

# SPEECH FOR COMMITTEE AT AGM

## PHILIP PARKER (President)

Welcome everyone to the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting for Architectural Glass Design Australia, and we thank you for coming along and supporting your association.

2009 has been the biggest year for AGDA since formation, with many years of effort and hard work coming to a spectacular peak with the very successful exhibition "Glass 21". Norm will talk more about that, but one of the pleasing aspects of the exhibition was the healthy representation from other states – there were pieces on display from NSW, WA, SA, Queensland and even the Northern Territory.

This clearly demonstrates AGDA's status as a National Body, with more members joining from interstate all the time. People of high reputation such as Gerry Cummins, Marc Grunseit and Jan Aspinall, to name just a few. It was wonderful that these artists' work was exhibited along with lesser known, but not less skilled, members of our industry, as well as several up and coming new glass artists.

We have started to make inroads to bring our industry to the attention of Federal and State politicians, including Peter Garrett, Federal Minister for the Arts; to Government bodies such as Standards and the Building Codes Board; and to arts organisations such as Arts Victoria, Craft Victoria and others. These connections will allow us to further promote the causes and aims of AGDA, and to address the problems and issues that we all face. It will also help us to be a truly National association, in that many of the areas we are working on affect all glass artists in all parts of Australia.

As we raise the profile of the industry in these areas, we are progressing rapidly along our path to cementing the place of architectural glass as a considered element of contemporary arts, and the design and construction industries.

On behalf of the committee I would like to congratulate everyone who participated in the Glass 21 process, to all those who entered pieces and to everyone who contributed to the success of the event.

Thank you to all of our members for your continued support, and remember that although we have experienced a very successful year, we have only just begun to promote architectural glass and there is much more to come in the next few years.

## MICHAEL PATER (Treasurer)

As Treasurer, I will present the accounts for July 2008 to June 2009.

(Read Report) Balance as at 1/7/08	\$ 501.74
Total Income:	<u>\$11730.00</u>
	\$12231.74
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Total Expenses	\$12664.99
<u>Balance as at 30/6/09</u>	<u>\$433.25DR</u>

As you can see, the major expenses are for administration, and given the size and required functions of the association, the administrative costs are only covered in relation to the amount of membership and sponsorship we can achieve. The actual admin costs are much higher, it is only that people continue to do much in their own time, that all the required work gets completed for the amount of money available.

It is extremely difficult to get grant money to cover administration costs. Next year we will be able to apply for an Arts Victoria grant to cover the costs of staging the Federation Square event, however we can only apply and it is by no means certain we will get a grant.

We will be seeking significant sponsorship this year to cover Fed Square; the exposure for our industry and potential sponsors at this event is potentially huge.

To enable us to stage the 5 week Members Show (which will be explained further by Donna) the entry fee will necessarily be higher than

that of the Glass 21 fee. This will allow us to stage a comprehensive industry exhibition with more publicity and marketing than this year.

We will continue to expand the membership, apply for grants and funding, and explore other ways to finance this most vital work that AGDA is engaged on, to protect and promote the architectural glass industry.

## NORM BEILBY

Glass 21 – what an exhibition! What an Opening Night!

Glass 21 was planned as AGDA's starting point in a five year plan to promote architectural glass to both the public, and to design and construction professionals including architects. It was also considered to be a "trial run" for further exhibitions.

The theme of contemporary architectural glass was chosen in order to have an exhibition which would "catch the eye", to make a statement and show something different, to show the potential of what glass could be in a contemporary sense.

The following is what Bronwyn Hughes wrote about the exhibition:

"Since the 1960s, architecture has relied on large expanses of clear sheet glass for the cladding of building and only recently have architects and their clients demanded more decorative glass finishes that include colour, texture and light.

For the first time in almost 20 years, a huge range of possibilities for decorative glass in architecture will be explored in a showcase exhibition at Chapel off Chapel, opening later this month.

The latest works from some of Australia's leading glass artists will be shown alongside a new breed of young designers. All are making strong statements in response to the emerging trends in the built environment of the 21<sup>st</sup> century".

And this is what Glass 21 did, and did so successfully. It showed our product in a contemporary light; it showed a new side of glass to a lot of people.

The production of the exhibition certainly caused considerable attention and comment. Among the industry, and the wider glass community, it was seen as a very successful presentation. Publicity achieved, predominantly the weather cross with Mike Larkin on the Channel 10 news; the "Age" article and the five minute discussion on 3AW, was huge given our publicity budget (virtually nothing) and the fact that we are almost starting from scratch to bring attention to the industry as a whole.

Feedback from the exhibition has been almost 100% positive. As mentioned earlier, it was a starting point, and in the coming years our exhibitions will be more far reaching and effective, the further we go. More on that very soon.

## STAN HAWKSWORTH

AGDA is committed to education as related to our industry: the education of the public and design and construction professionals about the potential and uses of our product; and the education of practitioners within the industry, both in skills and knowledge. As part of this ongoing education, AGDA was able to present two sessions this year to assist our members.

The first was an information session held to demonstrate where contemporary architectural glass is heading in Europe. This session, held at Holmesglen TAFE, included a slide show of contemporary European architectural glass presented by Liz Coleman, as viewed on our trip to Europe last year. Europe and the US are at least twenty years ahead of Australia in this field, and can provide much information and inspiration to us. Liz and Bronwyn Hughes kindly provided many books on the subject which members were able to view, and websites of contemporary significant glass artists were distributed. Many members

at the session commented on the benefit of being exposed to this information.

Our second session this year was a workshop, kindly sponsored by Axess glass and again held at Holmesglen. This workshop was a hands on demonstration of a form of triple glazing very suitable to leadlight. This was very important, as energy efficiency and sustainability are areas which are increasingly significant and have a huge impact on the production of our products. We need to be able to supply products which conform not only to Standards, but to the requirements of these other areas. This workshop showcased a simple but effective product which allows leadlighters to build in energy efficiency into a panel, to ensure it complies with the ever increasing demands of modern construction.

We are very happy to announce that Axess will again sponsor an AGDA workshop early in the new year on laminating. This widely requested workshop is much anticipated and will feature product from Bohle.

Also, Dick Millard, Stained Glass artist from America, will give a free lecture on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2010, at the Exchange Hotel in Port Melbourne, about the future of stained glass. Dick has generously offered his time while he is in Australia, to present this lecture for AGDA members. Please take this opportunity if possible to hear this very interesting and experienced stained glass artist to speak.

## MICHELLE VALLE

The aims of AGDA are to ensure that :

1. The heritage of our industry is protected, skills are passed on and the conservation of old glass is effected in the proper manner.
2. The members of this industry are encouraged to practice in the most professional manner possible, with access to all appropriate information at all times.
3. The industry develops the huge potential that exists in contemporary architectural glass, responds to the requirements of

twenty first century construction and evolves into an industry that demonstrates diversity in design and techniques. Exciting, appropriate contemporary products are produced which lead us on from the rich heritage of our past to forge a new future in architectural glass.

4. The public awareness of architectural glass is raised, and to educate both the public and design and construction professionals, about the importance of conserving existing glass, and the possibilities of our contemporary products.
5. Interest in architectural glass is generally promoted and young people are encouraged to consider the industry as a possible career, and to appreciate architectural glass as a potential element in any building.

The five year plan – AGDA's aim is also to promote and raise the public profile of the industry with a five year plan encompassing exhibitions and events to ensure the above aims are met. We are currently at the end of Year One, and can only build on the success of Glass 21 to ensure that in a few years time, a greater number of people will recognise the term "Architectural Glass"; will be using our products more in both public and domestic buildings; and the potential we see today will be on the way to being completely realised.

## LEIGH SCHELLEKENS

In 2010, AGDA will present two exhibitions of architectural glass. One of these will be an event to be held at Federation Square in Melbourne from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> of September.

The opportunity to present an exhibition of architectural glass in such a prominent site gives us an opening to really make a difference in presenting our products, and to reach a great number of people, architects in particular.

The design and "feel" of Fed Square allows us to really showcase contemporary architectural glass – 12 large contemporary panels, each

one metre wide by two and a half metres long, will hang suspended from the Atrium, right outside the National Gallery.

A floor level display will feature large photos of the works, as well as information about AGDA, its members and the industry.

Demonstrations will be held at certain times throughout the two week event, presenting as many aspects of architectural glass formation and decoration as possible.

A lecture series will be conducted in the BMW Edge theatre – these lectures will be for the public, for the industry and primarily for architects. A lecture specifically aimed at design students is also being considered. If we can get a short (3-5 minutes) film made it can be shown periodically on the giant screen at Fed Square.

All of these things will be presented to the people of Melbourne in the heart of the city, and in Grand Final week. It is a wonderful marketing opportunity for all of us.

The Brief is being released tonight, concept/design submissions are due in by end February 2010, and a selection panel will choose 12 designs which will then have to be made by the beginning of August.

Everyone is welcome to submit a design or concept, and we encourage all of our members to do so.

## DONNA COOPER (Secretary)

The AGDA committee is very keen to give as many of our members as possible, the opportunity to have their work exhibited. That is why we have devised the "Members Show" to be held at Chapel off Chapel from 16<sup>th</sup> August to September 19<sup>th</sup> 2010, utilising both the mezzanine level and the foyer walls for the exhibition. Chapel off Chapel have offered us an unusual 5 week period of display, they are keen to have us back, and we have taken the option for our members.

While Glass 21 has been a resounding success, the process of organising it has led to many lessons being learned. So to enable us to organise an

even bigger and more effective exhibition, it has been necessary to cover costs by raising the entrance fee.

Every AGDA member will have the opportunity to have a piece exhibited, in any style they choose, as long as it fits the criteria which is minimal a size restriction, to allow as many pieces as possible to be displayed; a high level of workmanship demonstrated, to high industry standard; and it must be a flat piece of architectural glass, be it leadlight, stained glass, laminated, decorated, painted etc. etc.

By raising the entry fee to \$200 per piece (which can be paid off over a period of months if required), AGDA can ensure that not only are the costs of the exhibition covered but that there will be money available for advertising too.

That works out at a cost to the member of \$40 per week for a 5 week exhibition in an excellent gallery space and location in inner Melbourne.

Publicity and promotion of this exhibition will commence early in the year. AGDA encourages its members to make and design pieces, in any style, but that have a "freshness" about them – even period style pieces can have an authentically period design with a different take on them.

Again we ask you to step outside your comfort zone and stretch yourself; originality of design, in period and contemporary styles, is to be encouraged to add depth to the body of work we hope to display.

This is a wonderful opportunity to display your work to the public and to architects, and you should grab that opportunity to raise the overall standard of the industry, and to showcase your work, and that of your colleagues, to the absolute best of your abilities.

As we all know, opportunities like this do not arise every day, so consider carefully the work you decide to submit, and show Melbourne the high quality and exceptional designs you are all capable of.

3/12/2009