



Building Designers
Association Victoria

BDAV AGM 2016

Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting
of the Building Designers Association of Victoria
held on Monday, 10 October 2016
at the Victoria University Conference Centre, Melbourne

CHAIRMAN:

Alastair McDonald, BDAV President

ATTENDANCE:

104 Members, as per Attendance Register

Apologies: As per Apologies Register

1. OPENING

In declaring the meeting open at 6.02 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.

2. GUEST SPEAKER

Victoria's Minister for Planning, The Hon Richard Wynne, MP, addressed the meeting with an update on the various issues on the Planning agenda. He noted that Victoria's population is estimated to reach 10 million by 2050, so it is important to address the appropriate infrastructure required. He spoke about Victoria's vision for urban renewal, including plans for the Arden precinct and Fisherman's Bend, as well as regional Victoria. He also noted that the Victorian Planning Authority had recently been established – this is a new government authority that reports to the Planning Minister aimed to help manage Victoria's strong population growth by planning for greater housing and business choices in key precincts across Victoria. He also gave an update on the draft Better Apartments Design Guidelines, noting that 250 submissions had been received to the draft. He then fielded questions from the audience, and departed the meeting at 6.45pm.

3. SPONSOR PRESENTATION

Mr Florent Hostein from James Hardie Australia spoke about some of their recent initiatives, noting the winner and Victorian finalists in the James Hardie Dream Designer competition. Whilst the winner was a BDAWA member, Florent praised the standard of the Victorian finalists, and featured a brief video about each Victorian finalist in his presentation. He also spoke about James Hardie's HardieSmart and HardiDeck products.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 5 October 2015, which had been made available to the members on the membership register at that time, were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Moved: Salvatore Campagna

Seconded: Lindsay Douglas

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr Alastair McDonald read the President's annual report. (transcript attached).

Prior to the conclusion of his report, Alastair presented a Life Member certificate to Mr David Cooke, as well as a Fellow certificate to Mr Michael O'Sullivan. Both of these were warmly applauded by the audience.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

7. BUILDING PRACTITIONERS BOARD

Mr David Cooke presented the final Building Practitioners Board report, given the BPB had been wound up effective 1 September 2016. He noted that, over the years, the Board had been made up of industry representatives from the various registration categories. BDAV Members have served on the Board since the outset, and he noted the involvement of Frank Masten, Noel Perkins, Narelle Lockwood, Geoff Hoare – who preceded David – as well as Kevin Slater who has been co-opted onto various BPB subcommittees. He also reported on the various activities in which BDAV delegates have been involved, and noted that, whilst the BPB activities are now being handled by the Victorian Building Authority, the remaining members of the BPB – including David – will deal with the remaining approx. 100 disciplinary inquiries before concluding their functions all together. Mr Alastair McDonald thanked David for his excellent representation of the industry over his five years on the BPB, which was wholeheartedly endorsed by those present.

8. DESIGNER PROFILE

Mr Luke Middleton of EME Design made an informative presentation on his firm's successful Artisan Apartments project, which had won four awards in the BDAV's 2016 Building Design Awards, including the 2016 Building Design of the Year. The presentation concluded with a hearty expression of appreciation from the audience.

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continued next page.....

9. COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Ms Giselle Grynbaum reported on the outcome of voting for the incoming Committee of Management for 2016-2018, which will comprise (in alphabetical order):

Marc Bernstein-Hussmann
Lindsay Douglas
Tim Ellis
Andrew Ferris
Ingrid Hornung
Dominique Hunter
Peter Lombo
Sven Maxa
Alastair McDonald

A Vote of Thanks was acknowledged for the previous Committee, especially for Alastair McDonald, who stood down as BDAV President at the conclusion of the AGM, having served two years in that role.

10. CLOSE OF FORMALITIES

The Chairman then thanked everybody for their attendance, and declared the meeting closed at 7.52 pm, inviting everybody to partake of refreshments at the venue.



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BDAV AGM 2016 – PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It's hard to believe that my two-year Presidency has been completed. It's been a very busy couple of years, and I have really enjoyed my role, and meeting many members and industry colleagues in that time.

The support of the membership continues to allow the BDAV to grow each year, and to be recognised as one of the key stakeholders in the industry.

We also acknowledge the support of our sponsors, with whom we have established very solid relationships, which we value. In particular, we acknowledge the long-standing partnership we have with our Diamond Sponsor, James Hardie Australia.

Over the past twelve months, through our lobbying program on behalf of the membership, we have addressed many issues impacting our members. These include the Victorian Government's activities in relation to:

- monitoring and making the membership aware of legislative changes impacting our profession;
- **BUILDING**
 - Consultation with the Department about the introduction of the Building Legislation Amendment Act (Consumer Protection) and the next raft of changes that are about to occur;
 - Liaison with – and responding to submission requests from the Victorian Building Authority, including those relating to their Reforms program, their assessment framework, and in the area of non-compliant building materials and external wall cladding;
 - Attempts to remove the restrictions within some Government departments to those 'non-architects' who aim to work on Government projects;
- **PLANNING**
 - 'Better Apartment Design Guidelines';
 - Smart Planning Program;
 - the Small Business Advisory Council of Victorian and Red Tape Commissioner's activities related to removal of red tape from Planning;
 - Plan Melbourne Refresh;
 - Residential Zones Review;
 - specific Council amendments which would have fallen out to many other jurisdictions (for example, Bayside City Council amendment c140);
- **SUSTAINABILITY**
 - as well as our usual liaison with the NatHERS Administrator;
 - discussions relating to the Residential Energy Efficiency Scorecard;
 - discussions relating to BESS;
 - the Australian Building Codes Board's proposed NCC2016 which attempted to negate the NatHERS scheme;to name a few.

In respect to the Victorian Building Authority, we have developed a very strong relationship with the VBA, and we have regular meetings with VBA's CEO, Prue Digby, as well as quarterly Stakeholder Reference Group meetings.

We have also worked on forging greater relations with our allies, including the Victorian branches of the AIBS, MBA, HIA, PCA, UDIA, and PIA.

I have also represented the industry on the Building Advisory Council, which has increased our network of influence.

On the Educational front, we maintain dialogue with the various TAFE institutes who deliver the Advanced Diploma of Building Design (Architectural) – individually, and collectively via the VABSN – and we understand they appreciate our support, as we, equally appreciate their involvement in our activities.

Last year we introduced a new category of membership – Graduate Member – and we look forward to more take-up of this membership category as word filters through the TAFE system. This category assists Graduates in their pathway to ultimately joining the workforce in building design and/or interior design.

This year, we reviewed the various SubCommittees we had in place, which have now been replaced with Working Parties on a variety of key areas impacting our members' activities. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Members who participated on our former SubCommittees, and hope you will make yourselves available to be involved in our Working Parties.

We held our 21st annual BDAV Building Design Awards this year, and it was great to see another high-standard of entries. This program continues to profile the skills of our members to the broader community – not just for those Members who entered the Awards. Well over 300 people attended the gala presentation event at the National Gallery of Victoria in July, which was another successful event, with many attendees praising the ambience, camaraderie and location as an ideal venue for this – our annual flagship event.

One big task we delivered this year in conjunction with our Awards was our revamped AWARDED magazine, which is distributed via newsagents. This replaced our former Winning Design magazine, and is more architecturally focused.

And we have revamped our 10-Star Sustainable Design Challenge for next year, making it more accessible to our broader membership, so we hope you will support that activity. Entries close on the 2nd of December, and the winners will be announced in conjunction with the Sustainable Living Festival in February, so start thinking about your entry now!



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We continue our involvement with the National Association of Building Designers, and we recently participated in a Strategy Meeting with the NABD as well as attending their third annual Design Awards event in Queensland. I take this opportunity to congratulate our Members who won Awards in this year's NABD Awards. It was great to see the success of so many of our Award winners in the NABD Awards, with more than 50 per cent of the Awards announced by NABD being BDAV Member projects. And we congratulate Mark Gleeson from M G Design & Building on winning the National Building Design of the Year for his Christmont Winery project. We also acknowledge the support of James Hardie in that activity, as well as the other sponsors who supported that event.

Our Continuing Professional Development program continues to offer relevant and timely seminars, webinars, workshops and site-visits for our members. So far this year, we have delivered almost 60 events. These will become more important to the membership next year when the VBA introduces compulsory CPD for the five-year re-registration of registered practitioners. We will obviously keep Members informed as that is rolled out – and we will also ensure that our CPD events continue to remain timely and relevant for our membership.

This year, we also ran our second – and very successful – overseas Study Tour, which visited Spain. The feedback from that tour was excellent, with many friendships made and rekindled. Next year's Study Tour will be to Japan, and another great program of architectural visits – combined with cultural and historical visits – has been put together. We look forward to your support for that Study Tour.

In June, we employed a full-time Membership Officer – John Verdon – who is becoming well-known amongst our membership. John has already been to two rounds of Regional Meetings, and has attended several of our seminars. He has also assisted us to solidify our Member Benefits program, which offers a broad range of discounts and special offers for Members. We hope you are availing yourselves of those many and varied benefits – especially the excellent offer that's been negotiated for Australian Standards through SAI Global.

Our annual Golf Day continues its loyal following, and we had a great day at Riversdale Golf Club, which was highly praised by those who attended. So much so, that we have booked Riversdale again for next year.... so we hope to see more of you there.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Members on our Committee of Management who drive the policy directions for the Association, and who give up their own time to serve our Association. They have been a great support to me during my two years as your President. I would especially like to place on record my appreciation to Lindsay Douglas and to Dominique Hunter.

I would also like to thank to our hardworking team at our head office who carry out the key objectives that are determined by the Committee of Management, and who deal with the day-to-day queries from Members and consumers.

We have a great team working to look after our Members' interests, and we appreciate our membership's continued support for our activities. We have a progressive Association of which we are very proud, and I know the BDAV will continue to evolve under the new leadership, in the best interests of our membership.

Before I conclude my report, I would like David Cooke to join me at the podium. David – together with Geoff Hoare – was elevated to the status of Life Member at our Annual Dinner; however, David was not able to be present on that occasion as he was helping his wife set up her new business interstate. So, David, we would like your colleagues here tonight to know that we have appreciated your excellent representation of our profession over the years on Building Practitioner Board and VBA activities. You have been an outstanding ambassador for our profession and our Association, and it is my great honour to present you with your Life Member certificate tonight. *(Life membership certificate was presented to David Cooke.)*

And one final pleasant duty I have: could Michael O'Sullivan please join me at the podium. Michael – I am delighted to announce that the Committee of Management has determined to elevate you to the status of Fellow of the BDAV, in recognition of your service to the Association, particularly during your time on the Committee of Management and during your Presidency. *(Fellow certificate was presented to Michael O'Sullivan.)*

That concludes my President report.

Thank you.

Alastair McDonald
BDAV President



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BDAV AGM 2016 – FINANCIAL REPORT

First, I would like to acknowledge and thank our sponsors, whose support we value. As always, if and when you are specifying products, we urge you to please consider our sponsors where you can.

Our membership has reduced slightly since last year, again mainly due to the requirement for accredited thermal performance assessors to undertake the Certificate IV in NatHERS Assessment; however, more assessors than anticipated have remained accredited with us, which has contributed to our successful bottom line. With just under 1,600 members, we still remain the largest of any BDA around the nation, and we continue to have more members than the rest of the nation, collectively.

This year, the Committee of Management determined to increase our membership and accreditation fees in line with CPI, which was felt to be fair and reasonable. Our membership fees continue to be low compared to those charged by other comparative industry bodies, yet we continue to provide more services and benefits than many other similar industry bodies.

Our seminar fees have been increased slightly, given we had retained them at the same rate over the preceding four years, but they still remain low in comparison with other industry groups. Webinar fees have been retained at the same rate since early 2014, and these will be reviewed again next year.

We again ran our Student Grant program this year, offering our Student Members an opportunity to be eligible for three grants, each of \$500 to help defray the cost of their studies. We also presented our fourth Brian Morison Award for the Most Promising Student, for which Student Member, Bin He, received \$4,000 from the BDAV towards the costs of his future studies. We would like to thank those TAFEs who again supported these, and our Student Awards program this year.

As Alastair mentioned, we also introduced a Graduate category of membership last year and look forward to getting some traction from recent graduates, as the message filters through the TAFE system.

Our big-ticket expenditure item this year was again our annual Building Design Awards, and it was great to celebrate our 21st Awards, and the 'coming of age' of this successful program. We also revamped our annual Awards magazine in conjunction with this milestone. The magazine has been retitled AWARDED, and we used a professional graphic design firm to develop the design and layout as well as populate the content, to achieve the architectural theme we were aiming for. We see the Awards and this annual publication as sound investments, as they continue to promote the skills of our members.

We added to our staff resources this year with a full-time Membership Officer, who has fitted in well with the membership and head-office team. He has been working hard to assist us with our membership retention and membership development activities.

We also continue to use outsourced consultants, especially in our lobbying and public relations activities, given our lean head-office team.

Whilst our other major expenditure item has been the redevelopment of our website; unfortunately the new site did not deliver to our expectations, and therefore we had to revert to our former site, to maintain the functionality we require. We are continuing to review the site, and hope to eventually have it offering everything that our members require.

We continued our involvement in the National Association of Building Designers, and, again, we see this as a worthwhile investment for our profession and for our membership.

Last year, I was disappointed to report to the membership that the Association had made a loss. This year, as a result of prudent financial management, I am pleased to advise that we have achieved a profit of \$148,887 at 30th June 2016.

The accounts have been audited by the audit division of Nexia Australia (formerly Hayes Knight) 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.

As I will be stepping down from the Treasurer's role this year, I would like to thank the Committee of Management, and our CEO and our Executive Officer, for their support and assistance to me over the past eight years as your Treasurer. I am pleased to hand the accounts over in such a healthy state, and wish my successor every success. I also look forward to continuing to serve on the Committee of Management, subject, of course, to the outcome of tonight's voting.

Thank you.

Dominique Hunter
BDAV Treasurer



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