



Building Designers
Association Victoria

BDAV AGM 2012

Minutes of the 30th Annual General Meeting
of The Building Designers Association of Victoria
held on Tuesday, 9 October 2012
at the Victorian Arts Centre, Melbourne

CHAIRMAN:

Tim Adams, BDAV President

ATTENDANCE:

145 Members, as per Attendance Register

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 who were present.

2. SPONSOR PRESENTATION

Mr Richard Rowe, the Sustainability Manager-Marketing for BlueScope Steel, spoke about the Green Star-Communities rating tool, which is designed for residential, industrial, or mixed-use communities. He also advised that the next generation of Zinalume® steel – which has significantly improved durability and performance – will be available on the market in 2013.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 10 October 2011, 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: Robert McLauchlan

Seconded: Peter Jackson

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr Tim Adams presented the President's annual report. (transcript attached).

5. CHANGES TO BDAV CONSTITUTION

The Immediate Past President, Mr Darryl Crumpton, reported on proposed changes to the BDAV's Constitution, which had been approved by the Committee of Management on 19 July 2012. The majority of the proposed changes related elimination of clauses that had become obsolete as a result of advances in business practices, including the ability to report on financials via electronic communications. Those Full Members who were present were asked to vote on the proposed changes, and the motion to amend the Constitution was unanimously approved.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

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.

Susan Abbott
Kane Airey
Steven Arnheim
Lance Baker
Darren Bowman
Darren Brown
David Canciello
Raymond Clissold
Charles Danby
Chris Davis
Leonie Dixon
Jonathan Duverge
Rachel Eastman
Andre Ferretto
Johnson Fok
Julie Freeland
Helen Geddes
Birgit Gosetti
Jessica Griffey
Darren Haylock
Roy Hodgson
Ingrid Hornung
Takashi Inoue
Leonard Kelley
Hauke Kratzat
Lisa Lee
Ted Lord
Christopher McArdle
Alastair McDonald
Peter McKernan
Michael Mettes
Stela Mircea
Malcolm Munro
Amanullah Nadimi
Jason Pasqual
Robert Penn
Fleur Pitman
Jennifer Pryce
David Rayson
Allen Roberts
Nabil Salem
Fabio Sella

Tim Adams
John Amor
Geoffrey Atkins
Leiden Bao
Colin Brown
Salvatore Campagna
Diane Carter
Leonie Clyne
Adele Dao
Wayne Dawson
Peter Dowling
Jay Earles
Timothy Ellis
Graham Fildes
Ben Fox
David Fuller
Jason Gloz
Fiona Gregory
Stephen Guiney
Nathan Hobbs
Andrew Hooper
Helen Hyatt
Trevor Jones
Danielle King
Kue Sum Lai
Wendy Li
Sven Maxa
Sara McCunnie
Christine McKenzie
Gregory McNeil
Stuart Miller
Jennifer Munro
Kevin Murphy
Graeme Parker
Graham Paulin
Patricia Piastra
Diane Poolton
Andrea Pryor
Graeme Rigg
Maxwell Roper
Michael Salpietro
Tean Lam Shum

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continued next page.....

Bruce St Clair
Belinda Stewart
Russell Stork
Golub Tomic
Herman van den Elst
Seamus Walsh
Mark Watson
Britta Weller
Ross Whittle
Jim Woolcock
Nadim Yaacoub

James Stapleton
Kenneth Stewart
Wendy Stratton
Tracey Toohey
Peter Vasey
Vince Wardill
Carl Webster
Michael White
Andrea Wilkinson
Philip Wooley
Chad Young

8. BUILDING PRACTITIONERS BOARD

As the Building Practitioners Board representative, Mr David Cooke, had been unable to attend the AGM due to family reasons, for which he apologised, he provided a written report about BPB activities the following day. (Refer attached)

9. NEW FELLOW

The Chairman invited Mr Darryl Crumpton back to the stage and thanked him for his service to the Association over the preceding 12 years, on which he had served on the Committee of Management. As Mr Crumpton was stepping down from the Committee at the conclusion of the AGM, the Committee had unanimously agreed that Mr Crumpton be elevated to the rank of Fellow in recognition of his tremendous service to the Association over that time. This was acknowledged by unanimous applause from those present.

10. 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)

Michael O'Sullivan (President)
Tim Adams (Immediate Past President)
Lindsay Douglas
Paul Hassall
Ingrid Hornung
Dominique Hunter (Treasurer)
Alastair McDonald (Vice-President)
Zol Nagy
Katie Rees

The incoming President, Mr Michael O'Sullivan, expressed appreciation to outgoing President, Tim Adams, for his leadership over the preceding two years, and for his contribution to the Association, particularly in the area of sustainable design.

11. DESIGNER PROFILE

The Chairman then invited Mr Michael Cleaver, of Clever Design, the winner of the 2012 BDAV Building Design of the Year, to present a profile on his winning project, 'Out Year'.

12. GUEST SPEAKER

The Chairman then invited Ms Suzette Jackson to address the gathering. Ms Jackson is the Executive Officer and Director of Living Future Institute Australia, a not-for-profit organisation committed to catalysing a transformation towards true sustainability. She spoke about the four programs supported by LFIA, namely, One Planet Living, Living Building Challenge, Biomimicry, and Passive House. She also advised of forthcoming events supported by LFIA, and about the membership opportunities available through the Institute. Further information is available at www.ilbi.org.

13. CLOSE OF FORMALITIES

The Chairman then thanked everybody for their attendance, and declared the meeting closed at 8.00 pm, inviting everybody to partake of refreshments at the venue.



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BDAV AGM 2012 – PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Two years seem to have passed very quickly. In passing over the baton of BDAV presidency to Michael O'Sullivan it is good to reflect a little on what has happened during the preceding 24 months.

Having just taken over the responsibility of accrediting TPAs and HSAs from Sustainability Victoria in October 2010 the BDAV has consolidated its position as a respected organization in this space. Requests from many out in industry encouraged us to investigate the potential of expanding the role from a Victorian base to embrace national coverage. Thorough vetting by the DCCEE confirmed that we would be able to satisfy the requirements set up under the NatHERS protocol. Once this acknowledgement was achieved in Canberra we have proceeded to gain a sign off from all the states and territories having local jurisdiction over implementation of NCC/BCA provisions. This has now been finalized with the exception of WA. Through this process we have been pleased to receive positive feedback about the high standing of our reputation for providing valuable services to our membership.

The quality of design work carried out by members has continued to gain recognition in various building industry award programs and especially with the BDAV awards continuing to raise our profile in Winning Design as well as gaining broad coverage in print, radio and social media.

A question from our PR advisors back in 2010 as to what may be unique to my term as president was the genesis for developing the concept of the 10 Star Challenge. Two years on, it is very gratifying to have been involved in a program which has achieved significant growth in the skills and knowledge base of those who have participated. Importantly it has proved to be a vehicle for raising the status of the BDAV and the membership as an industry leading force in sustainability and energy efficiency.

This would appear to be very advantageous at a time when knowledge in this area has become vital in assisting building owners to find ways to maintain thermal comfort and water efficiency in the most cost effective ways. The increases in utilities costs that we have already seen and the prospect of more, has taken us from a position where energy efficiency was the province of the nuts and berries brigade to a critical priority in managing the household budget. Resolving superior responses in this area is now something that is done on a purely economic basis and just happens to filter through to environmental benefits as a consequence.

The development of numerous Subcommittees and Technical Advisory Committees has leveraged access to a huge wealth of knowledge and experience possessed by the membership and has harnessed this for the benefit of all. The vitality of the association and value to the members will only thrive with engagement by the members.

Our recognition within all levels of government as a peak body continues to increase. This has been achieved with the assistance of valuable advice and the access to relevant people and departments in government and in opposition provided by from FPL Advisory. Feedback continues to confirm that submissions prepared by BDAV are respected for their clear analysis of the task at hand.

The Committee of Management with unwavering support from our secretariat has continued to work with a vision of providing the best professional support framework for the members so that they are able to offer the most up to date, premium quality services to their clients.

The arrival of Kate Bell as Joint Executive Officer alongside Giselle Grynbaum has certainly been an unprecedented change. This came about as a result of Brian Morison following through on his threat, issued a while back to the Committee of Management, that his tenure had an expiry date. It is a great regret that the enlightened, sober guidance of Brian, which assisted the association for the past eighteen years, has come to an end. The residual benefits will however remain with us for a very long time yet. Kate has brought new skills and enthusiasm to compliment the unrelenting hard work we all respect Giselle for, so there should be no fear that this change will in any way diminish the work of the association.

Membership numbers have continued to increase in all categories over the last two years with the current grand total standing at ?????. This means that we have an even greater obligation to be relevant to a broad group of professionals filling many and varied niches within the building industry.

What remains a bit of a mystery is that some registered building practitioners operate out in the big wide world without the parachute afforded by benefits of being a member of a professional association. The complexity and constant change in technology and regulation must present a minefield to those who attempt to battle on alone. The quality of documentation and professionalism of services demanded by clients and the requirement to meet legislated responsibilities are onerous. Future relevance of the association will be boosted by those outriders seeing the light and getting on board. It should be incumbent on all of us to extend encouragement to those people to join the association.

Issues in the future both near and far with amendments to planning schemes, funding of TAFE, access to all types of work and professional development to list a few will mean that the work of the BDAV will be unrelenting. The next Committee of Management will be well placed to maintain a steady course under Michael's stewardship. There is every reason why the BDAV will move forward and go from strength to strength.

Thank you.

Tim Adams
BDAV President



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BDAV AGM 2012 – FINANCIAL REPORT

First, I would like to acknowledge and thank our sponsors. Our Diamond Sponsor – BlueScope Steel – plus our other sponsors : Architectural Window Systems, James Hardie Australia, Kingspan Insulation, WoodSolutions, Tait Timber & Hardware, KarelCAD, and Rylock continue to support us, and we highly value their support. Our sponsors feel the pressures of financial constraints the same as we do, so it is tremendous that they see a mutual benefit in continuing to sponsor our Association; so if and when you are specifying products, we urge you to please consider our sponsors where you can.

Our membership continues to grow, and we now have just over 1,800 members, which continues to give us a very solid membership base. We also continue to be the largest of any BDA around the nation and, indeed, we have more members than the rest of the nation, collectively.

This year we had no option but to increase our membership fees due to ever-increasing costs; however, the increase was just under 5%, and there was no increase the prior year. Our membership fees continue to be low compared to those charged by other comparative industry bodies.

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.

Our activities as an accrediting body for Thermal Performance Assessors and Home Sustainability Assessors continue to evolve; however, we have not increased the annual accreditation fees this year, despite the associated increased costs in providing this service. We view this as another dimension for our membership, and an area that re-enforces to our designer members the opportunities of including energy efficient and sustainability elements in your designs.

Our seminar and webinar fees have also been retained at the same rate as last year, again, despite increased supplier costs. Again, our seminar fees are low compared with those charged by other industry bodies. We have been pleased to see the strong participation in our CPD activities this year, and we hope to see this continue.

The Loyalty Program we introduced several years ago for our CPD events also 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. We will not be re-issuing Loyalty cards this year, so please continue to use your previous card. This is your record of when you become due for a free seminar.

And, of course, our Student Members do not participate in this Loyalty Scheme as they already attend most of our events free of charge. That is another commitment we have to the future of our profession.

I just want to re-enforce, again, that the BDAV understands the burden of supporting any Continuing Professional Development program, and we will continue to keep it affordable for our members. We have never treated CPD as an income stream; we simply aim to recoup the direct costs that we incur in running events for you.

This year, we reintroduced the video recording of our CPD events, but only where we receive sufficient demand prior to each seminar, to cover production costs. Prior to introducing this process, we had incurred a huge financial loss on DVDs, so it is very pleasing to

see our members responding to this process, and pre-ordering DVDs.

This year we again ran our Student Grant program, 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 received some very impressive submissions from some of our Student Members, and we again congratulate the winners. This is a program we plan to continue.

The Committee of Management also determined, this year, to award a special Student Award from next year to honour our recently-retired Executive Officer, so, from next year, we will be presenting the Brian Morison Award for the Most Promising Student, for which the winning student will receive \$4,000 from the BDAV towards the costs of their future studies. Details of this award will be announced to TAFEs early next year.

Our big-ticket expenditure items this year were our annual Building Design Awards competition, our 10-Star Challenge, our marketing program...especially our radio campaign on 3AW... and our involvement in public events, including Designbuild and, more recently, Grand Designs Live. The Awards, and the associated gala presentation event, was another great success. The mileage from the 3AW campaign continues to benefit all building designers, as does the public display of entries at Federation Square, which created a lot of interest with the public, especially the great images on the large screen above the Atrium. This year, we introduced a People's Category component to the Awards, which we will also continue. The BDAV again provided monetary prizes to the winners in the student category. We also take this opportunity to thank the sponsors of the Awards, whose support helped to defray the various costs.

We also continue to use outsourced consultants, especially in our lobbying and public relations activities. We recently changed our PR consultants, and are very pleased with the new firm we have appointed. These costs impact our 'bottom line', but, again, are all a sound investment in endeavouring to profile the skills and services offered by our building designer and energy rater members.

Our website continues to be our major communications tool, and this year we embarked on modifications to the site, to enable members to access their CPD summaries themselves, whenever required, as well as improvements to the Member Forum.

As a result of all these activities – and our healthy membership base – the BDAV recorded a pre-tax profit at 30th June 2012 of \$174,050. As we continue to carry forward some tax losses from earlier years, this will contribute to offsetting such taxable income.

All this, again, 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 accounting firm of Clements, Dunne & Bell, and 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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BDAV AGM 2012 – BPB REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Having joined the BPB in August 2011, the 2012 year has been my first full year as a Board Member. The work of the BPB is both interesting and demanding. My work for the BPB includes about 15 hours a week, divided 50/50 between being at the Boards offices and work away from the office reviewing files and reading briefs.

Over the last 12 months i have completed.....

184 DP Registration Assessments
28 Practitioner Conduct Review Hearings
11 Board Meetings
22 Sub-Committee Meetings
2 Training Sessions

Most interestingly, the last 12 months has been a more challenging one for the Board. The VAGO Report into the Building Commission was released in late 2011. This report was critical of the Commission in a significant number of ways. The report also made suggestions that the BPB could improve its governance practices. As a result of the Report, the BPB has made significant changes to Governance. These include clearer guidelines for BPB members and Committees, more transparent decision making and recording of reasons for decisions.

The impact on the Building Commission has been more significant. The Commissioner resigned in late 2011 and was replaced by interim Commissioner Michael Kefford. Mr Jeffery's brief was to urgently review many of the Building Commission's activities, particularly those criticised by the VAGO Report. A number of adverse headline articles, regarding past practices by the Building Commission also appeared in The Age newspaper early in 2012 and this resulted in increased urgency to attend to VAGO's concerns. Commissioner Kefford considered that reform required a 3 point plan and hoped to implement much of this plan during his 12 month tenure.

Firstly,

- to attend to immediate concerns regarding Building Surveyor/Permit matters and reported poor outcomes for consumers in relation to domestic buildings
- to assess and make changes to poor outcomes in relation to building permits for swimming pool barriers
- And to review and make changes to the 'owner builder' controls and regulations
- All of these matters are now implemented or soon to be so.

Secondly,

- to review and make any required changes to the corporate governance and administrative control of the Building Commission and the Boards (such as BPB & BAB)
- This review is complete and the Commissioner has made a recommendation to the Minister for the required changes to structure and legislation.

Thirdly,

- to review and assess the various consumer complaint mechanisms in relation to building work.
- At present 3 different bodies deal with consumer complaints in this area and the public are often confused by the apparently duplicated services. In the Commissioner's view the public would be better served by a 'one stop shop'.
- This part of the Commissioners plan requires input from 3 different Govt Ministries and may take some time to resolve.

In conclusion, I suggest that the next 6 months will be one of significant change to the area of government building control and involve structural change – much of which is intended to better serve the consumer. I will continue to do my best to represent the BDAV and all Victorian draftspersons in my work at the Board.

David Cooke

*Draftsperson Representative
Building Practitioners Board*



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