



Centre for Universal Design Australia Ltd
Annual Report 2020-2021

“The essence of universal design lies in its ability to create beauty and mediate extremes without destroying differences in places, experiences and things”

Bill Stumpf and Don Chadwick, Designers.



Chairperson's Report

Background

Centre for Universal Design Australia Ltd (CUDA) was founded early 2016 and established itself as a virtual hub and clearinghouse for research and practice in the areas of universal design, inclusion and accessibility across a diverse range of disciplines. In January 2018 CUDA became a registered charity. All activities are currently undertaken voluntarily by board members and volunteers.

Activities

The goodwill of members and social media followers keep universal design and inclusive practice front on mind in the wider world. Thank you for your persistence. Also, my sincere thanks my fellow board members for the hard work and continuous dedication throughout the year. My thanks also to the volunteers who work on our committees. I look forward to working with you all for yet another productive year. I'd like to give a special mention to Interpoint Events for their expertise in managing and running UD2021 conference. They made everything possible under very difficult COVID circumstances.

The next section lists CUDA's activities for the year.

Online Learning

Our first open access course, *Introduction to Universal Design*, continues to be popular. Since its inception in 2017 we've had a total of 820 learners with 453 receiving a certificate of completion. That is a completion rate of 55% which is excellent for a free online course. We have participants from all over the world.

Our second open access course, *Home Coming? Framing Housing Policy for the Future* was launched in April 2020. At the end of June 2021, we had a total of 202 students with 107 completing. This is a completion rate of 53%. This course aims to help policy makers and others quickly grasp the issues within a complex environment.

Biennial Conference UD2021, Melbourne

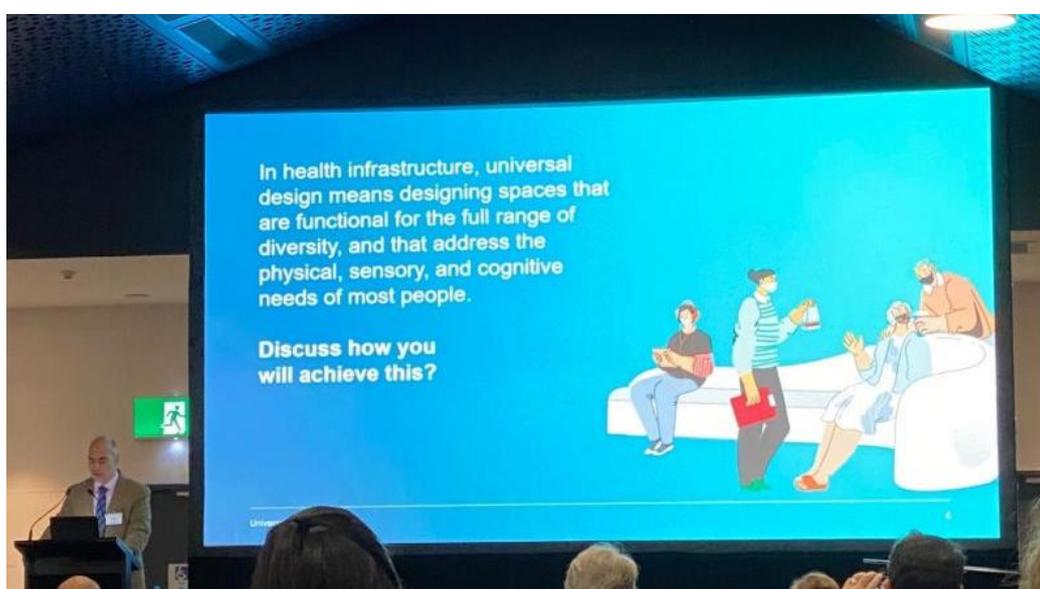
After two postponements we were fortunate to have chosen a time when the COVID pandemic was in a lull. We were oversubscribed with the call for papers, which shows the conference is held in high regard. Abstracts were peer reviewed and Griffith University sponsored the publication of full papers and extended abstracts.



1. Dr Emily Steel presented a workshop at UD2021

For the first time the conference included workshops and Universal Design for Learning. Table Topics were once again very popular. Our thanks to conference MC, Michele Barry from Frontis Consulting for her support throughout the planning and at the event.

We had four great keynote speakers. Stefano Scalzo, Executive General Manager, Victoria Health & Building Authority, opened the meeting with his presentation on universal design in health infrastructure. James Thurston, Vice President Global Strategy G3ict, presented his Five Pillars of Inclusive Smart Cities via Zoom from Washington DC. Philip Taylor challenged us by debunking the myths around ageing and work. People, parks and play was the topic presented by Fiona Morrison, Director Open Space, NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.



2. Stefana Scalzo with a key presentation slide with text used for procurement purposes.

A handful of keen supporters and speakers attended from interstate alongside a strong contingent from Victoria. The two-day conference included interstate and international speakers who joined by Zoom. We also trialled co-location with the ATSA Independent Living Expo which was on at the same time. It is difficult to say if this was successful because of the ongoing pandemic. We expect to hold our 5th conference in 2023. The date and place to be decided.

Transportation Webinar

With the invaluable assistance of Interpoint Event we ran a two-hour webinar on Transportation in October. Board members Penny Galbraith and John Evernden presented sessions along with Lee Steel, Assistant Secretary Department of Infrastructure and Transport, and Michael Walker, Principal Advisor Universal Design at Victorian Health and Human Services Building Authority. The event was followed by our Annual General Meeting and an open forum.

Education Committee

We established an education committee to develop our education and training activities. This year we focused on learning how to produce short videos. The committee members were Lizzie Davis, Sarah Davidson, Penny Galbraith and Emily Steel.

Papers and conference presentations by CUDA

Despite the continuing pandemic, we contributed to three events this financial year.

- *A new approach to measuring visual contrast in built, transport and information environments.* Penny Galbraith presentation at the 5th International Conference on Universal Design, Finland.
- *Luminance contrast standards, the boy who could, and visionary pathfinders.* Penny Galbraith co-presented with Richard Bowman at International Ergonomics Association Conference, Vancouver.
- *Know your users, meet their needs and enable them to thrive.* A workshop presented by Emily Steel at the 4th Australian Universal Design Conference, Melbourne.
- *Debunking Myths Around Ageing and Work.* Keynote presentation by Philip Taylor at the 4th Australian Universal Design Conference, Melbourne.
- *Mainstreaming visual contrast in built, transport and information environments.* Presentation by Penny Galbraith at the 4th Australian Universal Design Conference.

Other educational activities

- Participated in the Property Council of Australia Social Sustainability Roundtable discussion on universal design.
- Featured in the Urbanity Radio interview with Lara Brown about universal design.
- Participated in The University of Sydney architecture student virtual webinar presentation
- Guest speaker at launch of Local Government NSW Diversity and Inclusion Policy.
- Presentation for Making Inclusion Work webinar for Sydney Olympic Park.
- Presentation to the Home Modifications special interest group.
- Flash Talk presentation for Western Sydney Community Forum
- Panel speaker for Australia and New Zealand Driverless Vehicle Initiative webinar
- Presentation on home modifications at the ATSA Expo in Melbourne
- Presentation to the Brisbane Web Accessibility and Inclusive Design Meet Up on cognitive accessibility
- Guest speaker for COTA NSW Advocates Group on universal design in housing
- Participated in access and inclusion webinar for NSW Government Staff with a focus on universal design.

Magazine articles

Four articles were published this financial year:

- [UD in Home Design: A turning point for Australia.](#) Design 4 Living, p11. December 2020
- [Australia Cannot Afford NOT to Build Accessible Homes.](#) Sourceable August 2020
- [Why do we need universal design in all new housing?](#) LinkedIn March 2021
- [New Era in Home Design.](#) Sourceable June 2021

Submissions and other contributions to public policy

We made five formal contributions to public policy:

- [Accessible Housing Regulation Impact Statement](#) Australian Building Codes Board
- [Response the Draft NCC changes for Accessible Housing](#) Australian Building Codes Board
- [National Disability Strategy Position Paper](#) Department of Social Security on the
- [Draft Housing Strategy](#) NSW Government
- [Review of the Access to Premises Standard](#) Australian Building Codes Board
- [Draft Design and Place State Environmental Planning Policy](#) NSW Government
- Addressed the Canterbury Bankstown City Council meeting regarding housing policy.
- Participated in NSW Government roundtable on their Housing Strategy
- Participated in the Queensland Accessible Transport Advisory Council (QATAC)

Working with others

- CUDA worked closely with other organisations advocating for accessible housing to be included in the National Construction Code. We supported the work of Australian Network for Universal Housing Design who were leading the campaign.
- Supported the establishment of the Local Government Universal Design Network (LGUDN) lead by Virginia Richardson from Mornington Peninsular Shire Council in Victoria.
- Participated in the Everyone Can Play roundtable discussions to continue work of the Everyone Can Play guideline
- Contributed to the City of Sydney Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP)
- Participated in a discussion with consultants undertaking the Accessible Housing Consultation Regulation Impact Statement for the Australian Building Codes Board
- Invited to participate in Australian Building Codes Board's accessible housing workshop with industry stakeholders
- Worked with furniture designers, Bottom + Gardiner on universally designed street furniture and picnic tables.
- Maintained connections with the Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue and the Western Sydney Community Forum.

Other activities:

Directors participated in various community consultations, committees, roundtables and specialist workshops. These included the City of Sydney Inclusion Panel, and Sydney Olympic Park Authority.

- This year we gained a paid consultancy role with an established firm of landscape architects.
- Reviewed articles for Ageing & Society Journal, and conference papers for ICT4WE (ICT for Ageing Well & e-Health).
- Provided free telephone and email advice to members, subscribers and others about accessibility, universal design and inclusive practice.
- Participated in International Standards Committee (ISO) on cognitive accessibility (TC173/WG 10)

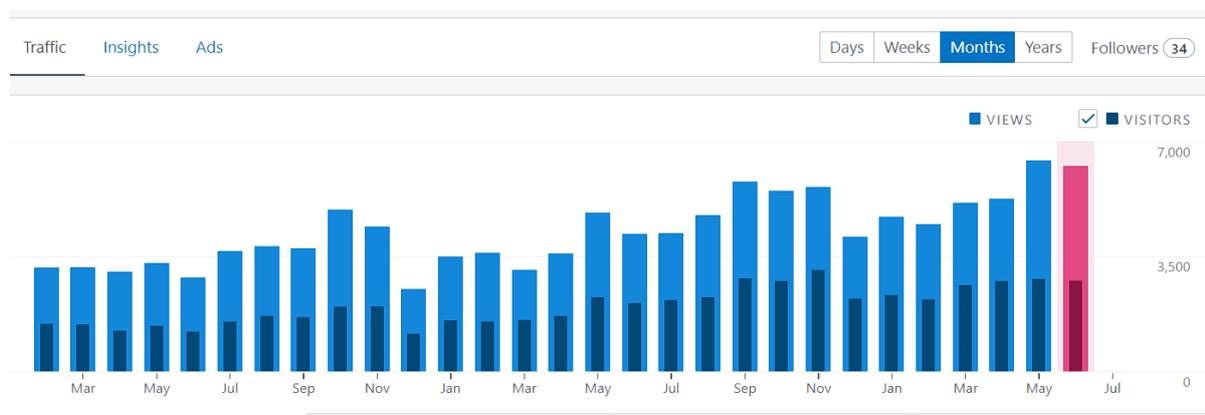
Website and social media

Website statistics for July 2020 to June 2021

The CUDA website is the core of our operations. It contains more than 1200 articles and research papers on universal design and inclusive practice across all disciplines. The site is regularly groomed for outdated material to keep the content relevant and to maintain search engine optimisation (SEO).

The weekly newsletter maintained a subscriber base of 500+ throughout the year. The weekly posts were also circulated on social media for additional leverage.

Total number of visitors to the website for the year was 31,041 with 62,348 page views. The graph below shows a monthly upward trend in website visitors and views.



3. Website trends from February 2019-2021



4. Global reach of the CUDA website

CUDA's posts have gained further global reach as shown in the world map above. Apart from Australia, the top five countries were, United States, Canada, India, United Kingdom and New Zealand.

Website statistics show that the 7 Principles of Universal Design and the 8 Goals of Universal Design remain our top-ranking posts. Google searches bring the most visitors to the website.

Social Media

Weekly newsletter content is posted on Linked In and Facebook, and to a lesser extent on Twitter. The Linked In page now has more than 1500 followers, which is a good way of keeping universal design topics top of mind. Twitter gained an additional 100 followers in the year totalling 360. Although Facebook shows 468 followers, the changes to the platform makes this a less used by followers.

All three platforms bring additional traffic to the website. The most popular posts are usually related to guidelines and conference information.

Membership

The perpetual option of Lifetime Membership continues to be popular for individuals who want the convenience of signing up once only. All members are eligible to use the CUDA logo on condition that it is used responsibly. And of course, members are entitled to a discount for the biennial Universal Design Conference and other events.

Looking to the Future

We will make an application to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. If successful it will allow us to approach foundations and similar organisations for grants. Having charity status is insufficient to gain access to this type of funding. We also aim to develop more educational material.

Planning for the next conference in 2023 will begin again and we expect to run at least one webinar in 2022.

Once again, my thanks to fellow Directors for their work and support of CUDA throughout the year, and to supporters, members and volunteers. Your passion and interest is the lifeblood of the organisation.

Dr Jane Bringolf

Chair, Centre for Universal Design Australia Ltd

Board of Directors 2020-2021

CUDA is governed by a board of eight directors who meet monthly to run the affairs of the charity. This year we farewelled Tanisha Cowell and welcomed Nikki Jackson.



Jane Bringolf: BSSc, MBA, PhD, Churchill Fellow (Chair).

Jane has worked in community services for more than thirty years and has a broad understanding of the sector, particularly ageing and disability. A recipient of a Churchill Fellowship in 2004, Jane travelled overseas to investigate organisations pursuing universal design, accessible environments and assistive technology. She later completed a PhD in urban studies focusing on universal design in housing. Jane gained her grounding in universal design as Executive Director with the Independent Living Centre NSW, and she put this knowledge to use as Liveable Communities Project Manager with Council on the Ageing NSW (COTA NSW). She now commits her time to CUDA. Jane attended 11 out of 11 meetings.



Phillippa Carnemolla: BlndDes, MDes, PhD

Phillippa is a Senior Research Fellow and Industrial Designer with extensive experience in design practice, research and education. Phillipa has a Bachelor of Industrial Design and Masters of Design (Research) from University of Technology, Sydney, and a PhD from UNSW, Sydney. Her PhD, completed in 2016, investigated the impact of home modifications on caregiving and health-related quality of life. Phillipa's research interests are focused on human-centred and inclusive design of housing, urban infrastructure and new technologies for older people and people living with disability. Phillipa attended 8 out of 11 meetings.



Emily Steel BOccThy, MSc(Hons), PhD

Emily is an Occupational Therapist who has worked as a clinician, manager and researcher in Australia, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Her research has investigated policies and practices for implementing disability rights and providing assistive technology in Europe and Australia. Emily is involved in the drafting of new international standards for cognitive accessibility, promoting universal design strategies to make products and systems easier to understand and use. She was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship in 2020 for postdoctoral research to be carried out in the USA. Emily was granted extended leave of absence from the Board and attended 10 out of 11 meetings.



Phillip Taylor: BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD

Philip has over 30 years of experience as an expert researcher, policy writer and governmental and NGO advisor on workforce ageing. His interests include individual orientations to work and retirement, employer behaviour towards older workers and international developments in public policy aimed at extending working life. He

holds professorial positions with Federation University Australia and the University of Warwick. Philip attended 11 out of 11 meetings



Penny Galbraith: FAIB, FRICS, PhD

Penny is a built environment professional with a career long interest in accessibility and universal design. Consultancy roles have covered a range of clients and built environment forms including: Underwater World, State Library of Queensland, Princes Pier, master planning senior living villages, NW Rail Link, and more recently helping the City

for Greater Geelong determine 'what accessible looks like'. Strategy, research and futures thinking underpin Penny's work. Penny was granted extended leave from the Board from September 2020 and attended 1 out of 2 meetings.



Sarah Davidson

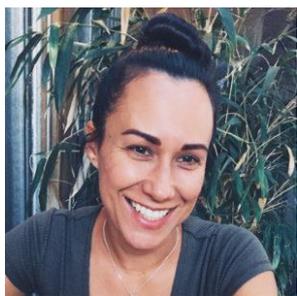
Sarah has a strong background in education and training, particularly in the community sector, relating to health and ageing. Working for peak bodies she has extensive experience in working with volunteers, leading teams, and peer education. Sarah has worked in senior management roles and business development. She is particularly interested in consumer and stakeholder engagement and capacity

building within an education framework. Sarah attended 9 out of 11 meetings.



John Evernden: BSc (Tech) Civil Eng; BAppSc Ecotourism

Over many years John has used his civil engineering background at local government level to help create public domains that consider all aspects of equitable and dignified access for people of all ages, capabilities and backgrounds. His skills also include ecotourism and the sustainability of the natural environment as well as the built environment. John is also an accredited access consultant. John attended 11 out of 11 meetings.



Tanisha Cowell BOccThy (Hons), AdvDip Interior Design

Tanisha is an occupational therapist who has turned her hand to access consulting and has a special interest in architecture and the built environment. She has a strong interest in universal, biophilic and active design and believes that should be the foundation of all built environments. Tanisha has direct experience working with individuals with disability, and indirect experience working in disability access. Based in Victoria, Tanisha is a consultant with Equal Access Group. Tanisha was granted a further leave of absence from the Board for the 2020-2021 financial year and resigned her position in May 2021.



Nikki Jackson: MRICS, BSc (Hons), QM

Nikki is an Accredited Access Consultant, LHA Assessor, NDIS SDA Assessor, Accredited Changing Places Assessor and Chartered Building Surveyor. She has a diverse range of experience relating to compliance across all sectors of the built environment both in the UK and Australia. Some of her more notable project experience includes London Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games Gold Coast and major Australian city transport upgrades. More recently Nikki has been working with the City of Gold Coast Council where she has been responsible for advising on inclusive design strategies to help achieve Gold Coast's aim to create '*a city where everyone's included*'. Nikki was appointed Alternate Director in September 2020 and attended 9 out of 9 meetings.

Centre for Universal Design Australia Ltd

Income and Expenditure Statement

for year ended 30 June 2021

	2020-2021		2019-2020
INCOME	\$		\$
Bal b/fwd	5,767.67		2,056.29
Membership fees	3,236.06		3,521.07
Donations	1,154.50		1,063.21
Other income -			
Advertising Newsletter	0.00		220
Workshop/event fees	0.00		0
Consulting fees	0.00		1,649.55
Education fees	110.00		
Bank Interest	1.76		4.65
TOTAL INCOME	10,269.99		8,514.77
EXPENSES			
Meeting Expenses	209.90		209.9
Web hosting fees	571.14		626.07
Open Learning Fees	228.00		228
Travel	0.00		0
Membership Fees	0.00		108.9
ASIC Fees	0.00		0
ATO GST	322.00		190
Insurances	1,164.23		1,164.23
Domain Name renew	117.85		0.00
Misc Expense	674.80		220
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,287.92		2,747.10
Income less expenses	6,982.07		5767.67

Cash at Bank as at 30 June 2021 was \$6982.07. Total income for the year including \$5767.67 brought forward from the previous year was \$10,269.99. Total expenditure for the year was \$3287.92, leave a balance at the end of the year of \$6982.07.

GST owing to ATO for the financial year is \$180.00.