

2020/21 VIC PRESIDENT'S REPORT



With a new Owners Corporations Act on the horizon, and the light at the end of the tunnel beginning to appear from a global pandemic, the end of the 2021 financial year shaped up to be a significant year for our industry and our association for many reasons.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has meant that we have faced a year largely confined indoors, working from home and meeting with clients virtually, this has not meant that the momentum of progress in our work slowed; rather, the opposite occurred.

In 2020, Amelia Dean joined us as our Events and Communication Officer, bringing a new approach to our events and increasing the professionalism. She joined us at the right time with demand of taking the annual Symposium online and working closely with Sharon and Whitney to ensure we delivered a high quality educational program. We did, at the end of 2020, say goodbye to an individual who has been a valuable part of the team, Sharon Lameris, who held many hats with education, policy and strong board support with her knowledge.

The new year did see a new generation of staff from a plethora of professional backgrounds and industries, come on board with SCA (Vic), forming a unified, motivated, and skilled team across the areas of membership services, education, and advocacy. Roslyn Zervos, our Learning and Development Manager, joined us in February 2021, taking ownership of, and coordinating our associations leading strata education and training program who was supported by Mira Keresztesi as our Education Officer. Liam Straughan, our Public Relations and Media Officer, also joined SCA (Vic) in February 2021, directing our media, government relations and policy work.

Throughout the year, we have kept up the pace in our advocacy efforts, working across many subject areas, including COVID-19, embedded networks reform, climate change adaptability planning for the built environment, reform of the Victorian Building System and OC Regulations, with the ultimate goal of improving our industry, maintaining high standards and acting in the interest of consumer rights for those living in strata – approximately 1 in 4 Victorians!

SCA (Vic) have regularly consulted with our membership base across many of these policy areas, while simultaneously building and improving relationships with government, media, and other stakeholders to drive better policy outcomes, raise the profile of the industry and its importance to millions of Victorians, to gather information and develop the resources needed by industry to navigate the future.

2021 saw a partial return to our in-person events, albeit for a shorter period than expected due to a record six lockdowns affecting Metropolitan Melbourne over 18 months, then continued back online. Working in conjunction with our sponsors, we continued to deliver leading educational content to our members on various subjects including the impact of new OC laws, insurance, and dealing with COVID-19, among others. We thank our sponsors for their continued support for our organisation through a dynamic, albeit another unpredictable year.

With the first half of the 2021 FY again beginning in lockdown, SCA (Vic) is looking forward to the new year with confidence and likely greater certainty ahead of us as we begin to return to normal life again, and as our industry adapts to new laws and regulations in Victoria past this pandemic.

GREGOR EVANS
PRESIDENT
SCA (VIC)

