

СВІЙ ДО СВОГО



Ukrainian International Directory

Ukrainian Community Issues Newsletter



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Association of Ukrainians in Victoria

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False and Misleading Statements by Omission

During my term on the Executive Committee, as a Director of the Association of Ukrainians in Victoria (AUV), I have experienced an unprecedented level of inconsistent behaviour by members of the Board.

Certain Board Members constantly state that they are just volunteers doing a thankless and unappreciated task for the community. Unfortunately, they do not realise that once you knowingly take on a responsibility, you have to fulfil that responsibility to its fullest extent without excuses; excuses like “they do not have time”, “there are not enough hours in the day”, “no one is prepared to help” and the list goes on.

If you take on a responsibility, just do it and expect no thanks. If you are making excuses, its time to get out and let someone else who is prepared to do the work take over. It all comes down to having the individual experience of managing time, resources and delegating responsibilities where possible.

One can of course tolerate a certain level of inconsistent behaviours. However, the AUV Board has been somewhat dysfunctional; this is evidenced by:

1. the unnecessary intimidation, verbal abuse, harassment and bullying of minority view Board members,
2. failure to abide by the AUV Constitution and Common Law relating to meeting procedure.
3. refusal to provide Directors with documents, information and financial reports relevant to the operation of AUV,
4. denying the Treasurer access to the AUV Financial Accounting System,
5. and the list goes on.

This comes down to a lack of management experience and ability, combined with power play.

There is often an element within organisations who deliberately and wilfully denigrate others so they walk away in frustration. This is done so the perpetrators “flotsam” rises to the surface looking like they are the saviours and performers, at the expense of others.

The ultimate in this behaviour is illustrated on the first page of the President’s Report listing benefits brought to the Executive Committee by certain Board Members. However, he omitted to mention myself and the responsibilities I had undertaken and completed.

Members at the AGM questioned the President as to the omission of myself in his report.

In the President's response, he said he was uncomfortable speaking negatively about anyone. He went on to say that there were Board members who would not cooperate and through their activities Board meetings dragged on unnecessarily late into the night.

In my "Right of Reply", I attempted to elaborate on my involvement on the Executive Committee. However, the AGM Chairman cut me off well short of my intended response and in the AGM setting,

I was restricted in my capacity to defend myself.

A former director, expressed his dismay at the president's attitude regarding my contribution and confirmed to the meeting that he had witnessed my significant work and contribution.

I take this opportunity defend myself and inform the AUV membership and the broader Ukrainian Community the truth and the level of my involvement as a Director. Refer to Appendix A.

I fail to understand why anyone would denigrate, defame and cause harm to another by making a false statement, omission of the truth and deliberately and intentionally misleading by creating a false impression, all in the presence of members at the AGM.

[ACNC website statement:](#)

"Making a false and misleading statement that creates a false impression, even if by omission, is misleading as it is uninformative, unclear and deceptive."

This is the ultimate "Mortal Sin" a Responsible Person can make before the membership of an AGM.

Under the Australian system of governance, which we are required to abide by, convention dictates that the offending responsible person, once publicly exposed to have misled the members, ought to resign from their position.

[This behaviour leads a reasonable person to believe there is an underlying agenda which my work somehow challenges or obstructs.](#)

NB

- By raising this matter, I have been told that I will be seen as a "trouble maker", - so be it.
- Everyone has the right to defend themselves against unscrupulous persons.
- No one has the right to denigrate and defame others, just for their own self-interest.
- Everyone has the right to express their point of view, without fear of intimidation.
- The board's function is to entertain and discuss alternative views and not to merely suppress them.

Michael Karaszkewycz
Director, Association of Ukrainians in Victoria
Attached - Appendix A

Work perform by Michael Karaszekwycz as AUV Director:

1. Insurance Valuation of AUV properties.
 - *Valuation of all Essendon, Geelong, Lovely Banks, St. Albans, Noble Park, Wodonga and Newborough AUV properties*
2. Examined the Property Valuation.
 - *Land and Buildings Property valuations as prepared by the AUV Valuers*
3. Examine Dnister option indicative costs
 - *The President requested me to provide an Indicative Estimate on possible temporary move to Dnister building.*
4. Refurbishment cost assessments – Domivka.
 - *Preparing cost estimates for the total refurbishment of the Ukrainian Hall*
 - *Preparing cost estimates for basic refurbishment of the Ukrainian Hall*
5. Stage 2 - Development Costings.
 - *Provided Cost Benefit Analysis for the redevelopment of 3 – 11 Russell Street, Essendon.*
6. Stage 2 - Board Presentation.
 - *2 July 2017 presented my detailed finding to the Board Building Meeting*
7. Stage 2 - Expression of Interest.
 - *Developed the documentation for the Expression of Interest relating to the redevelopment of 3 – 11 Russell Street, Essendon*
8. Expression of Interest – Searching prospects.
 - *As I was not permitted to advertise the Expression of Interest, I had to spent a great deal of time searching for prospective developers who may be interested in our proposal*
9. Liaise with Slawko Tomyń.
 - *The Expression of Interest was liaised through Slawko Tomyń, Solicitor*
10. Attempting liaison Marko Misko.
 - *Upon discovering a restrictive clause in the Stage 1 Contract, I was hindered in my attempt to liaise with Clayton Utz. Many hours wasted in this endeavour.*
11. Meeting with Prospective Developer 1 (Expression of Interest).
 - *Travel to Developers Offices and hour meeting*
12. Meeting with Prospective Developer 2 (Expression of Interest).
 - *Travel to Developers Offices and hour meeting*
13. Delays providing Contract & Supplementary Deed of Agreement.
 - *Extensive deliberate delays by the President providing a copy of Stage 1 Contract, which precluded me from responding to another Developer as they requested details of certain aspects of the Stage 1 Contract.*
14. Replaced rusted out roof gutter above the hall.
 - *Acted as the Roof Plumbers tradesman assistant in replacing roof gutter*
15. Air Conditioner repair.
 - *Purchased and delivers sheet metal and tools for Roman Varenica to complete the work*
16. Land Tax Assessment investigation.
 - *Investigated possible overcharging of Land Tax.*
17. Hindered me in achieving – Stage 1 & 2 objectives.
 - *There were many deliberate incidents of hinder me in achieving the Stage 1 & Stage 2 objective, consequently wasted considerable time and my resources.*

Total of Approximately 200 hours of my Professional time.

I concede that other board members (not all) have also put in time and effort. It is wrong to regard their time and/or skill input as something commendable, (which it is) while at the same time dismissing the significant time and skill input that I have made.