

# Society of Architectural Historians of Australia & New Zealand

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President: Christoph Schnoor  
Treasurer: Catherine Lassen  
Secretary: Amit Srivastava

## Minutes: Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2017

**Location:** Japanese Room, Melbourne School of Design, University of Melbourne  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2016, 2.00 pm AEDT

**Attendance:** Christoph Schnoor (CS), Amit Srivastava (AS), John Ting (JT), Nigel Westbrook (NW), Catharine Lassen (CL), Ursula de Jong (UJ), Julie Willis (JW), Kirsty Volz (KV), Amy Clarke (AC), Rosemary Willink (RW), Paul Walker (PW), Ari Seligmann (ASe), Ashley Paine (APa), Philip Goad (PG), John Macarthur (JM), Anoma Pieris (APi), Gevork Hartoonian (GH), Anna Corkhill (AC), Andrew Steen (ASt), Susan Holden (SH), Michael Dudding (MD), Chris McDonald (CM), Fiona Gardiner (FG), Joanna Merwood-Salisbury (JMS)

### Attachments:

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#### 1. Apologies

Bill McKay (BM), Antony Moulis (AM), Flavia Marcello, Ian Woodcock, David Beynon, Mirijana Lozanovska, Karen Burns, Peter Scriver, Jennifer Preston, Robin Skinner, Paul Hogben, Naomi Stead, Janina Gosseye.

#### 2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes were accepted as presented. Motion to accept (JW) seconded (PG) and passed unanimously.

#### 3. Reports:

##### a. President's Report

The President (CS) thanked the 2017 conference organisers (GH & JT) for organising an interesting and engaging conference.

The President also thanked the organisers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> PhD Symposium (PS, NW & AS), which was held in Adelaide in early July. He extended a vote of thanks to Robin Skinner for maintaining the website.

The President further announced that Paul Walker had been appointed at the new Chair of the Editorial Board, and the society welcomed PW to the position. He then mentioned the successful SAHANZ sessions at the SAH and EAHN events held over the past year and invited PW to report on the SAH session.

\* PW reported that there were 17 proposals received for the SAH session, a dozen of which were developed for the final session taking in to account the geographical spread. The panel was well received at the SAH event. PW further commented that the topic stood out at the conference as it was geographically inclusive. He believed that the success of this session will put SAHANZ in good stead with its sister organisation SAH.

The President provided further comment on the following topics. Further details are available through the President's Report as published on the SAHANZ website.

- Joint SAHANZ-EAHN conference in Sydney in 2019, which will be called 'Distance Looks Back'. The Sydney group is in communication with the incoming EAHN chair, Mark Crimson and will formally propose the event to EAHN at the end of this year;

- Conference Guidelines;
- Tax Returns;
- Fraud and lost monies: due to a phishing scam, the Society has lost money and will need to revisit banking processes to ensure that this does not recur in the future;
- Social Media Project: SAHANZ is working on a comprehensive strategy for media presence and has appointed Amy Clark as Social Media Editor for the Society;
- Saunders Grant: awarded to Joshua Nash for a project entitled 'Connecting Pitcairn Island and Norfolk Island Through Architecture: Islands, Architecture, and Language'.

At the end of his report the President requested that Item 4: Election of the SAHANZ Committee 2017-19 should be brought forward before the reading of other reports, as some attendees needed to leave early.

#### **4. Election of the SAHANZ Committee 2017-19**

Since there was only one nomination for each of the office positions, the President announced that unless there was any particular objection, the nominations be accepted. The Society agreed and the following members were duly elected to office. The new Committee would be composed of:

President: Naomi Stead

Treasurer: Ashley Paine

Secretary: Janina Gosseye

Other Committee Members: John Ting; Amit Srivastava; Bill McKay; Nigel Westbrook

With this item addressed the meeting resumed to the original order returning to Item 3(b).

### **3.**

#### **b. Secretary's Report**

The Secretary (AS) report outlined 5 meetings of the committee on 08 Nov 2016; 28 Mar 2017; 29 May 2017; 16 Jun 2017 and 07 Jul 2017. With committee members located in different states and countries, the first 4 meetings were carried out via Internet based video conferencing. These were further supplemented with extended email communication on ongoing matters, and where relevant details have been recorded in the minutes. The final meeting was held in person on 7th July at the Becker Room, Shine Dome, Canberra. The membership for 2016-17 was 106 full and student members, and 10 Life and Honorary members. The membership data for 2016-17 will be assessed after conference registrations are finalised.

The Secretary also raised the matter of ongoing contact with society members and collection and update of relevant member data. This related to the future of the current mailing list <sahanz-list> and a more streamlined registration and membership update process. It was suggested that the incoming Committee will have to address these issues and the new social media platform might assist with the process. AC and AS offered some suggestions about updating details on the website. Further details are available through the Secretary Report as published on the SAHANZ website.

#### **c. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer (CL) remarked that the financial position of the Society remained firm over the last financial year, and that income was generated primarily from membership subscriptions and the annual conference. On June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the total assets of the Society were 90245.21 AUD.

The Saunders grant of 2000 AUD per year is still paid from the Saunders Grant account. However, with the funds currently available in the account at 13256.36 AUD, the Society will only be able to afford awarding the Grant for another 5 years, unless another revenue stream can be found.

The 2016 audit has been completed and ratified by the executive committee. As auditing and accounting are now being provided in New Zealand, Bill McKay has been appointed by the Committee to act as the local contact for the accountants and the IRD.

The 2016 tax returns have been submitted, and the tax returns for 2017 are in progress. Currently tax

returns have to be submitted annually because the Society does not have a tax-exempt status. However, it would be good for the Society to initiate this process soon, as the Society would then be able to accept donations.

CL also commented on the fraud, which occurred and mentioned that the police has started an investigation, but is not hopeful that the Society will be able to retrieve the monies lost. CL commented that an extra check would need to be built into the payment process to ensure that such fraud do not recur in the future. (Please refer to President's report).

#### **d. Editorial Board Report**

PW delivered the Editorial Board Report.

New appointments made by the Editorial Board:

- Stuart King, outgoing editor of *Fabrications* and Lecturer in Architecture at the University of Tasmania has joined the Editorial Board for a standard six-year term;
- Joanna Merwood-Salisbury and Christopher McDonald, both of Victoria University of Wellington, have been appointed Editors of the *Proceedings of the Society of Architectural Historians, Australia and New Zealand* for the publication of the 35<sup>th</sup> volume;
- Mirjana Losanovska will join Anoma Pieris as the *Fabrications*' new co-editor. Mirjana will transition into the role over the next six months as the current volume is completed and work on the next volume commences;
- The Board has advertised for the position of Reviews Editor for *Fabrications*. This position has not yet been filled.

The Editorial Board and SAHANZ Committee have in recent months developed a survey intended to gather information on the way conferences are supported by our institutions and how our conference publication is viewed by those with oversight of research reporting and funding. The Editorial Board will launch this survey in the coming weeks and consider the implications of its findings for SAHANZ policies and practices over the course of the next year.

Following discussion at last year's AGM, the Editorial Board conducted a review of its Proceedings Policy to better support authors and the Society in protecting academic freedoms. A revised policy has been adopted by the Committee and is available to all members and the public.

The Editorial Board is continuing to pursue the digitization of the Proceedings' back catalogue, indexing of the journal in new databases, and working with Taylor and Francis to promote the journal through social media and events such as the annual conference. With the financial support of SAHANZ, PW and JW have in recent months led a pilot project to gauge the costs and scale of the project to digitise, store and index the entire back catalogue, and this first major stage of the digitization project is now drawing to a close. JW commented on the ongoing digitisation project and reported that 24 issues had been digitised and that the process was proceeding well. She further highlighted that there were some older issues missing from the collection and urged Society members to offer a copy for digitisation if they had access to the same.

Taylor and Francis have invited the Society to engage with its programme to turn special issues of *Fabrications* into books, and we continue to explore issues that can sustain such an afterlife, as well as themes that can be anthologised from the journal's back catalogue.

The Society has given its support to a proposal to stage the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Sydney in conjunction with a meeting of the European Architectural History Network, in 2019. This event raises a number of policy issues that the Board will consider in consultation with the Committee and the local organisers at the University of Sydney.

Earlier this year, Andrew Leach advised his intention to resign as Chair of the Editorial Board, while remaining one of its ordinary members. PW has now been appointed to that role, on a six-year basis.

e. ***Fabrications* Editors Report**

API delivered the *Fabrications* Editors Report.

Stuart King and Anoma Pieris co-edited *Fabrications* in the 2016-17 year. In 2016, *Fabrications* received 34 articles for consideration and accepted 22, with varying degrees of revisions. Fourteen were published. The rejection rate was 34%. Twenty-three submissions were received from Australia and eight from New Zealand. Four submissions were received from the United States and Canada and two from Europe.

The journal reputation is growing, with full text downloads steadily increasing: 2014 – 4,908 full text downloads; 2015 – 6,601 full text downloads; 2016 – 7,915 full text downloads. Downloads from outside Australasia during the period 2014 to 2016 hover between 30% and 34% of the total full text downloads.

In 2016, *Fabrications* 25:2 on “Brutalism” was republished by Taylor & Francis as an edited book, *Brutalism Resurgent*, edited by Julia Gatley and Stuart King. Particular thanks goes to Julia Gatley for her work on this project. Since publication, the book has received mentions in broad review articles on the topic of Brutalism in *The Guardian* (16 April 2016) and *New York Review of Books* (22 December 2016).

The *Fabrications* editors are currently in the process of re-ordering our issues following discussion and advice from Taylor & Francis. From 2018, guest and themed issues will precede an annual open issue. The objective is to collect articles for the open issue throughout the year, rather than via a CfP. This means there will be a bank of miscellaneous articles that can be processed in parallel with special and themed issues. This is advantageous for all issues as the DOIs can be published earlier in the year allowing for faster dissemination of articles. From 2019, the volumes will be made up as follows:

- Issue no. 1 – guest edited issue (selected by the Editorial Board)
- Issue no. 2 – editors’ themed issue
- Issue no. 3 – open issue

The *Fabrications*’ editors have increased the journal’s bank of books under review to ensure a steady supply of reviews in *Fabrications* and the editorial board is now seeking a reviews editor to develop this strength.

The editors have also developed a more rigorous list of instructions to authors based on Chicago 2016 and without anomalies. It is available via the *Fabrications* website. Increasing volumes of production mean that all submissions need to fully conform with the journal style prior to refereeing. Submissions that do not fully conform to the journal style guidelines are returned to the author.

The *Fabrications*’ editors would like to encourage all authors to promote their articles published in *Fabrications*. Those articles promoted through other venues, such as Academia.com typically receive greater downloads from *Fabrications*, benefiting both the author and the journal.

The *Fabrications*’ editors thank all those who contributed to the 2016 and (forthcoming ) 2017 issues of the journal, including guest editors, authors, referees and book/conference reviewers. The editors also thank Andrew Leach and members of the Editorial Board for their advice and guidance, Robin Skinner for keeping issues up-to-date on the SAHANZ website and Taylor & Francis for their work on copy-editing, layout, printing and distribution. We offer special thanks to our production editor Tamara D’Mello.

f. **2017 Conference Convenor’s Report**

JT delivered the 2017 Conference Convenor’s Report.

The 34<sup>th</sup> SAHANZ conference, entitled Quotation, was hosted by the University of Canberra and held at the Shine Dome in Canberra. The conference was convened by the University of Canberra’s Gevork Hartoonian and John Ting. 127 abstracts were received, from which 79 papers were accepted. In the end, 73 papers were prepared for presentation at the conference and publication in its proceedings. All papers accepted for the conference were blind reviewed by two referees; papers not accepted by one of the referees were blind reviewed by a third referee, whose decision was final. Papers were matched, where possible, to referees in a related field and with similar interests to the authors. In all, 51 referees

from Australia, New Zealand, the U.S.A and Taiwan were involved in reviewing the papers. The convenors thanked all of the referees for their contribution.

Conference planning benefitted from the generous advice of the convenors of the 33<sup>rd</sup> SAHANZ conference, Philip Goad and Ann Marie Brennan, as well as Quotation's academic committee. Sponsorship and support was received from a number of universities, institutions and architectural practices. The financial strategy was to keep the price of conference registration low, while still making a small profit, with the final accounts anticipated to be settled in the next 2 months or so.

The conference was held from 5-8 July, with a total of 85 full registrations, 5 day registrations and 2 keynote only registrations. 2 architectural tours were held on 5 July for conference delegates. Conference authors and delegates came from 30 different universities and organisations. This included 15 Australian institutions, 5 U.S. universities, 3 from New Zealand, and 1 each from Taiwan, the Netherlands, the U.K. and Canada. Keynotes were presented by Jean-louis Cohen and Julie Willis, and life memberships were conferred to Sarah Treadwell and Philip Goad.

**g. 2017 PhD Symposium Convenor's Report**

NW delivered the 2017 PhD Symposium Convenor's Report:

The 2<sup>nd</sup> PhD Symposium was co-hosted by the University of Adelaide and the University of Western Australia, and was held in Adelaide in conjunction with the CAMEA Adelaide Congress. The Adelaide Congress organised by the Centre for Asian and Middle Eastern Architecture (CAMEA) at the University of Adelaide included 3 parallel events: the SAUH-Asia Symposium, the CAMEA 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plenary and the SAHANZ PhD Symposium. The 4-day event was inaugurated with a keynote lecture by Ken Tadashi Oshima (Prof at University of Washington and current SAH President) and followed by presentations for the SAUH-Asia Symposium the next day. The postgraduate research students were invited to participate and comment as respondents during the SAUH-Symposium presentations. Day 3 and 4 of the Congress event were focused on the PhD students, starting with a workshop on day 3 led by the invited guest panel of Ken Tadashi Oshima and Stanislaus Fung (Prof at Chinese University of Hong Kong). Students were then invited to attend the CAMEA Plenary, which was held at the Office of Design and Architecture SA (ODASA) and allowed for discussion between researchers, practitioners and government representatives on the opportunities for engaging academic research in practice and policy. The final day of the Congress was dedicated to presentations by the PhD students following the usual SAHANZ format of 3 papers over a 1,5 hour session. There were a total of 12 presentations across 4 sessions.

The organisers thanked SAHANZ for contributing \$4200 towards the event costs. The event was successful and well received. Many of the foreign and national delegates stayed on to participate in the PhD Symposium and actively engaged with the student presentations in a constructive manner. The students (while overwhelmed with the prospect of presenting to this audience) seemed to appreciate the opportunity and the extended feedback on their work.

The number of PhD students that participated was similar to the first PhD Symposium. However, if this is to continue as a more regular annual event then greater participation needs to be encouraged through better advertisement. While the presence of other delegates allowed for a decent discussion during the paper presentations, it was noticed that students had limited engagement in terms of commenting on others' papers. To change this pattern, further events should endeavour to structure the presentations differently, and maybe reduce presentation length to permit longer discussion and feedback.

**h. 2018 Conference Convenor's Address**

JMS and CM delivered the 2018 Conference Convenor's Address, which is to be co-convened with MD and to be hosted by the School of Architecture at the Victoria University of Wellington. The theme for the conference was announced as "Historiographies of Technology and Architecture," and other details of subthemes and committees was shared. The Call for Papers will be issued within the next month. The convenors thanked AL and others for their assistance with drafting the conference theme.

A motion to accept reports was moved (JW) seconded (PG) and passed unanimously.

## 5. Business arising

a. The President (CS) delivered a statement about the instance of fraud that was committed against the Society and raised the need for new protocols for security in managing internal processes for transfer of monies to third party. It was proposed that the new incoming Committee discuss and put this new security protocol into action over the coming months. Motion to accept this proposal was raised (JW) seconded (PG) and passed unanimously.

b. The President (CS) raised the issue of the Society's financial status and its implications for the future of Saunders Grant. He informed the Society that a new accountant has been appointed : New Zealand based firm Strong & Co. A statement prepared by the accountant about the financial status of the Society was read out. The main messages included that while the Society's desire to take on more projects was admirable, there needs to be parallel attention given to ensuring sustainability. PW suggested that since the new Committee will be dealing with some of these issues, the matter be deferred to a later date once the new Committee has had a chance to review the documents.

## 5. Any other business

a. APa as the incoming Treasurer offered to read out a prepared statement on behalf of the incoming President Naomi Stead, who was unable to attend the AGM. It was offered that as the incoming President Naomi Stead intended to work with the new Committee on the following issues:

- Developing the PhD Symposium
- Plan for greater equity and diversity
- Long-term financial plan
- David Saunders Grant sustainability and increase in funding amount.

b. JM enquired if the Society could supplement the Saunders Grant with other small grants to help publish books. NW questioned if such a grant would be limited to ECRs. JW added that since there are existing avenues for ECRs such a grant should be opened to the broader membership. PG offered Graham Foundation as an example that we could learn from. CS reminded the attendees that while the idea of a grant to support book publication was a good one, it was intimately connected to the issue of the Society's ongoing financial health. JM mentioned that we need a good understanding of the concept of operating margin before we can make any decision on financial sustainability.

As a sum up, PG suggested that the incoming Committee look at 2 issues:

- Investigate long term financial health of the Society
- Identify the minimum operating margin

c. JM raised a concern about the Society's affiliation with Taylor & Francis, wondering if this was best for the Society. JW proposed that a comparison with other similar publishers might be conducted to see what is the best option. PW offered to check up on this issue and provide the Society with some relevant data to make a decision.

d. PW reminded the attendees that there was a tradition to name one of the keynote talks at the annual conference, Saunders' Talk. He was not sure when and why this practice had disappeared but suggested that it would be good to bring it back. Motion (CS) to reconsider and resume the practice of including a Saunders' Talk at the annual conference was seconded (UJ) and passed unanimously.

e. As a final matter of business, PG formally thanked CS as the outgoing President.

With no further business the meeting was brought to a close at 3.17pm.

## ACTION POINTS

Committee	<b>Consider the range of issues raised in the various items for the next meeting</b>

DRAFT