

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

### Report to Region: May 2013

#### 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

Victoria's membership has been steady for the last few months, hovering around 141 members.

While we are achieving our aim of increasing membership by 10% per year, we are making a concerted effort this year to substantially increase the number of Educators. To begin to address this, the 2013 program of events has been designed to include a number of 'Conversations' directly addressing educational topics. At the same time we are looking at ways to encourage more students to join.

#### 3. CHAPTER EVENTS

The Vic Committee met for a planning meeting in February and discussed the idea of developing a theme throughout the year, as a framework for the school visits and other events. The theme of interest for this year is 'transition'.

##### a) SITE VISITS

The Events Sub-Committee organised a tour of the new Swanston Academic Building (SAB) at RMIT, for the Business College. Garry Bradley (RMIT Manager of Space Planning) and James Wilson (Lyons Architects) provided some insights and led a tour of the building. Mark Trotter also in attendance!

A tour of the Trinity Grammar library is scheduled for Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

##### b) 'CONVERSATIONS' EVENTS

The Vic Chapter will host a series of 'Conversation' events around the theme of 'Transition'. They will be facilitated by CEFPI friend and former ABC broadcaster, Peter Clark, and will aim to be interactive, conversational and engaging. The first of such events will be held at Camberwell High School Year 9 Centre, where we can debate the merits or otherwise of providing 'transition' spaces for year 9 students. We hope to invite educators from other schools with specialist Year 9 programs, to broaden the discussion across government/catholic and independent Schools.

##### c) Christian Long from CANNON DESIGN (and keynote in NZ)

Christian has committed to visit Melbourne between the 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> June. We will arrange some school tours for him, culminating in a CEFPI Victoria event on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June at which he will reflect upon what he has learnt during his tours (incl NZ) and compare to work being done in the USA. We might also take him to the footy!

##### d) Big CEFPI Day Out

The Big CEFPI Day Out was a big hit with around 90 attendees, including many from the Regional Executive. The feedback has been fantastic, although some people felt the day was

too long (no fortitude). We would love to host a similar event this year, but would appeal for more help. I will speak to Ros Christie in NZ about the possibility of having BCC on board where great schools begin

*Australasia Region*

#### **e) Victorian CEFPI Awards**

The Awards Program continues to be strongly supported and is a wonderful representation of the exemplary facilities being built in Victoria. Now in its ninth year (I think), the Victorian Awards is a stalwart of the CEFPI calendar. We need to aim to get greater publicity around the Awards, due to the unique judging process.

#### **4. FINANCIALS**

The Vic Chapter is in a good financial position thanks to Award Book sales, Awards program revenue and other minor events. We broke even on the Big Day Out, but incurred major expenditure for transport, food and venue hire. It would be great to charge more next time and make a small profit. While we had corporate sponsorship support, some sponsors have yet to pay!! Our focus is to spend available funds on events and resources for members, such as the Student Sponsorship program for the Regional conference, the Mayfield Project and hosting guests when the opportunity arises.

#### **4. SPONSORSHIP**

We currently have a request for submissions out to University Education programs inviting education students to apply for sponsorship to the NZ conference. The timing of the conference will make it unlikely that undergraduate students will be able to attend. But we hope to be able to send two applicants.

#### **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. A key focus of growing the membership is to grow the educator base of potential members, which means hosting events that are relevant and accessible to educators. We are also looking for ways to engage the Tasmanian members. Tassie members are included in all Vic correspondence, and we are aiming to have a Tassie excursion later in the year.

*Jo Dane*  
Chair, Victorian Chapter  
May 2013