



ANNUAL REPORT

2007

AILA Victoria Group

Prepared by:

The Executive Committee for
Victorian Members & National Council

November 2007

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PREFACE

The Victorian Group is a sub committee of the National Council of AILA and is managed through elected and appointed members to its Executive Committee. A number of special interest and action committees represent the AILA, its members and work for its members and the public to enhance the interest of all landscape professionals.

Other than support from the National Secretariat and our local part-time Secretariat, all committee members and workers contribute in a voluntary capacity.

This document has been prepared to communicate recent, current and proposed activities, issues and events to local members and National Council.

AILA VICTORIAN GROUP 2007 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PRESIDENT'S ROLE

The position of State Group President, has been held for the past two years, by Darren Atkinson. Darren was elected the Victoria Group President, at the 2005 AGM held in November. Darren is the successor to Tim Hart, Immediate Past President. Darren served as the Victoria Group Vice President for two years prior to his elevation to President and has served on the Victoria Executive Committee for almost ten years.

AWARDS COMMITTEE – STATE AND NATIONAL EVENTS

The AILA Victoria Awards Committee reconvened in February this year. Scott Graham was elected as the Committee Chair, to coordinate the continuation of the Awards program, Sponsorship and the National Awards Presentation Dinner.

The Victoria Group hosted the 10th State Awards Presentation Dinner this year.

The Awards Committee consisted of the following volunteer members:

Scott Graham	Chair
Darren Atkinson	State Group President
Mark Frisby	State Group Vice President
Tim Hart	Immediate Past President
Nicole Lenffer	Treasurer
Robert Cooper	Secretary
Jo Russell Clarke	Education
Cesar Torres	Awards Graphics
Amanda Dale	Advent Event Management
Phoebe LaGerche-Wijsman	Secretariat

The Committee met once a month throughout the year to coordinate all Award matters. This coordination was managed separately from the Executive Committee to enable a more detailed planning process, which has been highly successful.

STATE AWARDS PRESENTATION DINNER

The State Awards Presentation Dinner was held, on Friday 16 November 2007, at the Zinc @ Federation Square. The Victoria Group hosted over 400 attendees. After many years of refining the 'formula', engaging an independent Event Manager and for the Committee allocating funding to improve the quality of the event, AILA Victoria believes the results speak for themselves. Once again, Victoria included Pre Dinner entertainment, professional audio visual, a live band and professional MC. Positive feedback has yet again been received on these improvements and the professional management of the event.

AILA Victoria has accepted an offer from National Council to host the 2009 AILA National Conference which will be Chaired by Dr SueAnne Ware. It is also proposed that the Awards Committee will reconvene next year to commence planning the 2008 State Awards event, which will include planning for the 2009 National Conference.

Existing sponsorship will be reviewed in the New Year in consultation with the National Office. A broader sponsorship strategy is proposed and will be drafted in the coming months with an objective of coordinating State Group sponsorship with National partnerships.

EVENT MANAGEMENT

The AILA Victoria Awards Committee reengaged an event company, 'Advent Event Management' to coordinate and manage the State Awards Presentation Dinner. Continuing on from its role in coordinating the past three State Award Presentation Dinner's, Advent were responsible for much of

the day-to-day management and coordination of the Launch event, the Dinner venue, audiovisual presentations and alike. Once again this appointment has proved to be worthwhile. The positive feedback received from our members, sponsors and guests indicates the event has benefited from professional management.

SPONSORSHIP

The Victoria Awards Committee secured over \$67,700.00 in sponsorship for 2007, which is approximately \$1,200.00 more than in 2006. This year a total of 23 organisations contributed as sponsors or supporters. We were delighted to welcome our new Principal Partner, Stockland.

Thank you to Stockland for their support and commitment to AILA and the profession. Joint Major Sponsors include City of Melbourne, VicUrban, City of Greater Geelong, Streetscapes and Storm Consulting.

This was the second year of the President's Awards which were introduced in 2005, including the President's Awards for Local Government sponsored by Melbourne Water and the President's Awards for Playground Design sponsored by Kompan.

Thank you to all our sponsors.

The Awards sponsorship and surplus from the event continues to assist the Victoria Group to fund a range of events, publications and marketing initiatives including engaging a public relations consultant.

AWARD NOMINATIONS

Over a two day period in early August, 56 entries from Victoria were assessed by three judging panels with Immediate Past President of the Tasmanian Group, Julie Stoneman and Victorian Events and Executive Committee Member, Victoria Sharp both as Jury Chairs. The eleven jury members included experienced landscape architects, as well as a selection of representatives from allied professions.

In 2007 there was a change in categories with an overall environmental emphasis on all entries. Projects were assessed in the Design, Land Management, Planning and the Research & Communication categories.

The broad range of entries illustrate that Landscape Architects are playing an increasingly important and lead role in defining and implementing improvements across all areas of the built and natural environment. Many of the projects were highly complex and demonstrated the scale, complexity and diversity of the landscape architecture profession in Australia. The better projects were assessed as 'pushing the boundaries' in terms of utilising new technologies or incorporating environmental initiatives within the project. The submissions reflect well on the maturity of the profession in Australia.

AWARDS PUBLIC RELATIONS

For the fourth time AILA Victoria engaged the services of Tammy Papalia, Public Relations Consultant, to assist in the promotion of the Awards and raise the profile of the Landscape Architecture profession. This service included the preparation of press releases and issuing the award results to a range of media outlets. A number of newspaper articles have already resulted from this promotion campaign and further publicity is possible over the coming weeks.

Publicity to date Includes:

- The Saturday Age
- Cranbourne Leader
- The Awards webpage designed by Nigel Hutton
- The Crowther Blayne produced the Awards Booklet distributed at the end of the Awards evening. Additional copies have also been sent to sponsors, and placed in the foyers of Architext Bookshop and the Royal Australian Institute of Architects
- Landscape Architecture Australia magazine has been liaising with the Secretariat.

BEDP

AILA Victoria has continued its active role, represented by President Darren Atkinson and Vice President Mark Frisby, on the BEDP Victorian Committee.

BEDP has continued to lobby Government in respect to a number of matters, including:

- the adoption of a Victorian Government Policy on the Built Environment;
- Meet Government Architect, John Denton; and
- Improvement to the procurement of services.

The AILA Victoria Group Executive has contributed to several items including;

- Bruce Echberg's participation on a local government group reviewing requirements for local government competition procedures; and
- The Group's input to the BEDP Action Agenda Issues Paper, the first step in an initiative aimed at improving the value and process of design in Australia

NEW REGISTERED LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

AILA Victoria had 22 graduate members successfully complete their applications to be elevated to Registered Landscape Architects. This year the Victoria Executive hosted a cocktail party at the RAlA Level One on Thursday 2 August, to welcome the new registered members and thank the senior members who donated their time over three days on the assessment panel. The event was well attended and considered an excellent and a more personal way of introducing new registered Landscape Architects to other senior members than in previous years. Welcome New Registered Members!

AILA Victoria welcomed more new members than any other State Group in 2007, with 2008 to be an even better year. One of the main objectives was to increase membership and encourage all members to assist in the promotion of AILA to their colleagues. AILA Victoria are very pleased to have met this objective in 2007.

NATIONAL COUNCIL

Kirsten Bauer continued in her role as the Victorian representative on AILA National Council until the Presidents Meeting and National Conference in South Australia in September, this role has been filled with the election of Dr Sue Anne Ware.

The Victorian Executive would like to thank Kirsten for her commitment and effort in this role during the last two years.

National Council has recorded appreciation of the contribution of the Group in providing constructive comment on the draft AILA Charter and the draft AILA Strategic Plan.

AILA VICTORIA TALK SERIES/CPD EVENTS

After a slow start; AILA Victoria had a bumper year when it came to the talk series/ CPD events. With compulsory CPD for all members from July 1st AILA Victoria co-hosted a variety of events providing members with a broad selection of events to aid them in their CPD. Special thanks go to all the volunteers for the considerable time and effort that they have put into the organisation of successful events including:

- Charles Waldheim, Christophe Girot, and Elizabeth Mossop lectures. All three co-funded by AILA Victoria and RMIT University
- Stormwater Industry Association of Victoria and AILA presentation from Dr Nicholas Somes in July.
- The 'What is Australian Landscape Architecture?' forum at the Woods Bagot Offices, hosted by Executive Committee member Tim O'Loan.
- Playground and Recreation Association of Victoria and AILA Victoria co-hosted "State of Play in Victoria". This evening featured presentations by Barbara Champion and Felix Hemingway and received additional sponsorship from PlaySpace.

- AILA Environment Group Talk Series and Tour of CH2 with Mick Pearce of Design Inc and Ian Dryden of Melbourne City Council. This event was organised by David Dreadon Chair of the Environment Group.
- Duneira Estate, Spring Picnic with Landscape Industries Association of Victoria
- AILA Victoria and VicRoads Talk Series. 'Why did it Die?' with presenter Scott Watson from Vic Roads.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE

Executive members were involved in a wide range of initiatives and events during 2007, some of which included:

- The implementation of 'Thursday' as the AILA day in the calendar. This year AILA Victoria focused on providing the Members with continuity in hosting all meetings and events on Thursdays. As a result more regular attendance has been noted at all events.
- 'AILA FRESH' the continuation of this presentation series, aiming to engage young professionals and students. This year due to a decline in participation FRESH organised two events 'Landscape and Public Art' and 'Scribble Translator'. The series has continued to provide a forum for open discussions and debate on particular issues affecting young designers.
- The production of a Monthly newsletters regularly keeps members up to date with a broad selection of Landscape Architecture related issues, conferences, competitions, and promoting upcoming events and programs run by both AILA and other affiliated organisations. Many of these events have been regularly uploaded on to the State website;
- Established and fostered stronger links with affiliated bodies including the Landscape Industries Association of Victoria, Playground and Recreation Association of Victoria, Royal Australian Institute of Architects, the Illuminating Engineers Society, Stormwater Industries Association, Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show and the National Design Centre.
- Continuing to strengthen the relationship between the AILA Victoria and AILA Tasmanian Group by both groups involved in each others State Awards Program. Many thanks to Immediate Past President Julie Stoneman for Chairing the Victorian Awards Jury;
- Representation at a range of education and public events, displays and seminars including the Herald Sun Careers Weekend and Eastland Careers Expo. Thank you to Education representative Jo Russell Clarke.
- Office visits by Darren Atkinson and Mark Frisby were conducted throughout the year. This was to promote AILA to the Landscape Architect offices.
- Darren Atkinson was a guest lecturer at the University of Melbourne's Professional Practice lecture, whilst also continuing to promote AILA.
- Darren Atkinson, Mark Frisby and RMIT Landscape Architecture, Program Director Rosalea Monacella collaborated in the AILA sponsored Student Awards;
- Signboards for AILA members, an implementation by President Darren Atkinson, became available. The signboards provide members with another tool in promoting both themselves/companies and the Institute.
- AILA branded coasters were produced for additional publicity for the State Group. They have been very favourably received by both New Registered Members and Awards sponsors.

- AILA Victoria proudly offset the carbon emissions of the Awards Program by contributing to the Carbon Neutral Gift Fund and demonstrating the AILA's commitment to environmental sustainability.
- A regularly updated media folder was created by the Secretariat. Featuring media cuttings that promote the Institute, members, sponsors and the culture of Landscape Architecture.

STATE MANAGER PROPOSAL

Over the past few years the Secretariat role has evolved from administrative support and a point of contact for AILA Victoria to assist with event organisation, membership liaison, industry liaison, assistance with marketing and other tasks as required. To continue to grow our service to the membership the creation of a State Manager position to replace our Secretariat services is planned in early 2008. The State Manager will be an expansion of the current Secretariat services but will see the Victorian group having a staff resource dedicated to AILA affairs (the current secretariat is a part time position).

In part the decision to create a State Manager position has been driven by financial efficiencies. The cost of outsourcing both event management and secretariat services by AILA Victoria has created the financial foundation for a staff position. An investigation of financial considerations (salary, rent, operational costs, etc) has been completed by the State Executive and discussions have been held with the national office regarding the operational and financial issues. To assist with the establishment of the position AILA National have committed to providing \$10,000 of support for each of the next three years.

The Executive recognise the creation of a State Manager is a significant step for the state group. The successful applicant will bring their own personality and skill set to the role. The position may be full or part time (the budget has been prepared on the basis of a full time role) and the role of the state manager in the organising of the 2008 State Awards and 2009 National Conference is yet to be determined. Administrative support will be provided by AILA National with the State Manager answerable to the State President. There may also be opportunities for the position to assist with national projects. If successful it is hoped similar positions will be created in other states (NSW and Queensland are watching with interest) over the coming years.

We look forward to receiving support from members in establishing the position and are confident the change will provide benefits to them. Equally it is hoped the creation of the position will assist in achieving the strategic goals of AILA and elevate the status of AILA within Victoria.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The AILA Victoria Executive is operated by a small number of dedicated professionals and student representatives who have volunteered their time and tremendous efforts year after year to ensure that the advocacy of AILA is maintained.

The Executive would like thank all those members who have helped throughout the year. While Committee involvement has increased over the past 12 months further help is always needed to action agenda items. Anyone interested in assisting the Executive Committee can simply attend one of our monthly meetings, held at the RAIA, 41 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, on the last Thursday of every month, from 6pm, or for further information, phone the AILA Victorian Group Secretariat on 03 8620 3863.

Thank you to the current and past members of the Executive and Sub-committees for your assistance, support and input this year. A special thank you to David Dreadon for reinvigorating the Environment Committee formalising an agenda for this sub committee.

This AGM marks the completion of my two-year term as State Group President. It has been challenging yet a very rewarding two years and I look forward to continuing my involvement as Immediate Past President in the coming year.

Finally I thank my colleagues at SM Urban for their support as they have allowed me to make the most of this opportunity which I sincerely appreciate.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darren Atkinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Darren Atkinson
President
AILA Victoria

AILA VICTORIAN GROUP GOALS 2007

THE GROUP'S PRIORITY GOALS ARE:

1. *To continue to improve and ensure the success of the Victorian Awards Program;*
2. *To maintain close links the Tasmanian Group and explore joint programs and initiatives- such as seminars, and conferences etc.*
3. *To increase contact and interaction between Victorian members through the continuation of the Newsletter and senior counsel or professional mentoring programmes;*
4. *To maintain and develop the Victorian Group talk series*
5. *To foster the Practices Group to as a forum to deal with current professional issues;*
6. *To uphold the standard required for entrance to corporate membership;*
7. *To maintain and implement the Group's Marketing Strategy;*
8. *To continue close dialogue with both courses of Landscape Architecture;*
9. *To develop AILA's role in BEDP to include input in policy formation and implementation;*
10. *To promote CPD and membership involvement by providing a program and register of CPD related activities and courses, including local and international guest speakers;*
11. *Improve representation and the gender balance of the Executive;*
12. *To continue to upgrade the State web page and promote the national webpage.*

OTHER GOALS AS OUTLINED IN THE GROUP'S CHARTER ARE: -

1. *To broaden our membership base by facilitating the changing role of the Institute as an 'umbrella' organisation for all landscape and environmental based practitioners;*
2. *To promote active involvement with and of professional bodies such as BEDP, PRAV, LIAV, SIAV and RAIA,*
3. *To provide a formal and informal forum for professional networking and social interaction for members and allied professionals.*

MEMBERSHIP

The Victorian Group's membership as at 28 November 2007 includes the following categories:

Affiliates: 3
Registered: 233
Registered (Retired): 5
Fellows: 27
Graduates: 12
Stage 1 Grad: 6
Students Level 1: 9
Students Level 2: 3

TOTAL 298

A list of members is located on the website www.aila.org.au

<http://www.aila.org.au/directories/index>

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Brendan	Bartlett
Jessica	Blood
Robert	Davies
Glen	Dunstan
Chloe	Edgell
Penny	Faul
Janice	Foster
Peter	Grogan
Stuart	Hale
Lucinda	Hartley
Rebecca	Johnston
Chris	Johnstone
Zinta	Lazdins
Alex	Lee
Emily	Lin

SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Meetings commence at 6.00 pm on the last Thursday of every month in the Boardroom on Level One at 41 Exhibition Street, Melbourne. Any member is welcome to attend but a telephone call to the Secretariat would be appreciated.

AILA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING DATES FOR 2007

Thursday 28 February 2007 @ 6.00pm

Thursday 27 March 2007 @ 6.00pm

Thursday 24 April 2007 @ 6.00pm

Thursday 29 May 2007 @ 6.00pm

Thursday 26 June 2007 @ 6.00pm

Thursday 31 July 2007 @ 6.00pm

Thursday 28 August 2007 @ 6.00pm

Thursday 25 September 2007 @ 6.00pm

Thursday 30 October 2007 @ 6.00pm

Thursday 27 November 2007 @ 6.00pm

OFFICE BEARERS AND SUB-COMMITTEE CONVENORS

AILA VICTORIAN GROUP AS AT 29 NOVEMBER 2007

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Darren Atkinson	President
Mark Frisby	Vice President
Nicole Lenffer	Treasurer:
Robert Cooper	Secretary
David Dreadon	Environment Committee
Sue Anne Ware	National Council representative
Jo Russell-Clarke	Education and Student Liaison
Scott Graham	Events Committee
Nigel Hutton	Website
Chris Bell	Website
Jock Gilbert	Student Representative, RMIT University
Glenn Hay	Student Representative, University of Melbourne

National Secretariat GPO Box 1646
Tel: (02) 6248 9970
Canberra ACT 2601
Fax: (02) 6249 7337
admin@aila.org.au

Victorian Secretariat Phoebe LaGerche-Wijsman
LEVEL 1
41 Exhibition Street
P O Box 18025 Collins Street East
MELBOURNE VIC 8003
Telephone (03) 8620 3863
ailavic@raia.com.au

LIAISON WITH OTHER GROUPS & COMMITTEES

Throughout the year a number of members have been active in representing the Institute on committees and/or participating and liaising with other institutes and associations. These are very valuable services supporting the profession's profile, and we thank all those people who have helped out.

Environment Committee David Dreadon (Chair)
Gary Bateman
Meredith Dobbie
Sue Godfrey
Zoe Metherall
Ros Rymer
Leon Harvey
Barrie Gallacher

Events/Awards Committee Scott Graham (Chair)
Amanda Dale (Advent Event Management)
Tim Hart
Darren Atkinson
Victoria Sharp
Jo Russell Clarke
Glenn Hay
Daniel Nunan
Cesar Torres

National Representative Kirsten Bauer
Sue Anne Ware

1.

ADMINISTRATION

AND

MANAGEMENT

TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2007

The following information summarises our finances for the financial year from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007. This summary is based upon the audit of financial accounting prepared by the National Office.

A) Summary of the Financial Year

Events and Activities:

There were several main events/activities that occurred during the financial year and these were:

- The mini (one day) conference;
- National Awards; and
- Interviews for Associates.

Income:

Total Net Income (excl GST) **\$120,426.00** (up \$1,380.00 from 05/06)

Comparisons in Income for major items over the previous 3 years:

	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007
Awards Sponsorship	58,750.00	76,640.00	56,140.00
Awards Entry and Ticket sales	36,602.00	47,357.00	26,680.00
Membership levies	17,346.00	1,642.00	19,994.00
Practice Group levies	5,009.00	13,950.00	-

The 05/06 membership levies are low in comparison as the majority of levy payment occurred in the previous 04/05 financial year.

Note that the Practice Group levies for 2007 were received after the end of the 06/07 financial year and will be included in the 07/08 income.

Expenditure:

Total Net Expenditure (excl GST) **\$136,844.00** (up \$8,391.00 from 05/06)

Comparisons in Expenditure for major items/services over the previous 3 years:

	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007
Awards Catering	37,420.00	44,893.00	37,051.00
Functions/meetings	3,565.00	10,086.00	24,857.00
Secretariat	14,828.00	19,637.00	27,819.00
Awards Events Manager	18,156.00	21,898.00	18,640.00

Surplus / Deficit:

Net Operating Loss **\$16,418.00** (Surplus of \$12,628.00 in 05/06)

The net operating loss can be explained by the following:

- Fluctuations in receiving income from sponsorship, Awards entries and ticket sales;
- Increased expenditure for functions/meetings, reflects the increase in the number of functions held for the membership throughout the year.
- The 06/07 budget anticipated sponsorship for Fresh talk series and for CPD functions which did not eventuate.
- Increased expenditure for the Secretariat as a result of the expanded role and responsibilities undertaken.

Bank reserves:

As at 30 June 2007, our bank reserves totaled \$ 38,074.29 compared with \$60,971.33 at 30 June 2006 and \$49,594.99 30 June 2005. The bank reserves fluctuate as a result of when the sponsorship money was paid – before the end of a financial year or after 30 June for the following financial year.

Secretariat Role:

The Executive noted that the reason for the increased yearly costs for the Secretariat is due to the expanding role and services required of the Secretariat. In reviewing the Secretariat's role in context with the current and future provision of services for members, the Executive determined that:

- There is an increasing need for AILA to provide improved services for the membership;
- It is important to improve the education and knowledge of members through CPD events;
- There is a need to improve the professionalism of the Institute and the professional standing of members;
- The Secretariat can no longer fulfill the requirements of the AILA Victoria Group, due to the limited role and capacity of the Secretariat;
- In reviewing the separate costs for the Secretariat and the Events Manager, these costs when combined, would pay for a full time staff member in the role of State Manager;
- This full time staff member would be better able to represent the Institute in its day to day business while being able to more efficiently and effectively carry out a number of roles that the Secretariat and Events Manager currently do separately.

B) Auditing and National Financial Summary of AILA

The financial accounts and statements of the AILA National Office are audited annually and the accounts were found to be a fair representation of the financial position of AILA.

Nationally overall, 5 states have made a loss in the last financial year. Nationally overall, AILA made a loss of \$1,295.00. However, despite this loss, as at 30 June 2007, all state groups had reserves of not less than \$5,400.00 in their bank account.

C) Treasurer's Summary and Review of the Year ahead

In previous years, AILA Victoria has been operating at a profit and the Executive Committee needed to ensure that the profit was spent on increased events and activities for the membership. This has happened and is reflected in the increased costs for events over the past few years.

With the proposed implementation of the State Manager position, and the proposed increase in provision of services to the membership, expenditure for the 07/08 financial year will need to be closely controlled to ensure that the Institute doesn't continue to operate at a loss. To prevent this happening and to increase income, the following initiatives may need to be undertaken:

- Finding sponsors to support ongoing "Fresh" events to help reduce expenditure for AILA;
- Potentially increase the cost of membership levies;
- Increase Awards entries and registration fees in line with other professional bodies;
- Charge a nominal fee for CPD events to reduce expenditure;
- AILA will not provide support or sponsorship for unofficial AILA events, or events organised by other institutions/universities or professional bodies;
- Gifts will no longer automatically be provided for speakers at all functions;
- Not all events will be catered for, while catering for sub committees and regional groups will be kept to a minimum;
- The financial and funding relationship between National Office and the state group/s needs to be clearer in order to determine how funding/levies will be used and allocated and how costs for services will be paid and who will pay.

The 07/08 budget has been prepared to reflect the above initiatives and the appointment of the State Manager.

It is noted that the employment of the State Manager may reduce costs for services that AILA has been currently outsourcing, however it will not be possible to quantify this until the position has been filled and the state manager has been working for a period of time.

In addition to the above initiatives, the Executive encourages members to volunteer their time and energy to support AILA, or to provide resources/time to undertake tasks This will help some way in partially reducing the demands on the Executive and Events Committee (currently comprised of members who provide their time in an honorary capacity) and the State Manager and will go in some way, in helping to reduce expenditure.

The year ahead will be a challenging one, particularly with the appointment of the state manager (including managing the integration and responsibilities of the State Manager within the operations of the AILA Victoria Group and National Office). However, with the support of members and the National Office, I'm sure that this can be achieved successfully.

Nicole Lenffer

AILA Vic Group Treasurer, 29 November 2007

2.

COMMUNITY LIAISON

AND

ENVIRONMENT

VICTORIAN EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

The AILA Victorian Events Sub-committee convened in February this year, with Scott Graham as Chair, to coordinate the continuation of the awards program, sponsorship and the Awards presentation dinner.

The Sub-committee was made up of AILA Victoria Executive and volunteer members, who have met on a monthly basis throughout the year to coordinate all awards matters. This coordination has happened separately from the Executive meetings to enable a more detailed planning process which has been highly successful.

State Awards

The presentation dinner for the 10th anniversary of the Victorian State Awards was held, on Friday 16 November, at Zinc @ Federation with over 400 attendees. Once again the committee allocated additional resources to improve the quality of the event. This included pre dinner entertainment, a live band and professional MC. Positive feedback has been received from many members and guests on these improvements and the professional management of the event.

EVENT MANAGEMENT

The AILA Awards Sub-committee reappointed event coordinator 'Advent Event Management' to manage the event. Continuing on from its role in coordinating the past three State awards events, Advent were responsible for much of the day-to-day management and coordination of the launch, dinner venue organisation, audiovisual media presentations and general bookings. This appointment proved to be very worthwhile. The growing success of the Awards program has shown that the event requires intensive management. The reappointment of Advent has enabled the Sub-committee to concentrate on improving marketing, sponsorship and attendance at the dinner.

SPONSORSHIP

The Awards Committee secured over \$67,700.00 in sponsorship for 2007, which is approximately around \$1,200.00 less than last year. This year a total of approximately 22 organisations contributed as sponsors or supporters. STOCKLAND signed on as AILA Victoria's Major Partner. AILA Victoria thank them for their support and look forward to a long-term relationship. Major Sponsors were VicUrban, The City of Greater Geelong, City of Melbourne, Storm Consulting and Streetscapes. President's Awards, with sponsorship from KOMPAN and Melbourne Water were presented in the areas of Playground and Local Government Design.

The awards sponsorship and profit from the event continues to assist the Victorian Group fund a range of educational, publication and marketing initiatives.

AWARDS LAUNCH

The Awards launch was held on Thursday 25 July in the Portico Room at the Melbourne Town Hall. The event was a great success with approximately 100 people attending. Ten AILA Members made a presentation with '10 years in Landscape Architecture' as their topic, the speakers included Robin Edmond, Professor Jim Sinatra, Dr Sue Anne Ware, Bruce Echberg, Alun Chapman, Jim Earle, Catherin Bull and Natasha Morgan

I would like to convey my thanks to the Awards Committee, the National office and Advent Event Management for their support and effort in hosting another successful event. We look forward to ongoing support and assistance in hosting the 11th AILA Victorian Group Awards in 2007.

Scott Graham
2007 Awards Committee Chair

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Environment Committee has been meeting on a monthly basis over the past year to discuss and respond to environmental issues that are of concern to the AILA State Group and to individual members.

Active members have included;

Gary Bateman
Barrie Gallacher
Leon Harvey

Meredith Dobbie
Sue Godfrey
Ros Rymer

Thanks to their commitment and contribution to the many discussions and activities.

The Committee agreed at the beginning of the year to focus on a limited number of issues to ensure that these were addressed in an effective manner. These included;

- A sustainable products schedule
- Water sensitive urban design
- Media liaison; current issues (proactive commentary and reactive responses)
- Coastal development

Activities over the past year have included;

- Preparation of a submission to Sustainability Victoria regarding a review of the Litter Strategy
- Discussion and liaison on such issues as;
 - the sale of Stonnington Mansion
 - a proposed breakwater at Mallacoota
 - a proposed residential development at Apollo Bay
 - a draft sustainability project brief and outdoor installations policy for Melbourne City Council
 - the alienation of public open space, particularly Royal Park
- Meeting with VicUrban environment staff to review the VicUrban Sustainability Charter, and preparation of a submission to their review of that document.
- Facilitation and organisation of a presentation by Mick Pearce; the design leader for Melbourne City Council's CH2, followed by a guided tour of CH2 with Mick and Ian Dryden (MCC).
- Preparation of a talk series program for 2008. Topics to include;
 - Environmental responsibilities
 - Sustainable plant selection
 - Climate change
 - Water sensitive urban design
 - Sustainable residential development

Specialist speakers will be invited to present on these topics.

The activities of the Environment Committee over the past year have been undertaken by a core group of members. However, to encourage increased participation in the committee, or more precisely, discussion about and contribution to environmental issues, it is proposed that information about environmental issues be posted on the AILA Victoria website and that regular articles be included in AILA newsletters and the like. It is intended that participation in the Environment Committee is not confined to attending a monthly meeting, but rather contributing ideas and discussion by a variety of means that suit individual members.

David Dreadon
Chair

BENDIGO GROUP REPORT

The Bendigo group is a small collection of landscape architects who meet on a rather irregular basis. There are currently around 6 landscape architects, mostly sole practitioners and two Council LA's, who meet roughly every two months. Group membership next year is likely to increase to around nine landscape architects.

Primary purpose of the meetings is support for fellow practitioners, general discussion about landscape architecture and related issues, and a chance to catch up with colleagues.

There is a strong regional landscape architectural focus and a web page focussing on regional work is planned for next year.

Liesl Malan

NATIONAL REPORT

This year was an incredible active year for National matters considering the 41st anniversary of the Institute. The AILA National Council has been working very hard over the last year, ensuring that the Institute is active and efficient, but more importantly vocal. The National Group relies on feedback from the state and individual members to develop policy and action programs. Therefore the Institute has expanded the many ways it communicates to members, via the web, mail, on line surveys, email notices, LA online, Landmark etc.

I can say as an outgoing member of the Executive Council this is the truth as the Institute needs constant feedback and discussion of issues, in particular through the State executives. The Victorian State President has done an admirable role in keeping touch with and being active in National matters.

Issues and Tasks undertaken at the National Level and supported by the Victorian State group included:

- The AILA Conference in Adelaide
- Nomination of Victorian members to Fellow
- Change to the Registration process. Are you keeping track of your CPD points?
- The writing of the Landscape Charter. A significant document for the advocacy of the landscape in the Australian political culture.
- Salary and employment surveys.
- The accreditation of educational courses across Australia.
- The implementation of the first National Panel visit to University courses – they visited Canberra and QUT last year. Next Year they visit UNSW, RMIT and Melbourne University.
- Development of the 'Directions' paper on recognising the broad base of disciplines within landscape architecture as well as encouraging a greater suite of LA programs.
- More depth in projects and landscape history on the AILA web site.
- The development of LA Online, a national online journal.
- Continued improvements of our national magazine: Landscape Architecture Australia.

Looking forward

- The development of Landscape Guidelines – working with the Green Building Council and the CSIRO.
- In 2008, we will see the first applicants being assessed under the new two stage application process – the first stage being under way right now – where the applicants are working with their mentors to be assessed.
- In 2008, the AILA is encouraging members to attend the NZILA National Conference shift, Thursday 3 - Saturday 5 April 2008 Hyatt Hotel, Auckland.
- National Awards – submissions called in April 2008.
- Planning for the 2009 National Conference in Melbourne

Kirsten Bauer

Past National Council Representative

SUMMARY 99TH AILA NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING 13 SEPTEMBER 2007

I will attempt to highlight what was discussed at this meeting, if members would like further information most of the documents including financials can be downloaded directly from the AILA National web site.

The National Council passed the strategic planning document for 2007 -2010. 2007 elections were held and I was elected as a member of the national council executive. The audit report was tabled which included that membership fees totalling approximately \$408, 275 account for 81.5% of the total income for the National Office. Additionally, the full budget was circulated. Discussion about marketing AILA and the Landscape Charter as well as its relationship to IFLA were also tabled. On going reputation and recognition building projects include the encouragement on the awarding of Fellowships, New Achievers awards, and the continuation of the Stewardship / Significant Landscape Programs. In terms of education; a directions paper regarding education and the progress of the National visiting panel were discussed. The directions paper was then distributed to program leaders from every accredited university for further input. There were brief items regarding publication (mainly the website) and upcoming conferences.

Issues of particular concern at the state level were discussed including secretariat services, sponsorship at both state and national levels, state web sites and newsletters, state group activities (AILA Fresh VIC was of particular interest in attracting new members), and continuing education points monitoring. Current projects include: revising the National education policy and accreditation guidelines as well as an upcoming review / redesign of National's website and each states websites' content and structure.

AILA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2009

Proposed title: Re-considering and Re-engaging Practices

Draft of Thematic:

Landscape architecture supports and engages in various communities of practice. Knowledge is integrated in the life of these communities which share and debate interests, ideas, discourses, and ways of doing. Landscape Architectural knowledge is integrated in the doing, social relations, and expertise of these communities. Knowledge is inseparable from practice. It is not possible to know without doing. The theme of the 2009 AILA Conference, asks us to re-consider and re-engage with various forms of practice.

Leon van Schaik writes in 'Design City Melbourne' about the need for a Tripolar Design Culture. Essentially what van Schaik is advocating for is something which goes beyond the binary. Further he asserts that in order to have a rich and fruitful discourse within creative areas there must be a diversity of agendas and a healthy respect for the varied positions. The multiplicity of examples in Melbourne he cites tend to favour a tri-polar framework or three major poles of influence. Elizabeth Meyer discusses a similar strategy in The Expanded Field of Landscape Architecture where she points out how we tend to structure the world into binaries...black or white, nature or culture.... She argues that the place for landscape architecture is in the grey or the place in between: the Expanded Field. What van Schaik and Meyer are basically saying is that in order to have a rigorous, lively construct, we must move beyond binary positions (us / them) into multifarious discourses.

For the purposes of this conference, three broad areas of practice will be framed; Scholarly practices, Emerging practices, and Established practices. These categories are broad and/or general ways of considering many of the landscape architectural discourses we will encounter over the course of the conference. They are not absolute, there are deliberate overlaps, and to be frank and up-front this is entirely reductive. But they do help to consider ways of thinking about the practices and projects beyond their actual specific chronologies and geographic locations... and given a bit of lateral thinking they will allow a range conceptualised poles of influence.

Dr Sue Anne Ware
National Council Representative

VICTORIAN GROUP WEBSITE

The primary aim of the AILA Victoria website this year has been to promote the profession through the State Awards program and to provide members with information about local events and activities.

This year is the seventh year the site has been available and it continues to be maintained in Victoria using the hosting and publishing facilities provided by AILA National Office.

There have not been any major changes to the site structure or content in the last year and the list of 2007 AILA Victoria Award winners is the main piece of new content.

It is noted that in early 2008 that AILA National is proposing to undertake some longer term planning around the Institute's approach to electronic communications, which may lead to the establishment of some general protocols and guidelines.

This may lead to development of new design elements and linking concepts for state websites and newsletters.

Nigel Hutton

Web Manager

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EDUCATION

AND

STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE

AILA VICTORIA STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORT 2007

I have been pleased to occupy the role of chair of the Education and Student Liaison Sub-Committee again this year, although I note that there have been many activities that have not been directly initiated by the sub-committee.

There has been an increasing range of activities involving members and students from both University programs with the profession this year. This is particularly true of members of the Executive committee, and of RMIT University students and staff who demonstrate a high level of ongoing involvement with the Institute. This is partly due to the election of Dr Sue Anne Ware to National council, my own closer engagement with RMIT this last four months, and the initiation by RMIT of several new student awards recognising both the Institute and prominent members. In addition, invitations were extended to the President, Vice President and others to make presentations to various classes at both Universities throughout the year.

AILA FRESH continued this year with a very successful night of presentations in September at LOOP, by a range of speakers including members, on the subject of 'art' in the landscape. Their next exhibition, 'Scribble Translator' opens Friday 7 December.

AILA Victoria had a strong presence at the three-day Herald-Sun Expo and at the Maroondah career expo evening. This involvement has shown an increasing interest in and knowledge of landscape architecture, particularly from final year school students and from the career advisors who have suggested landscape architecture to them. Our presence continues to improve the level of understanding of the profession.

As both Universities look to significant changes in their programs, the role of the Institute in supporting landscape architectural education and the enthusiasm of all students for the profession, offers increased opportunities for mutually educational and enjoyable interaction.

Jo Russell-Clarke

2007 AILA FRESH REPORT

Fresh for 2007 got off to a slow start due to two key members of the committee leaving early in the year. The committee would like to thank Andrew Nugent and Emma Wood for their contribution to Fresh in 2006.

The first Fresh event for 2007 was a presentation night with the theme of "When is it art? When is it landscape? Or can it be both." The event looked at the role of landscape architects in public art and the role of the landscape itself in public art. The event was held at Loop on Thursday 6 September and had presentations from Sandy Caldow from the Melbourne Fringe Festival, Charles Anderson from RMIT and Cassandra Chilton from Hassel. The night was successful despite some technical issues and had a crowd of around 100 people.

Luke Maiden, a founding member of the Fresh committee left just prior to this event to pursue overseas career opportunities. The committee would like to thank Luke for all of his efforts in putting together a number of Fresh events since early 2006.

The final Fresh event of 2007 is an exhibition which opens on Friday 7 December at the Artery gallery. The exhibition titled "Scribble Translator" features the efforts of professionals and students who have been given a scribble on butter paper and then had to produce a plan or 3d model based what they were given.

The committee has had a few additions to its membership recently and will look to these members to guide the way in 2008 as other members leave. The aim for next year is to hold 4 events evenly spaced throughout the year with possible collaboration with other professional bodies.

Daniel Nunan