

The Council for Educational Facility Planners International Australasia Region: Victorian Chapter

Report to Region: November 2012

1. COMMITTEE

Chair: Jo Dane
Chair Elect: Sandy Law (appointed at recent Vic AGM)
Past Chair: Richard Leonard
Secretary: Angela Williams
Treasurer: Doug Harnetty
Members: Hal Cutting, Judith North, Vincent Bok, Rob Bienvenu, Laurence Robinson,
Dr. Ben Cleveland, Janet Mattiske, Sandy Law, Gerard Hogan

2. MEMBERSHIP REPORT BY HAL CUTTING

The last 12 months has seen a 15% increase in Victorian membership to 141, exceeding our expectations, given our goal this time last year was to increase membership by 10% per year. There are a number of reasons for this increase including the quality and number of the Victorian events and the Victorian CEFPI Awards book which has brought greater awareness of CEFPI, the Victorian Chapter and the quality of educational design in this state. Also significant is the ability of members to now pay in Australian Dollars as a result of the Australasian Region becoming more autonomous.

We also had a goal to increase the membership of educators and students. While the greater proportion of our membership is Architects and Designers (60%), membership of educators has remained steady at 14% and increasing this proportion will remain a focus. Student membership however remains low at 1%

Increasing our membership over the next 12 months will be a challenge given the slowdown in the release of government education projects and the general decline in building activity in Victoria. However, with a number of events already planned over the next 12 months and an easier process for becoming a member, the future looks bright.

3. CHAPTER EVENTS

a) CEFPI Victoria Awards - 2012

There have been 44 No. entries into the Vic Awards for 2012, including a number of entries into a new Category dedicated to 'outdoor learning spaces'. This year the Committee has coincided launch of the Awards publication, "Places for Learning" with the Awards event, with every entry receiving a book as part of the submission.

b) SCHOOL VISITS

The Events Sub-Committee (led by Sandy Law and Laurence Robinson) organised a fantastic tour of the Ormond College Academic Centre at the University of Melbourne, where we were privileged to hear from A/Pr Peter Jamieson, A/Pr Rufus Black and Architect John Lee.

c) Big CEFPI Day Out

A great deal of focus in the last 2 months has been on organising the inaugural Big CEFPI Day Out. We were able to secure \$3,500 of sponsorship from four different companies: TeamBoard, Spectrum Floors, Above Left and Ampelite. We were unable to charge participants any more than a token amount to cover transport to and from the School venue, due to the venue hire conditions at the University of Melbourne (to save hire costs). Depending on the success of the first event I believe there is scope to hold this event as an annual event, charging attendees a higher rate and having the event organised professionally.

4. FINANCIALS

The Chapter is in a very sound financial operating position having met all of its liabilities for 2011/12 whilst maintaining a healthy operating surplus. Led by the Treasurer, Doug Harnetty, the committee has been focussing on ways to build on revenue, consolidate the cash reserves and to streamline its banking. Significant effort has also been applied to aligning the Chapter's banking and financial arrangements with the Region - as is now required under the new procedures and to meet the regulatory requirements. The largest income stream remains the CEFPI Victoria Awards program.

Refer separate Treasurers Report.

4. SPONSORSHIP

A new initiative that commenced this year involved the sponsorship by CEFPI Victoria of two education students to attend the Regional Conference on the Gold Coast. A competitive expression of interest was issued to all university education Faculties. We could not separate the two recipients, Celina Lee and Kelvin Broadway. As a condition of their sponsorship they will be presenting a brief overview following the AGM, describing how the conference experience has shaped their approach to teaching.

The Victorian Chapter committee plans to make this an annual event and will call again next year for student submissions.

Summary

The Victorian Chapter continues to grow and thrive and it is a very rewarding organisation to be a part of. Our program of regular events and Awards program enables us to increase awareness into the education community on the importance of designing schools and learning environments that are aligned with specific educational intentions. Yet, there is still much more to be done. We plan to continue growing and providing value to the membership. In the next year we will be looking to expand sub-committees into the general membership in an attempt to: a) increase general membership participation; and b) expand programs and initiatives to the benefit of the membership.

Jo Dane
Chair, Victorian Chapter
November 2012