**PRESIDENT’S REPORT, 2015-16**

Over the past twelve months, ADMS has once again achieved notable success, due to the enthusiasm of members and hard work of its committee. We have engaged in a number of heritage battles, have conducted a range of walks and events, have continued to publish a high-quality journal, increased our membership, and increased our activities on social media. The Committee has carried out a number of reviews of operations and financial arrangements, designed to ensure prudent management of Society funds.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Membership continues to be steady and is now at 663, from across Australia and around the world. Thanks to Secretary Robyn Saalfield, member records and communications have continued to be dealt with promptly and efficiently.

**PRESENTATIONS**

We have once again presented a number of interesting and informative speakers for presentations (Advertising, London Transport, Australian Pottery) and also conducted walking tours of Melbourne West, Melbourne University and South Melbourne. Thanks to Dennis Mahoney and the other members of the Events sub-committee (Victoria Hall, Karen Cosson, Robyn Saalfield and Michael Tonta).

**ON THE WEB**

Our website and Facebook pages are well-managed for us by David Thompson. Articles from the Spirit of Progress are available on-line via Informit

**PUBLICATIONS**

The 2016 Calendar was successful but circumstances resulted in it being prepared in a rush.

New publications include Walking Tour booklets for South Melbourne and the University of Melbourne.

**HERITAGE/PRESERVATION**

The major battle over the year concerned the Civic Hall in Ballarat. ADMS provided submissions against the proposed demolition of the Hall by Ballarat Council. The time period for the demolition has now expired and it appears that the Hall will be retained. However, the issue remains as to its future configuration and use. ADMS is working closely with the Save Civic Hall committee.

A submission seeking inclusion of the building on the Victorian Heritage Register was lodged in January 2015, but we have been advised that the building will NOT be included in the Register.

The Society was involved in the battle to protect the former Rootes car factory in Salmon Street, Port Melbourne, in conjunction with the Port Phillip Heritage and Preservation Society and the National Trust. We also worked on the ‘I Love my Palais” committee in the battle to preserve the Palais Theatre in St. Kilda. The outcome was a commitment of funds from government (local and State) to ensure that the Palais continues to operate as a major music venue. A new business operator (Live Nation) has recently been announced.

Regrettably, a number of significant buildings (including Capitol Bakeries in South Yarra and Asbestos House in South Melbourne) have been demolished.

**SPIRIT OF PROGRESS**

The Spirit of Progress continues to be our flagship product and is highly regarded by members and Art Deco societies around the world. Credit to the editor, Brian Scott, and many thanks to those members who have contributed articles. The change to distribution by including journals in plastic wrapping has been successful

**ADELAIDE CHAPTER**

The Adelaide Chapter of ADMS continues to be successful, with a range of educational, social activities and walking tours.

**BRISBANE ART DECO SOCIETY**

The Brisbane Chapter of ADMS has completed its first year of operation and is planning a range of educational and social activities.

**WORLD CONGRESS ON ART DECO, SHANGHAI, NOVEMBER 2015**

A large number of ADMS members (over 50) attended the Congress in Shanghai in early November 2015. The Congress was demanding but very successful.

**WORLD CONGRESS ON ART DECO, CLEVELAND USA, MAY 2017**

Many members are currently planning to attend the next Congress in May 2017. The Congress will be sited in Cleveland, Ohio, but events will also be held in Cincinatti, Detroit and Pittsburgh.

**ICADS**

ADMS is an active member of ICADS (the International Coalition of Art Deco Societies). ICADS has recently become incorporated, and is now managed by a Board of Directors. ADMS has played a key role in the re-structuring of ICADS, with ADMS President Robin Grow occupying the position of Vice-President and also responsible for Preservation activities. The Board has determined that the 2019 World Congress will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, with a supporting programme in Montevideo, Uruguay. A recent competition has selected a new logo for ICADS.

**CALENDAR 2017**

The 2017 Calendar is now available for purchase. The theme is “World Congresses” and each host city has a page.

**Committee for 2016/17**

The Office-bearers and Committee have all re-nominated and will continue in 2016/17

Office-bearers are:

President – Robin Grow

Vice-President – Liana Thompson

Secretary – Robyn Saalfield

Treasurer – David Wharton

Committee – Dennis Mahoney, Michael Tonta, Karen Cosson, Victoria Hall, Peter Sheridan, Jan Hatch, Brian Scott, Julie Lord