, for which we received seeding funds from the Building Commission. The Building Commission has been delighted with the development of the database to date.

More will emerge about this resource once it is firmly bedded down, but the initial interest from our major sponsors has been encouraging.

Late last year we introduced a scholarship program, which offers a \$1,000 scholarship to an outstanding student from each of the 11 TAFEs who deliver the Advanced Diploma in Building Design (Architectural), and this program was well received by supporting TAFEs.

Past President and Fellow of the BDAV, Geoff Hoare, continues to represent all draftspersons on the Building Practitioners Board, and he continues to be held in high regard on the Board, and at the Building Commission. Geoff also spends a significant amount of time participating at Board inquiries, and other Commission activities, and we thank him for continuing to be an excellent ambassador for our profession.

This year we reviewed and enhanced our suite of contracts, with the introduction of a new contract for Commercial Alterations & Additions projects. These have been done in conjunction with Deacons Lawyers, one of Australia's leading construction law firms.

One of the more disappointing aspects so far this year has been the difficulties the Association has experienced in the development of a BDAV specification, due to the fact that we have been let down by the specification writers we have approached. The Association will continue to explore other options for a BDAV specification, as members clearly are seeking this service from the Association.

On a more positive note, our monthly journal, *BDAV News*, continues to be popular, and the BDAV regularly receives compliments from readers – both from amongst our membership and from industry colleagues – about the timely relevance and quality content of *BDAV News*. This journal is a wonderful resource and I wish

to thank the editorial committee for their continued diligence. I also encourage all members to continue to submit editorial contributions whenever you can.

And, of course, in our marketing program, it would be remiss of me to not acknowledge the very professional new BDAV website we launched last month. Many months of work went into developing the site by our hard-working Website Subcommittee, and the new site depicts the modern, contemporary Association that the BDAV is today.

The new site offers state-of-the-art technology in terms of an online webshop where members can purchase the latest BDAV CPD DVDs, BDAV contracts, and all the various items you have previously purchased from the BDAV. It also features a fortnightly poll, the results of which will be of value to us in our lobbying and marketing campaigns, so I urge you to participate in those polls as often as you can. The site also features very strong marketing to consumers and to members, so do take the time to visit the site and familiarise yourself with its features.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the support and assistance that I have received from the BDAV's Committee of Management and the Executive Officer team during the first year of my Presidency. I have been fortunate to be part of a committed and passionate Committee, and I would like to thank them all, for their tireless efforts.

The Committee is made up of rank and file members who find the time to contribute and administer the affairs of the Association on a voluntary basis, yet still run their own, busy design practices. The BDAV is now a significant entity, requiring not only foresight and an in-depth understanding of the needs of the membership, but also a business-like approach, and the Committee has had to make some important, and at times, difficult decisions, in the best interests of our members.

I also thank all the members I have met over the past year, and the support you continue to give to the Association. Without you, we would not have an Association.

Thank you.

Darryl Crumpton
BDAV President

BDAV AGM 2009 – FINANCIAL REPORT

This has been my first year as BDAV Treasurer, and it has certainly given me a clearer understanding of the various activities that impact the BDAV's finances.

I would firstly like to thank our sponsors. Our Diamond Sponsor – Bluescope Steel – plus our other sponsors : Architectural Window Systems, James Hardie, and KarelCAD, and, of course, our newest sponsor, Tait Timber. Without these sponsors, we would find it difficult to provide the level of member services that the BDAV provides, especially in this current uncertain financial climate. Our sponsors feel the pressures of financial trends the same as we do, so it is tremendous that they see a mutual benefit in continuing to sponsor our Association; so please, if and when you are specifying products, consider our sponsors.

The Association has, again, this year kept membership fees and seminar fees to a minimum, and will continue to do so. Our

membership fees are the lowest of any other state BDA across the nation. Last year we introduced a Loyalty Discount on membership subscriptions, recognising long-serving members who have been with us for 10 or more years continuously, and this program continued this year, and will continue for the future.

We introduced a membership card this year for each member, and this will become more important as we endeavour to negotiate additional membership discounts and benefits for our members.

This year, we also introduced a Loyalty Program for our CPD events, wherein you get your fourth CPD event free, if you attend three of our metropolitan BDAV CPD events which incur a charge. This program has proved popular, and I suspect has contributed to the strong attendance at our CPD events. We understand the burden of supporting any Continuing Professional Development program, and the BDAV will continue to make it



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affordable for members. Our CPD Program is considerably cheaper than many other Associations – we have never treated this as an income stream; merely an endeavour to recoup as much of the direct costs that we incur in running events for you. We have also taped each CPD event this year, and I would urge those members who cannot personally attend our CPD events to consider purchasing a DVD. It is important for us to endeavour to recoup the production costs of filming and producing the DVDs, otherwise we will have to reconsider continuing this service, as purchase of DVDs has been disappointing.

This year we introduced a Student Scholarship program in consultation with the TAFEs, as we believe it is vital that we encourage young people to continue in our profession. As Darryl mentioned, top achieving students studying for the Advanced Diploma in Building Design (Architectural) from the TAFEs who supported this program received a \$1,000 scholarship from us; however, they had to indicate how the scholarship moneys would be spent by them to further their studies.

Our big-ticket expenditure items this year were:

- again, our annual Building Design Awards, which was another success this year, and we again take this opportunity to thank the Award sponsors. The public display

of entries at Federation Square again created a lot of interest with the public. The BDAV also provided monetary prizes in the student category, for first place winners in the two student categories;

- our recently revised suite of contracts, which now includes a commercial alterations & additions contract; and, of course
- our newly launched website, which I think you'll all agree is a very vibrant, contemporary site.

The accounts have been audited once again by the accounting firm of Clements, Dunne & Bell, and have been found to be in good order. Indeed, the Auditor mentioned he loves visiting us, because our records are so meticulous, we make his task easy!

As we all know, this has been a difficult year, with the global financial downturn impacting us all, so it is pleasing to report that the Association has recorded a pre-tax profit of \$89,290, which is a testament to the BDAV's prudent financial management. The financial report is able to be viewed at the BDAV's office by any member, if desired.

I would like to thank the Committee of Management, and the Executive Officer team for their support and assistance to me in my first year as your Treasurer.

Dominique Hunter
BDAV Treasurer

BDAV AGM 2009 – BPB REPORT

- Lumley and CGU have withdrawn from the domestic builders insurance market approximately, 4,000 builders will be affected.
- Building Commissioner gave evidence at the Bushfire Royal Commission:
 - 90% of the housing destroyed by the fires was old housing stock that pre-dated the previous 1994 standard.
 - The Building Commission gave an undertaking to develop a Bushfire Bunker Standard.
 - Bushfire Assessment Volunteers have carried out approx. 400 BAL assessments, with a number of BDAV members were involved in this initiative.
- Regulatory Impact Statement released shortly on the proposed domestic access revisions to the BCA.
- Federal Government pushing to a 6-star energy rating for domestic work next year with revisions also to Part J of the BCA.
- Three inquiries into draftspersons so far this year (one BDAV member).
- New limited building surveyor and inspector categories introduced in an effort to assist with regional BS and Inspector shortages.
- The number of complaints against practitioners has increased by 50% over last year.
- In the past two months there has been a significant increase in applications for registration as a draftsperson, with the average number of assessments jumping from around 15 to 33 per month; interestingly there had been a negative growth in draftsperson numbers till August.
- The total number of building practitioners is currently 23,531, including 2,160 Draftspersons:
 - 1,843 architectural
 - 144 interior
 - 173 services.
- The Building Commission has completed its 2009 audit of councils, draftspersons and domestic building managers were the subject of scrutiny and I will be able to report on the audit details once I have those outcomes.

Geoff Hoare
Building Practitioners Board Report



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