

**Australian Architecture Association Inc**

**Minutes of the 4th Annual General Meeting**

**13 May 2008 at 6.00pm**

**Held at the offices of Harry Seidler & Associates, 2 Glen Street, Milsons Point**

Present:

James Grose (President and Chair), Wendy Lewin, Brian Suters, Joseph Paonessa, Tony Robinson, Luisa Manfredini, Melonie Bayl-Smith, Kooi-Ying Mah, David McCrae, Vincent Lam, Dan MacKenzie, Dany Khoury, Michael McCormick, Ray Brown, Leslea Brown, Budiman Hardjono, Ruth McColl, Terence Yong, Vivianne Marston, Angelo Candalepas, Stella de Vulder (Director and Secretary), Annette Dearing (Director and Treasurer), and David Cochrane (auditor).

Apologies:

Alex Popov, Annie Har, Ben Gerstel, Bill Duncan, Bud Brannigan, Craig McLennan, Gerard Murtagh, Gerard Reinmuth, Gerry Rihs, Glenn Murcutt, Gregory Norman, Ian Heran, Ian Oelrichs, Jacinta Reedy, James Quoye, John Doyle, Joseph Skrzynski, Kim Crestani, Manu Siitonen, Misho Vasiljevich, Penelope Seidler, Phil Waite, Ridley Smith, Rob Adams, Rosemary Kirkby, Toni Ford

**1. Welcome**

James Grose welcomed everybody to the fourth Annual general Meeting of the Australian Architecture Association, and thanked Wendy Lewin for standing in as President for the last couple of months, he then called on Stella de Vulder to read the apologies.

**2. Apologies**

Stella de Vulder read the apologies list.

**3. Confirm the minutes of the 3rd AGM held on 31 May 2007**

James Grose advised the meeting that the Minutes of the third AGM were circulated electronically with the Notice of this meeting to members. He called for any questions about those minutes.

As there were no questions James called for a mover to put the resolution that the minutes of the AAA's 3rd Annual General Meeting held on 31 May 2007 be adopted.

Moved Wendy Lewin that the Minutes of the AAA's 3rd Annual General Meeting be adopted, seconded David McCrae. The resolution was put to the meeting and passed unanimously.

**4. AAA – the fourth year – Report by President**

James Grose read the Presidents report to the meeting:

In 48 months the AAA has established a growing programme of architectural tours in Sydney and Newcastle. In Newcastle the tour leaders led by Brian Suters, initiated and staged the first Newcastle Open that saw 18 buildings open throughout Newcastle to the public.

In addition to this we have developed the Black Talks, the annual Customs House Exhibition and last year we initiated the Sydney Architecture Festival in partnership with the RAlA and NSW Architects Registration Board that marks World Architecture Day and World Habitat Day.

This comprehensive programme of activities realises the AAA's aim to make architecture accessible and of interest to as many people as possible, and much of it would be impossible without the selfless contribution of their valuable time by our volunteer tour leaders.

The Blue Fundraising event for 2007 was deferred until June 2008, to position the major fundraising effort at a more appropriate time on the tax year calendar, in an attempt to maximise the tax deductible status of the AAA Fund.

The tax deductible status was one of the benefits obtained from the inclusion of the AAA on the Federal Government's Register of Cultural Organisations, the first time an organisation concerned with architecture has been recognised in the cultural sphere.

Funding continues to be the big issue - increased funding will enable the AAA to employ people to raise more funds, increase marketing and expand the AAA programme beyond NSW.

These activities position the AAA as an important cultural organisation that will not only serve the community, but by being inclusive and welcoming everyone into its membership, become the place where architecture is appreciated, studied, understood and valued by all.

#### Strategic achievements:

- Inclusion on the Federal Government's Register of Cultural Organisations
- Initiating the Sydney Architecture Festival

#### Key partnerships:

- Bluescope Steel
- Customs House
- Powerhouse Museum - Sydney Design 07
- Tribal Warrior Association
- Royal Australian Institute of Architects NSW Chapter
- NSW Architects Registration Board

#### Fundraising

- City of Sydney Cultural grants
- Rockport funding of newspaper advertisements
- Annual fundraising event - Blue

#### Developing tour leaders:

- New tours developed:
  - A series of one hour walks of major city streets for the Sydney Architecture Festival
  - Sculpture of City Architecture
- Tour Leaders NIDA training day
- Tour leaders annual appreciation event

#### Community involvement:

- 175 tours conducted in 2007
- 10,000 people have participated in AAA talks and tours of architecture
- 4,500 people participated in the inaugural Sydney Architecture Festival
- 85% of tour participants are non-architects
- 90% of new members are non-architects
- 600 people included on the 'Send more information' data base

Feedback forms indicate a high level of satisfaction with the AAA tours:

'Great idea, great day – I would like to see more Open Days in Newcastle – very much enjoyed Mr Sutters commentary.'

David Mathieson, Newcastle Open, 18 November 2007.



Continuing to build a stimulating programme of activities to realise our mission has taken up most of the resources of our young organisation in 2007, our fourth year of operation. The public's response to the architecture tours continues to inspire our efforts. As you can see from the sample comment above, we are inspiring people with the tour programme.

It is clear that we are meeting a demand in the community for more information about their built environment.

None of this would be possible without the enormous amount of time put in by our Volunteer Tour Leaders, in both Sydney and Newcastle, who together with some of our notable architects, led all the tours staged by the AAA in 2007:

Unfortunately the year began on a sad note with the passing of Gary Lewin, one of the founding members of the Sydney Volunteer Leaders. His contribution was remembered at a special event held by the tour leaders who acknowledged his work in developing new tours as well as supporting the training of new leaders.

Let me acknowledge and give a special thanks to them all here:

A special thanks to those wonderful people who developed and delivered all the AAA tours in 2007.

Newcastle Volunteer Leaders: Brian Suters, Linda Babic, John Carr, Garry Jones, Stuart Campbell, Adrian Hill, Liz Thwaites and Gael Davies and AAA Co-ordinator Newcastle, Sue Rodgers.

Sydney Volunteer Leaders: Vincent Lam (Chair), Luisa Manfredini, Terence Yong, David McCrae, Helen Hutson, Jane Brennan, Janine Campbell, Kerry Gallagher, Laura Chan, Marita Kreipke, Michael MacCormick, Porus Bharucha, Susan Kim, Thai Loi, Vanessa Couzens, Natalie Ciric, Minh Tran, Ali Stynes and Muffi Barbour.

Notable Architect Leaders: Tone Wheeler, Ben Gerstel, Nick Hollo, Lawrence Nield, Peter Tonkin, Philip Thalys, Peter John Cantrill, Gevork Hartoonian, Richard Leplastrier.

The other special thanks goes to Bluescope Steel for their continuing support and invaluable contribution. Through David Bare and Manu Siitonen, Bluescope Steel have provided advice on a range of issues that has enabled AAA to gain maximum output from minimal resources.

The final special thanks goes to the Blue Committee of Pern Gerner, George El Khouri, and Andre Porebski who have developed the idea of presenting architects own drawings to be sold at the next Blue in June 2008.

Our hardworking Directors Stella de Vulder and Annette Dearing together have been the AAA's drivers in these formative years. Their passion, dedication and skills have ensured the implementation of our programme of activities.

I look forward to contributing to the ongoing development of the public's interest in architecture.

## **5. Election of office bearers and committee members**

James Grose reported that nominations for the AAA Committee were called for and a nomination form circulated with the notice of this meeting to all members of the AAA. He called on Stella de Vulder to report on the nominations.

Stella de Vulder advised that nine financial members of the AAA have been correctly nominated, they are: Glenn Murcutt, Wendy Lewin, Penelope Seidler, James Grose, Richard Johnson, Gerard Reinmuth, Rosemary Kirkby, Angelo Candalepas and David McCrae.

James Grose then noted that as the nominations fit in with the Committee structure, the nominees are declared duly elected. They together with the Bluescope Steel representatives, David Bare and Manu



Siitonen and Vincent Lam, chair of the Volunteer Tour Leaders group will form the AAA Committee until the end of the next AGM in 2009.

#### **6. Adoption of 2007 Financial Accounts**

James Grose reported that the accounts for the fourth year of operation have been audited and circulated to all members together with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. He pointed out that the auditor David Cochrane was present to answer questions, along with Annette Dearing or Stella de Vulder.

As there were no questions he called for a mover and seconder to put the motion adopting the 2007 accounts.

Moved Michael McCormick that the 2007 Financial Accounts of the Australian Architecture Association Incorporated as circulated to AAA members be accepted, seconded Dany Khoury. The resolution was put to the meeting and passed unanimously.

#### **7. General Business**

James Grose called for any items of General Business.

Brian Suters who chairs the Newcastle AAA Volunteer Tour Leader Group presented some new ideas being developed in Newcastle, including 'Little Architects' and 'Young Architects' both programmes aimed at educating young people about contemporary architecture. He advised that they would develop these programmes in association with the Lock Up with a view to them being adopted by other AAA groups in the future.

As there was no further business for the meeting to discuss, Stella de Vulder called the meeting to a close at 6.30pm, thanked everyone for their attendance and support and invited them to have a drink.

