

MBV General Contractor Sector Committee

Nominees 2021

Lakshu Adaikalavan



As State Manager of ADCO Constructions Victoria, I am responsible for the operations of our branch and guide our team to achieve best practice standards of quality, safety and environmental performance.

I have always had a genuine interest in the progression of the Construction industry and am keen to support the MBAV, in their endeavours to keep ahead of this ever-changing landscape in our industry. With extensive experience delivering projects in both Government and Private sectors, and understanding the pressure points of these markets, I believe that I will be able to provide insight and share with the committee, to enable informed decisions to be made. I am eager to establish connections and invaluable relationships within this network, to allow for open and transparent communication, surrounding matters at hand within the wider industry.

I am delighted to be a considered nominee, of the General Contractor Sector Committee and look forward to the opportunity of working together with like-minded individuals, towards building the future of our industry.

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Richard Harris



Richard is an experienced Commercial & Domestic Registered Building Practitioner/Construction Industry Leader. He has held the position of Managing Director at Constructive Group since he founded the company in 2006.

From his start as a Contract Administrator and later a Project manager for some of Melbourne's most recognisable builders he has a reputation for reliable delivery of quality projects. He developed his skills on landmark projects such as the Trail of the Elephants and Orang-Utan enclosure at the Melbourne Zoo, Chadstone Shopping Centre Stage 20 & 21 and Crown Casino.

Richard holds the following qualifications:

- Bachelor of Building, Deakin University- Honours - 1995
- Member Australian Institute of Building – 8870
- Member Master Builder Association of Victoria - 117547 since 2005
- Registered Commercial Building Practitioner CB-U 32505
- Registered Domestic Building Practitioner DB-U 25776
- Contractor's Licence South Australia – Building works BLD288732

He has demonstrated skills in the following areas:

- Commercial, Financial and Construction Management
- Business Development, Contract Management
- Business Communications, Negotiation
- Budget, Cost Management, Value Engineering
- Property Management, Real Estate Development
- Strategy Development, Planning, Implementation
- Project Management and Delivery

Constructive Group, under Richard's direction has delivered over 15 years of successful operation, navigating the GFC and now the global COVID pandemic. The company continues to service the Commercial building market, being involved in various market sectors incl specialist health, Industrial workshops, Commercial showrooms and offices.

With over 25 years of experience working in the Victorian building industry I have grown more passionate about what the industry offers people as a career.

I am excited to commit myself to the broader industry, I have successfully set up and grown my own business, now I would the opportunity to work with the MBAV to continue the good work of others in strengthening and galvanising our industry.

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Nominees 2021

Oscar Kus



Having worked across a wide spectrum of the industry, from Tier 3 to Tier 1 Builders for the past 14 years, I now run my own construction business, Staark Projects. This experience has helped me develop a sound knowledge of the industry and the many machinations that make it hum.

Along with a Bachelors Degree in Construction Management from RMIT, I holds a Cert. III in Occupational Health & Safety from the MBAV and am a strong promoter of ensuring best practice is followed when related to safety, quality and environmental principles. Helping ensure our industry is held in high regard across the business community is a priority and privilege that provides me with the incentive to join the MBAV General Contractor Sector Committee.

I'm a proud member of the Victorian building community and have always been keen to promote the benefits that working in construction can have for those looking to start a new career in the industry. Construction in Victoria is a wonderful space with a vast array of opportunities that has already given me so much. I plan on using this enthusiasm for our industry to help advance the great work MBAV is already doing for our community.

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John Lehmann



At age 17, I began my Carpentry Apprenticeship for a local residential builder. Albeit I had always had a passion for building, it was during this time that I discovered that Building and Construction was the career path and life I wanted to pursue and excel at. I believe that in order to be successful in whatever path you choose, one needs to be passionate about the outcomes – and this is certainly how I feel about Building and Construction.

My ambition and drive led me towards the Commercial Construction Industry which I have been a part of since 1988 when I commenced my employment as a Carpenter with Becon Constructions. By 1990 I was promoted to Site Supervisor where I managed a number of projects with varying degrees of complexity and challenges. I will be truthful and say that I've made some mistakes along the way, but I have learnt and become stronger from these experiences. Having that ever-growing drive, in 2011 I became the Construction Director at Becon, with the task of managing and overseeing all of Becon's construction projects and Site Based staff.

In 2019 I was appointed Managing Director of Becon Constructions (Aust.) Pty Ltd, bringing to the position all that I had learnt out on the field – good and bad. And as I continue on this venture I am able to use these resources, experience and skill sets to help navigate through these now trying times, whether it be liaisons with Unions, Councils, Staff, Clients and even a worldwide pandemic. I am grateful to be a part of an industry that is ever changing and adaptable to everything that gets thrown our way.

I am looking forward to being able to continue my journey with the General Contractor Sector and to be able to share my vast knowledge of the Construction Industry with my peers on the committee for another term, with a vision to make all Contractors stronger and more knowledgeable to deal with future challenges our industry and life present.

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Ashley Levin



Ashley was born and bred in Melbourne. Ashley entered the commercial construction industry in 1987 as a graduate with a Bachelor of Building from the University of Melbourne.

In fact it was 1985 – Ashley worked on the Como Project, South Yarra during the 1 year compulsory ‘year out’ prior to completing the final year of the degree course. An interesting first year being in the thick of the BLF de-registration with the Como Project one of the largest projects being constructed in Melbourne at that time.

Working with LU Simon Builders Ashley progress from Graduate (site co-ordinator) through to Construction Manager.

Ashley left LU Simon Builders to join Buildcorp Commercial (and ARC3 – no-EBA arm) as the Construction Director.

Ashley is now the Construction Director of a growing Builder, Wolf Group working in both the commercial on residential space.

His 33 years’ experience cover various areas of construction in resulting a diverse set of skills. Including but not limited to large CBD skyscrapers to smaller suburban buildings.

Ashley spent the time learning his skills growing from Graduate – Contract Administrator – Project Manager – Senior Project Manager – Construction Manager – Construction Director.

Other than;

- a University Degree in Building Ashley is
- Fellow of the Australian Institute of Building
- Green Star Professional
- trained in OHS3

Ashley has served on MBAV General Contractor Sector Committee previously and is excited by the possibility to do so again.

He has a hands on, open-communication, transparent and inclusive approach to ensure best outcomes for all parties.

If successful in the upcoming elections Ashley is keen to volunteer for inclusion into one of the subcommittees.

One of the major drawcards for Ashley is the opportunity to help the construction industry and thus the broader community and through active involvement with the MBAV is an effective way to realise this.

Ashley is a ‘half full’ type of guy always willing to help others. He thinks knowledge is king and we never stop learning. The only stupid question is the one not asked.

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Paul Tavilla



Paul is an inspirational leader who has worked from the ground up within his own organisation and industry focused on delivering exceptional results via an empowered group of people, whilst keeping abreast of industry changes and trends.

Moving forward in these uncertain times the industry requires transparency, solidarity, and continuity to navigate out of the current global situation.

Paul's focus is to inspire the industry's future, to streamline the building process advocating for simplified building approval processes, building regulations, building legislations and kick starting the industry back from the current pandemic, whilst ensuring that safety, quality, and sustainability practises within the construction industry are not compromised.

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Gary Young



In nominating to become a member of the General Contractor Sector Committee I believe I can add value given my diverse experience in several sectors of the industry, both with Tier one builders and also running my own business. My recent experience on the board of SPASA has also given me a broader understanding of governance and process.

With over 35 years' experience Gary has a thorough understanding of the building and construction industry and currently runs Exco Construct Commercial & Residential Builders and Wacky Water Play, distributors and constructors of Water Park and Playground equipment. Gary was also until recently owner of the well-known Residential & Commercial Pool Company Natural Pools & Landscaping and served on the Board of SPASA.

Prior to this Gary joined Salta in late 2005 to develop the Construction division and head up all aspects of the construction business from project inception to completion, and beyond, throughout Australia.

Previously, Gary was Construction Director / Manager with Multiplex for 10 years, and was involved in numerous large scale building projects including Federation Square and the Royal Melbourne Showground's redevelopment. and numerous apartment buildings.

Prior to Multiplex Gary was with Lend Lease for 11 years starting as a Site Engineer on Sydney's ANA Hotel and was Project Manager on numerous high profile projects including the Sydney International Airport Upgrade (\$427m).

Gary has led a series of projects and site teams to successfully meet demanding time frames, exacting finishes schedules and outstanding quality outcomes. He consistently demonstrates the ability to quickly establish a high performance culture within the business, with a clear focus on achieving designated project outcomes.

With his extensive knowledge of construction methodology and detailing on shopping centres, office developments, residential apartments and major government recreational and institutional facilities from concept to completion, he leads the team with a hands-on approach.

Specialties:

- Residential and Commercial Construction
- Water Park Construction