Planning Excellence
2008 VICTORIAN AWARDS

Contents

Foreword from the PIA Victoria Awards Convenor 3
Message from PIA President 4
Message from the Planning Minister 5
Judging Panel 6
Young Planner of the Year 7
Planning Scholarship Research & Teaching 8
Student Project (Tertiary) 9
Rural & Regional Planning Achievement 10
Urban Planning Achievement 11
Urban Design 12
Environmental Planning or Conservation 13
Media 14
Social & Community Based Planning 15
Transport Planning 16
Heritage 17
Lifetime Achievement Award 18
Local Government 19
Planning for Health & Wellbeing 20
Consultant Planner of the Year 21
Planning Minister’s Award for M2030 Implementation 22
President’s Award 23
Sponsors and Acknowledgements

Event Organisation
Con Tsotsoros

PIA Vic secretariat:
Eula Black, Verity McLucas, Eleanor Seymour, Stuart Worn

Audio Visual Presentation
David Salt, Meinhardt Australia

Awards Program Design
Matthew Brick, David Lock Associates

Platinum Sponsors

Sponsors
Planners are visionaries, mediators, negotiators, facilitators, implementers and monitors of a complex intersection of interests. Therefore there has never been a better time to reward our leading planners for achieving excellence.

Thank you to the judging panel of experts who have volunteered their valuable time. As the quality of the nominations continues to rise, the decision making process becomes more challenging.

This year’s event would not be possible without the contributions from Eula Black, Verity McLucas, Eleanor Seymour and Stuart Worn. They continue to put their heart and passion into delivering an awards event that exceeds expectations. Thank you to David Salt, Meinhardt, for the visual presentation, Matt Brick, David Lock Associates, for the awards program design and to Associate Professor Michael Buxton for his generosity in hosting this year’s awards.

I encourage you to take the time to review the list of judges and awards recipients contained in this program. Congratulations to this year’s award and commendation recipients.

Con Tsotsoros MPIA CPP
Convenor
PIA Victoria Awards for Planning Excellence
In times where skills shortage, work-life balance and staff retention provide a continued challenge for the planning industry we must not underestimate the importance of professional awards and recognition. Celebrating the efforts of those in the planning industry is vital and PIA sees this as a key activity in encouraging people to stay within the profession.

This year’s entries once again highlight the breadth of projects where planners are involved, coordinating and delivering. The continued support of the ‘Awards for Planning Excellence’ provides us with great encouragement and optimism as we strive to achieve better planning outcomes.

The winner of the 2008 President’s Award provides a fantastic example of how planners are required to think beyond their specific field of expertise and engage with other parties to achieve an excellent outcome.

Encouraging a whole of government and integrated approach to planning is a key focus of PIA and this year’s President’s Award winner has demonstrated how collaboration and integration of ideas is essential in delivering an outcome that is both thoughtful and achievable.

On behalf of the PIA Victorian Committee I wish to thank our dedicated sponsors, and the countless judges and volunteers who have come together to make the awards a success. Finally, I would like to thank the PIA Victoria office team and Con Tsotsoros as the Awards Convenor for their tireless efforts in presenting the ‘Awards for Planning Excellence’.

Thank-you and good luck to this year’s nominees and congratulations to all the award and commendation recipients.

Jason Black MPIA CPP
PIA Victoria President
The 2008 Awards for Planning Excellence provide a valuable stage to emphasise and encourage the importance of the planning profession, and the public awareness of good planning in making Victoria such a great place.

Behind all good planning lies an ability to understand not just the present, but the future of our places and spaces — how they will be used by people now and in the future, what they will look like and how they will adapt over time.

The Victorian Government is pleased to support the PIA, Victorian Division, in presenting these awards. These awards celebrate the creative forces within our state and set a world class benchmark for the planning and urban design industry.

They are prime examples of good planning at work.

I would like to personally congratulate the commendation and award winners.

The Hon Justin Madden MLC
Minister for Planning
Awards Convenor
Con Tsotsoros, Department of Planning and Community Development

Assistant Convenor
Natasha Liddell, Coomes Consulting

Judging Panel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Awards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Young Planner of the Year</td>
<td>Paul Buxton (Department of Planning and Community Development)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kathryn Pound (City of Moreland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Planning Scholarship, Research &amp; Teaching</td>
<td>John Jackson (RMIT University)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michael Buxton (RMIT University)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Student Project</td>
<td>Con Tsotsoros (Department of Planning and Community Development)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nigel Flannigan (The University of Melbourne)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Rural and Regional Planning Achievement</td>
<td>Rod Duncan (City of Greater Bendigo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alun Chapman (Hassell Pty Ltd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Urban Planning Achievement</td>
<td>Claire Sim (Coomes Consulting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bruce Echberg (Urban Initiatives Pty Ltd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Manton (Department of Planning and Community Development)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Urban Design</td>
<td>Jim Holdsworth (Planning Collaborative (Vic) Pty Ltd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michael Gerner (Golder Associates Pty Ltd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ben Gelnay (Department of Human Services)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Environmental Planning or Conservation</td>
<td>Aaron Goodall (KLM Spatial)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trent Kneebush (Beca Planning)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Edwards (Bayside City Council)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Media</td>
<td>Gilda Di Vincenzo (Darebin City Council)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tim Westcott (Coomes Consulting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stephen Rowley (Moreland City Council)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Social and Community Based Planning</td>
<td>Dr Carolyn Whitzman (The University of Melbourne)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stephanie Knox (PIA National)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ruth Davies (Maunsell Australia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Transport Planning</td>
<td>Gavin Alford (Department of Transport)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joanne Hartsias (Hassell Pty Ltd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Knowles Tivendale (Booz &amp; Company (Australia) Ltd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Heritage</td>
<td>Helen Weston (Environmental Affairs Pty Ltd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jenny Moles (Planning Panels Victoria)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Lifetime Achievement Award</td>
<td>Jason Black (PIA Vic President)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stuart Worn (PIA Vic Executive Officer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Local Government</td>
<td>Sandra Wade (City of Melbourne)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>David Vorchheimer (Russell Kennedy Solicitors)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mia Davison (Growth Areas Authority)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Planning for Health and Wellbeing</td>
<td>John Grant (JA Grant &amp; Associates)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rachel Carlisle (Heart Foundation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ron Frew (Department of Human Services, Public Health Branch)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Consultant Planner of the Year</td>
<td>Jason Black (PIA Vic President)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Con Tsotsoros (Department of Planning and Community Development)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Planning Excellence</td>
<td>Peter Hirst (Greenway Hirst Page Pty Ltd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Presidents’ Award</td>
<td>Jason Black (PIA Vic President)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Award to: Natasha Liddell

Natasha Liddell epitomises the model young planner, with a passion for advancing the planning profession and young planners, which is deserved of the honour of being named Victorian Young Planner of the Year (2008). Natasha is a young professional with a dedication to excellence, which is an inspiration to colleagues and young planners alike, as demonstrated by her planning excellence and contribution to the Victorian Young Planners’ (VYP) Committee.

Natasha’s excellence with Coomes is demonstrated by her contribution to a number of high quality reports and glowing third party references and peer review. She has worked on a number of complex planning projects across Melbourne, such as planning scheme amendments, permit applications, due diligence and submissions to VCAT and Planning Panels Victoria.

The extent of Natasha’s contribution and loyalty to the Victorian Young Planners’ Committee is excellent, being the National Representative on the Victorian Young Planners’ Committee with involvement in the National Young Planner’s Group. Via these roles, Natasha has advanced the profile of both PIA and young planners at a state and national level.

Natasha has made an excellent contribution to the planning industry and the Young Planners Group and we are certain that she will continue to advance the planning profession in years to come. For these reasons, it is with great pleasure that we recommend Natasha Liddell be awarded Victorian Young Victorian Planner of the Year.
Planning Scholarship Research and Teaching

AWARD

Award to: Dr Carolyn Whitzman, The University of Melbourne

Project: The Handbook of Community Safety, Gender and Violence Prevention, Practical Planning Tools

This book builds upon ‘Safe Cities: Guidelines for Planning, Design and Management’ that Carolyn Whitzman co-authored with Gerda Wekerle in 1995. This earlier book was based on Carolyn’s experience as the Facilitator of the City of Toronto’s Safe City Committee, and focuses on physical design considerations in making public spaces safer.

The Handbook of Community Safety, Gender and Violence Prevention considerably extends the earlier discussion by considering violence and its possible causes in the public realm and people’s private lives.

The book provides a powerful case for linking community safety and violence prevention. It argues that professional planners should extend their scope beyond spatial factors towards violence prevention and alleviation. In particular, it advocates consideration of earlier childhood and school responses, local economic development strategies, public awareness and education, service provision and co-ordination, and policing.

The book is a solid, reliable account of a multi-layered topic. It is well-structured and accessible, allowing readers to delve easily into unfamiliar concepts and references from a range of professions. The text also seeks to transcend cultural boundaries.

More emphasis could perhaps have been given to the role of spatial planning and connections between land use decisions and violence prevention. However, this is an important work, well conceived and executed, and one which moves the planning profession forward.
Award to: James Sutherland, Hang Do, Edward Wilkinson, Akemi Traill, Zidi Zhao

Project: Reading Docklands

This submission was originally presented for examination in the subject: Planning and Urban Policy Studio at the University of Melbourne.

The project is an evaluation of the physical outcome of the planning of Melbourne’s Docklands to date.

The topic is mainstream to urban planning: analysing the reuse and development of a large tract of land that previously was locked away from general access by the public.

The Docklands planning process and its outcomes are not only topical but also very controversial. It is an appropriate case study for an in-depth study of contemporary planning to be undertaken by planning students. This study identifies some issues that help explain why Melburnians are so divided on the merits of the new uses and built form.

The research is very systematic and surprisingly well coordinated for a project undertaken by a number of students each with their own opinion.

It is a lot to expect any student research to have a direct tangible benefit to the community. And so it is with this study. However, it is important generally for someone to spend time identifying and critiquing what planners from the public sector are delivering to their constituents. As such, we recommend that they try to find an outlet for the research, however modest.

Some recommendations for improving the report include greater use of background readings, use of quality imagery and a consistent writing style across the whole report. However despite this, the report is a very stimulating ‘read’.
Rural and Regional Planning Achievement

AWARD

Award to: Planisphere
In conjunction with: Mildura Rural City Council
Project: Mildura CBD Structure Plan & Urban Design Framework

This substantial piece of work achieves a comprehensive approach embracing physical, economic and perceptual aspects of the traditional centre of a rapidly growing regional city. It incorporates and builds on - rather than replicating or discarding - previous pieces of work relating to aspects of the Mildura city centre and its under-utilised Murray River frontage.

The Mildura CBD Plan establishes clear strategic objectives and over-arching principles, as well as identifying short-term actions that are important to sustain client and stakeholder confidence, whilst allaying public scepticism through limited delivery following previous plans. The client has reinforced this with a substantial commitment for immediate capital works.

The Plan recognises and responds creatively to the challenges of sustainability and community identity set by a mono-functional ‘out-of-centre’ retail complex, including moderating the temptation of air conditioning in the severe climate of northern Victoria with shaded walkways and car parking.

This piece of work refines similar work undertaken for other centres, inserting a set of six holistic key priorities early in the report, linking the ‘big picture’ goals to practical short-term actions in a manner which will be highly legible to a lay public.

COMMENDATION

COMMENDATION to: Hansen Partnership
In conjunction with: Warrnambool City Council
Project: Warrnambool & Moyne Development Program

The Warrnambool and Moyne Development Program has been developed by Hansen for Warrnambool City Council to establish an annual report on the supply and demand for residential, industrial, low density residential and rural living zoned land in and around the City.

Hansen has produced a comprehensive package comprising a highly informative and graphically attractive set of brochures, a coherent computer model and an easy-to-understood manual - all at a relatively low cost - that will undoubtedly prove to be a major tool for the planning of Warrnambool into the future.

The Panel was impressed by the simplicity of the program and its built-in flexibility, and considered it a major contribution to ensuring that planning decisions regarding land supply are well-informed.
**AWARD**

**Award to:** Planisphere and Planning Collaborative Pty Ltd
*In conjunction with:* Yarra Ranges Shire Council

**Project:** Lilydale Major Activity Centre Urban Improvement Project

The Lilydale town centre is an agglomeration of poorly developed land centred around a main street and freestanding shopping mall. The centre lacks cohesion and functionality, especially in terms of layout and urban structure. If Lilydale is to meet the key challenges of Melbourne 2030, it requires urgent attention.

Whilst a structure plan has been developed for Lilydale, Planisphere has taken the process that critical step further by providing the practical means through which to realise the centre’s vision. The “Lilydale Major Activity Centre – Urban Improvement Project” brings together a series of detailed urban design proposals in an innovative yet pragmatic fashion to tackle specific implementation challenges whilst also providing firm detail on desired outcomes.

Whilst the true value of this project will not be evident for many years to come, Planisphere’s work, in conjunction with Yarra Ranges Shire and Planning Collaborative Pty Ltd, embodies excellence and innovation in urban planning by providing a readily adaptable model for communities to adopt in bridging the gap between ideas and reality.

---

**COMMENDATION**

**Commendation to:** Coomes Consulting Group
*In conjunction with:* AV Jennings

**Project:** Montpellier Gardens

Converting redundant “brownfield” industrial sites for residential use is a demanding planning and development management process fraught with complexity. Physical, political, local impact and financial constraints can blow out timelines and lead to significant holding costs – all factors which severely hamper the ability to deliver timely and sustainable development.

Despite these challenges, Coomes Consulting Group has managed to secure all relevant planning approvals (including a Scheme amendment and various permit applications) for “Montpellier Gardens” within a commercially palatable timeframe.

The achievement of this outcome whilst meeting local requirements, addressing key physical constraints (particularly relating to topography and drainage), and satisfying the developer’s project and marketing needs, demonstrates a commendable planning and development management process lead by Coomes.
Commemdation

Commendation to: Maribyrnong City Council
In conjunction with: Hassell

Project: Nicholson Street Mall Redesign

The Panel was impressed with this makeover of Australia’s oldest pedestrian mall as part of the ongoing investment in the renewal of central Footscray under the Footscray Transit Cities Program. Features of the redesign are the sense of liveliness generated by the random stripes of yellow paving, the low maintenance quality and restrained use of other materials and furniture, a move towards a more sustainable mall environment through the introduction of a water-retention system for irrigation, and the integration of the space with adjacent pedestrian links.

The work is recent, and judgment is therefore reserved as to how well the design, materials and finishes will stand the test of time in a robust commercial environment.
COMMENDATION

COMMENDATION to:
Planisphere and Planning Collaborative Pty Ltd
In conjunction with:
Yarra Ranges Shire Council
Project: Vision 2020 by Design

Through five fundamental elements of the built environment including Sense of Place, Protection of Environments, Design Quality, Sustainable Urban Form and Sustainable Building Design, Vision 2020 by Design becomes a blueprint for sustainable design across the Shire of Yarra Ranges.

The Vision 2020 by Design, which emulates community values about the environment and sense of place into practical town planning policy, will link with the Council’s existing Vision 2020 Council Plan.

To this extent the report has been crafted to not only fit neatly alongside the Council plan but also slip into the Council’s planning scheme.

AWARD

Award to: Context Pty Ltd
In conjunction with: Knox City Council
Project: Knox 2008-2018 Sustainable Environment Strategy

The Knox 2008-2018 Sustainable Environment Strategy provides the framework for Council and community to move toward sustainability over the next ten years by setting 7 key goals centered around 7 key areas of local, state and national environmental significance.

In forming the strategy, the Council has ensured extensive public consultation and sought active community engagement. This has helped uncover the stepping stones from which Council’s parent document the ‘Vision 2025 strategy’ can be delivered. After all, it is largely through working with the community that the fundamental principles of the Knox 2008-2018 Sustainable Environment Strategy will be realized and continually modernized through the 4 year rolling action plan.

This entry is has successfully ensured the integration of a wide range of environmental measures within not only Council Planning policy framework, but the wider municipal decision making structure.

The strategy will be a continually evolving and current framework given the policy review every four years.
Freeing up the gridlock

Transport supremo's multibillion-dollar vision for the city targets congestion in the west. It would cost up to $10 billion. It could be built in stages, starting around the port, the tunnel linking the Eastern Freeway with the western suburbs.

The Government also includes a long-awaited study for the State Transport supremo Sir Rod Eddington's vision for the city sweeping plan to ease city targets congestion and better freight traffic flows.

EXCLUSIVE

By ROYCE MILLAR

An underground rail network linking Footscray to Caulfield, via Carlton, the city centre and St Kilda Road.

A new rail tunnel linking Footscray to Caulfield, via Carlton, the city centre and St Kilda Road.

A staged $10bn road tunnel, starting in the western suburbs and running to the east.

A major upgrade in bus services from the Deer Park region to the city.

By CLAY LUCAS

In a bid to relieve the gridlock from inner city living and multi-million dollar florists, a new underground rail line to connect Footscray to Caulfield.

The work linking Footscray to Caulfield and Footscray.

Underground rail line to connect Caulfield and Footscray.

Several routes being considered.

1. A new rail tunnel linking Footscray to Caulfield, via Carlton, the city centre and St Kilda Road.
2. A staged $10bn road tunnel, starting in the western suburbs and running to the east.
3. A major upgrade in bus services from the Deer Park region to the city.

Project: The Age's Planning Coverage

Through a steady stream of well written and researched news stories, daily features and a dedicated Beyond 2030 supplement, coverage of planning in the Age over the last year has cast a highly public spotlight on the performance of Melbourne 2030, the lack of vision in transport planning and the growing need to address sustainability in the built environment.

The published works and strong editorial advocacy for a more concerted and measurable plan of action for Melbourne have brought Victorian planning issues into sharp mainstream media focus and as a result, has made a significant contribution to increasing the community’s knowledge of, and interest in, planning.

AWARD

Award to: The Age, Clay Lucas/Royce Millar

Project: The Age’s Planning Coverage

In a bid to relieve the gridlock from inner city living and multi-million dollar florists, a new underground rail line to connect Footscray to Caulfield.

Several routes being considered.

1. A new rail tunnel linking Footscray to Caulfield, via Carlton, the city centre and St Kilda Road.
2. A staged $10bn road tunnel, starting in the western suburbs and running to the east.
3. A major upgrade in bus services from the Deer Park region to the city.

The work linking Footscray to Caulfield and Footscray.

Underground rail line to connect Caulfield and Footscray.

Several routes being considered.

1. A new rail tunnel linking Footscray to Caulfield, via Carlton, the city centre and St Kilda Road.
2. A staged $10bn road tunnel, starting in the western suburbs and running to the east.
3. A major upgrade in bus services from the Deer Park region to the city.

Project: The Age's Planning Coverage

Through a steady stream of well written and researched news stories, daily features and a dedicated Beyond 2030 supplement, coverage of planning in the Age over the last year has cast a highly public spotlight on the performance of Melbourne 2030, the lack of vision in transport planning and the growing need to address sustainability in the built environment.

The published works and strong editorial advocacy for a more concerted and measurable plan of action for Melbourne have brought Victorian planning issues into sharp mainstream media focus and as a result, has made a significant contribution to increasing the community’s knowledge of, and interest in, planning.

COMMENDATION

Commendation to: Going Solar, Stephen Ingrouille

Project: Sustainable Cities & Transport Newsletter

In spite of a plethora of electronic and print media, this free of charge four page weekly newsletter that is produced with no external subsidy, sponsorship or advertising revenue, enjoys a loyal and steadily growing readership amongst key decision makers, the media and the general public on the concept of sustainable design, planning and transport.

The panel wishes to commend the dedication of Going Solar in producing such an impressively frequent, relevant and engaging publication which will inevitably increase public awareness on planning and environmental issues.

Planning Excellence 2008 Victorian Awards
Commendation to:

SGS Economics and Planning Pty Ltd
In conjunction with: DHS Neighbourhood Renewal Unit

Project: Neighbourhood Renewal Community Infrastructure Audit

This project is currently developing a useful tool for evaluating needs for community services and activities in Neighbourhood Renewal precincts. The audit tool focuses on activities rather than facilities, which leads to an innovative approach to identifying suitable sites for identified service gaps. The development of checklists and a clear methodology means that a consistent assessment process can be undertaken across the State.

The judging panel considers that this tool could be further developed to be very useful in community planning, in particular by deepening the analysis to include greater consideration of demographic and cultural variations, and including a wider range of stakeholders in the analysis, such as local government.

Award to: David Lock Associates and City of Greater Geelong

Project: Leopold Community Hub and Strategic Footpath Network Projects

The judges were impressed with the thoughtful integration of multiple projects and also the way the nominees have developed an integrated social planning approach that incorporates principles of social sustainability.

The projects have had strong community involvement over an extended period of time, and provide a model for community engagement in projects of this nature. Integration of the proposed Hub with the strategic footpath network will encourage development of linear social places, increasing opportunities for social connection throughout the Leopold area. The projects are clearly based on the social model of health.

These projects are exemplars of what can be achieved when there is a strong working relationship between Council, consultants and the community. The judges are keen to see the learnings from this project disseminated around Victoria.
Transport Planning

AWARD

Award to: SJB Urban
In conjunction with: Department of Planning and Community Development

Project: Footscray Station Precinct – Planning and Urban Design Framework

SJB Urban was engaged by DPCD and the City of Maribyrnong to develop a Planning and Urban Design Framework for the Footscray Station Precinct, suitable for inclusion within the Maribyrnong Planning Scheme.

This task involved distilling the large number of recent strategies prepared for the area and developing a response that balanced the competing objectives whilst still meeting stakeholders’ aspirations. The Government’s $52.1 million announcement for Footscray provided further impetus for the need to achieve a practical and deliverable outcome within the broader vision planned for the Transit City.

The framework developed by SJB Urban provides the direction and clarity needed to help manage these competing objectives and pressures. The framework outlines how committed improvements to the transport network can be integrated into the precinct. This will support the use of efficient transport modes, improve safety and enhance the urban experience.

The framework draws on international pedestrian safety models in proposing a shared space concept around the tram/train interface. It also highlights the role that movement has in activating spaces and proposes new building envelopes over underutilised road reserve and parkland areas.

This project provides a good example of how a Planning and Urban Design Framework can orientate land use to support efficient transport and how transport can act as a catalyst for resolving land use planning issues.
Award to: Context  
In conjunction with:  
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council  

Project: Ranelagh Estate Conservation Management Plan  

The Ranelagh Estate at Mount Eliza was designed in 1924 by Canberra’s designer, Walter Burley Griffin collaborating with Marion Mahoney Griffin and Melbourne surveyor Saxil Tuxen. The Estate was listed on the Victorian Heritage Register in May 2005. This CMP was commissioned by the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council to assist local residents, statutory authorities, land owners and managers in the conservation of this important heritage place.

In part because of the international interest in the Griffins and their architectural and town planning projects, a key feature of this CMP is the substantial documentation of the historical development of the Estate and its links to early 20th century planning ideals and the ‘Melbourne modern’ movement in architecture. This historical documentation, together with the description of the physical and landscape character of the Estate and its setting, provides a solid basis for the analysis of the heritage significance of the Estate.

The policy formulation is comprehensive and provides clear direction for a suite of integrated implementation strategies covering both the built and landscape elements of the Estate. This CMP provides a model for managers of other 20th century residential estates with significant cultural heritage values where there are on-going issues about the degree and nature of change on private land and management issues for public land.

The extent of community involvement prior to and during the preparation of the CMP is a defining feature of this project. The strong community interest in the project has assisted with the resolution of issues during the planning process which should reduce challenges during the CMP’s implementation.

The outcomes of this study process are an important example of a Council working closely with a placed-based community and other interest groups to achieve an integrated set of management policies for a place of heritage significance.

Overall, the Ranelagh Estate Conservation Management Plan is considered a worthy winner of this category of the PIA awards.
Lifetime Achievement Award

Award to: Wolfgang Haala

Wolfgang Haala has made outstanding contributions, not only to the Department of Planning and Community Development, but to the Victorian planning system as a whole.

Since his humble beginnings in planning at the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works in the early 1970’s, Wolfgang has witnessed and driven great change and development within Victorian planning.

After a period of study at RMIT and a technical traineeship at the Board of Works, he saw a great future in the profession. His hunch proved correct and he can now look back on a host of career achievements including major involvement in the development of the Victorian Planning Provisions (VPPs) and new format planning schemes throughout the State. Other noted achievements include implementation of the Green Wedge zone, management and development of the rural zones, Victorian Code for Broiler Farms and implementing the approval process for the Government Regional Fast Rail Project.

With a strong interest in the regions, Wolfgang has also forged a close working relationship with local councils over the years.

After four decades as a quiet achiever, the Planning Institute of Australia recognises Wolfgang Haala for his dedication and efforts in achieving excellence in planning for Victoria.
AWARD

Award to: Cardinia Shire Council  
In conjunction with: SMEC Urban and Urban Enterprise Pty Ltd
Project: Cardinia Road Precinct Structure Plan 2008 and Cardinia Road Precinct Development Contributions Plan 2008

The structure planning enables the rezoning of approximately 1,000 hectares of land for urban development within the Casey-Cardinia growth corridor, where there is a critical shortage of zoned land. The Development Contributions Plan delivers a total of 114 infrastructure and land items to be funded at a capital cost of $125 million. The new community will accommodate around 30,000 people, a diversity of housing and open space, schools and other community facilities, a new activity centre, and a new railway station.

The judges were impressed by the flexibility demonstrated by officers in their approach to preparing the Precinct Structure Plan within a changing planning environment – given the introduction of the new Urban Growth Zone earlier this year.

The Precinct Structure Plan is clearly set out and has incorporated the key principles of sustainability. The plan is responsive to local conditions, including visually prominent ridge lines of the foothills of the Dandenong Ranges and significant biodiversity, such as the endangered Growling Grass Frog. The judges were also impressed by the new tools and innovative techniques applied in negotiating the DCP with major stakeholders.

The Precinct Structure Plan and Development Contributions Plan provide a best practice model for precinct structure planning in Victoria.

AWARD

Award to: City of Melbourne
Project: Future Melbourne – A Community Plan for Future Melbourne to 2020

The development of an effective plan or strategy requires consultation and engagement with stakeholders and the community. All too often, policy development has paid mere ‘lip service’ to consultation and community engagement, resulting in the failure of plans to address significant issues, or a lack of community ownership.

Rather than taking the traditional ‘top down approach’ to policy development, this project ‘swam against the tide’ and developed a Community Plan from the bottom up. Through the use of a range of technologies and forums, including a website, e-village and the Future Melbourne ‘wiki’ (which allowed real time input and editing of the Future Melbourne plan by the community), stakeholders actively set out their vision for Melbourne.

Over the course of 13 months approximately 15,000 individuals, businesses, schools, organisations and community groups from across Melbourne and the globe participated in the consultation, via a wide variety of forums. As a result Future Melbourne provides a comprehensive community driven plan, and a community engagement model which exemplifies excellence and can be applied across planning at all levels of government.
Planning for Health and Wellbeing

Award

Award to: David Lock Associates and City of Greater Geelong

Project: Implementing Clause 56 – Walkability Toolkit: making walking not just possible but preferable

We congratulate the City of Greater Geelong in recognising the importance of how to apply the new “walking-focussed” Clause 56 provisions in the VPPs, and their consultants, David Lock Associates, in creating a toolkit to guide developers and planners in ensuring that new subdivisions will be walkable.

Local “walkability” is vital in providing healthy communities. As such, the toolkit provides the means to shape developing areas to create improved physical, social and economic health.

An excellent project which should become compulsory reading for all planners who are required to implement the goals and intent of Clause 56.

We look forward to seeing some case studies of the application of this toolkit and the way that it either shaped or modified subdivision design on the ground.
Award to: Coomes Consulting Group

Coomes has demonstrated for a second year in a row that they are an industry leader in high quality best practice consulting services, business initiatives, team development and support. Coomes has spent the last year responding further to client needs by diversifying its planning services to deliver research based land use planning solutions. The quality and recurrence of its clients is a testament to the services they are providing.

Coomes has implemented a team support program that provides targeted training opportunities and in house mentoring for their young planners. Since 2007, Coomes recruitment has focussed on complimenting the skills of their team whilst assuring continued career growth opportunities for the existing members of the team.

Coomes continues to enthusiastically support young graduates in building a career in the company and encourages their involvement in PIA with team members contributing to Planning News, the National Young Planners Group and various other activities.
Planning Minister’s Award for Melbourne 2030 Implementation

AWARD

Award to: City of Moreland
Project: The Coburg Initiative

The City of Moreland has accepted the challenge to reinvent Coburg, a principal activity centre to respond to our challenges of rapid population growth, transport, housing, sustainability and affordable housing.

The Coburg Initiative has implemented an innovative and engaging Expression of Interest process that has creatively and successfully linked the concept development process to the selection of the development partner. The process put the two short listed EOI respondents through an intensive and interactive process of partnership workshops that included key stakeholders as well as the more traditional interview process.

The Coburg Initiative delivers a core component of the Coburg 2020 Structure Plan and responds in a creative and successful way to delivering the vision and aspirations of Melbourne 2030 involving the community, government and the private sector. As well, the Initiative clearly demonstrates the importance of public space, walkability, integrated transport and a sense of place.

With over $1 billion of investment across 42.5 hectares over 5 to 15 years, Coburg is set to be a leader in Melbourne 2030’s network of activity centres.
AWARD

Award to: The Age, Clay Lucas/Royce Millar/Mark Baker

Project: The Age’s Planning Coverage

The Age series a “Blueprint for Melbourne: Vision versus Reality” provided fantastic mainstream exposure to the challenges that are faced by planners in delivery of the Melbourne 2030 strategy. Covering topics beyond those that are typically associated with planning The Age’s week long series of articles emphasised the importance of transport, housing, water, energy, culture, prosperity, health and wellbeing as necessary ingredients for delivering a more liveable city.

The rise of health and well being as a core planning issue is strongly supported by PIA with this series assisting greatly in extending the profile.

These thoughtful and well researched pieces drew on the broad research skills of The Age newspaper with a number of journalists being involved in their compilation. This broad research approach provides an excellent example of facts based journalism, which when added with comparative analysis techniques has delivered a helpful insight into the issues facing the planning world to the broader community.

It was especially pleasing to see the opinions of “new experts” used rather than just the normal trusted sources.

The release of the series marked a very significant week in planning, which has contributed to there being a greater community interest in planning as a key factor that influences our day to day lives. It also raises the profile of the profession which helps to recruit the next generation to its ranks.

If planning was to receive the profile on a daily basis that this series generated, public awareness of key issues and community participation would be significantly increased resulting in far greater planning outcomes being achieved. Congratulations to The Age on this excellent series.
The Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) is the peak national body representing planning professionals. PIA was established in 1951 to serve planning professionals and promote planning as a profession. PIA boasts approximately 5,000 members and supports planners in all states and territories in Australia. It also has representation in 36 different countries around the world. PIA aims to support the Australian Planning profession and community in the creation of liveable communities, vibrant economies, sustainable places, diverse cultural expression and social cohesion.

Contact PIA
For more information on PIA policy, events, initiatives and becoming a member, visit www.planning.org.au
For more information on PIA Victoria Division events and activities, visit www.planning.org.au/vic

Planning Institute Australia - Victoria Division
Suite G-05 The Green Building
60 Leicester Street
Carlton VIC 3053
PO Box 675
Carlton South Victoria 3053
T: (03) 9347 1900
This Planning Excellence 2008 Victorian Awards book is printed environmentally responsibly.

It is printed on chlorine free, recycled stock (100% cover and 80% contents), sourced from mills with ISO 14001 accreditation, using a waterless press with soy based inks.