2012
Victorian Division Report
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President’s Report

We’ve had a big year in many ways. Not only has the Victorian Office of PIA delivered a full range of seminars and professional development activities, and continued its program of media and communications with members, but we’ve also had some significant Government policy issues which we have responded to and led on behalf of members.

A big change to operations this year has been the resignation of our Executive Officer, Stuart Worn, and the recruitment of Liz Johnstone as Victoria’s new Executive Officer. Liz’s appointment has been extremely well received by our members and we look forward to a successful and fruitful future with Liz at the helm. We wish Stuart every success in his new role as advisor to the Premier of Victoria and thank him for his service to PIA during the past six years.

In November last year we developed the PIA submission to the (Underwood) Ministerial Advisory Committee into the Review of the Victorian Planning System and made presentations to that Committee. PIA made a submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Environmental Design and Public Health and jointly ran a seminar on this topic. More recently we made a detailed submission into the Government’s proposals to introduce new zones into Victorian Planning schemes. My thanks to the Committee members and PIA staff who assisted in preparation of these submissions.

Ongoing education is a major part of the service we provide to members and this year we’ve run more than a 20 professional development events on a range of topics including subdivision, contaminated sites, social housing, section 173 agreements, and Infrastructure and the metro Planning Strategy, to name a few.

We’ve had a particular focus on seminars that promote the positive health and wellbeing outcomes of good land use planning, in cooperation with the Department of Health, and over 150 local government planning professionals have participated in PIA training courses on this topic during the year.

PIA’s role in supporting the development of the planning profession in Sri Lanka is a national program, and is run from the Victorian office. Over the past year this program has gone from strength to strength, including mobilisation of eleven Australian planners who have worked in Sri Lanka with local counterparts. We have also hosted seven Sri Lankan planners to come to Australia through the AusAID-funded Australian Leadership Awards, to undertake Australian based professional development.

The PIA office also provides continued support for the Women’s Planning Network, which delivered twelve months of terrific networking and professional development activities, including a breakfast for over 120 guests at Parliament House to celebrate International Women’s Day.

In the middle of the year we launched PIA’s ‘Little Black Book’ which lists the contact details and expertise of Victorian planning consultants as well as planners working in local government and State agencies in an easy-to-use guide. We want the Little Black Book to develop and expand in future years so that it becomes a quick and authoritative guide for anyone needing planning and related professional services.

In terms of communicating with members we have the PIA Weekly Bulletin (which took on a new look early this year and has now moved to Mondays), keeping people up to date on events and activities each week, and of course our monthly Planning News which gives more in-depth articles on current events and topics.

One of the most popular evenings of the year is the Local Government Planners Dinner which attracted over 600 rowdy planners to come together in June this year. The Dinner is a highlight of the local government calendar and a great opportunity to celebrate ‘all things planning’ with friends and colleagues, not to mention the table decoration competition and after-parties.
The Victorian Young Planners are always energetic with a focus on the social side of things. They’ve held half a dozen events this year, including a Building Your Career night, two Port of Melbourne Boat Tours, Planners Life After Uni (held in Bendigo) and other educational events. The Young Planners are an active part of PIA at the local and national level and will be presenting some unique insights into the future of Melbourne at the upcoming Metropolitan Planning Strategy Symposium.

In September we held the very successful Victorian State Planning Conference in Ballarat (a joint PIA and VPELA event) which involved months of work by the conference committee led by John Henshall, with organisation this year by Jane Power and the team at VPELA, assisted by the PIA office and committee members. The State Conference was attended by over 350 people over 2 days and was packed with interesting presentations, sessions, a cocktail function and gala dinner.

I’d like to congratulate our staff and Committee members involved in delivering Planning Month in October this year, which delivered 12 events over 4 weeks and attended by 600 people – a fantastic result. Highlights this year included the Planning Award for Excellence, the Port of Melbourne Boat Tour (sold out at 90 participants) and the Women’s Planning Network Breakfast. The Nexus Ball for young planners involved in PIA, UDIA and VPELA will also be a highlight of this year’s Planning Month.

This year’s Planning Awards for Excellence ceremony was held on 12 October at RMIT Storey Hall and once again provided an opportunity for us to recognise excellence in planning and the many benefits enjoyed by the community from the projects and achievements of the many planning professionals across Victoria. Congratulations to this year’s Award and Commendation recipients and to the nominees. We have also been running the Great Places Award during October on the 3AW Streetwise program, in partnership with Places Victoria to promote what the community consider to be great places in Victoria.

In collaboration with VPELA and UDIA, we will hold a full day symposium on the Metropolitan Planning Strategy on 26 October. This will be your first opportunity to learn about the content of the Background Paper to be released by the Ministerial Advisory Committee (led by Prof Roz Hansen), and to hear from the Minister and a range of interesting speakers about their big ideas for Melbourne’s future – definitely not to be missed.

As President during the past two years, I have enjoyed the opportunity to play a lead role in the activities of PIA Victoria, including advocacy and member services, and thank the other Committee members and PIA staff who have supported me along the way.

Steve Dunn MPIA CPP
President
PIA Victorian Division
National Director Report

Many of the activities of the Board this year have been focussed on embedding the constitutional changes of last year and establishing a governance structure that could operate effectively across the organisation at both a national and local level. Rather than use this report to provide a chronological summary of the year’s activities I wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on some of the outcomes of the Strategic Planning process and convey these to the broader membership.

A key activity for the Board has been to focus on the preparation of the 2012 – 2015 Strategic Plan, which details the vision, mission and most importantly the strategies that will be implemented to enhance the member experience. Kirsty Kelly (CEO, PIA) has led the Board through this corporate planning process and development of the yearly Business Plan and ensured that the goals we have set are forward thinking but achievable.

The Strategic Plan states that PIA is focussed on ‘Leading effective planning for people and places’ and this is achieved through:

- Advocating for Better Planning: PIA advocacy and policy development targets the outcomes and processes that are needed to better plan for the future and the challenges we face.
- Developing High Quality Planners: PIA builds the capacity and capability of the planning profession to deliver better planning for our communities.
- Supporting the Profession: PIA supports and nurtures planners throughout their career to create a strong, connected planning community.

Given the challenge of this organisational mission it is important that we remind ourselves that PIA is the only national body representing the planning profession. Through education, communication and professional development, PIA is the pivotal organisation serving and guiding thousands of planning professionals in their role to create better communities. In reinforcing this message as a PIA Director I have been reminded that although planning is a challenging environment it is our nature as planning professionals to tackle those challenges head on, rather than to be overcome by the breadth or depth of the challenge.

The Strategic Plan further reminds us that Planning is about the management of growth and change in order to achieve liveable spaces and places that are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable and Professional planners work in roles that are focused on serving the interests of the people to create environments that meet the current and future needs of the community.

A big task, however, PIA members often declare they choose planning as a career in order to ‘make a difference’ and belong to an organisation that is filled with like-minded people. As a Board we have been focussing on how PIA can provide a supportive environment for this to be achieved.

With the assistance of some committed and respected members, a Board working group has been formed to tackle what we believe is central to the stability and growth of our profession. The value of the planning profession has been eroded over many years by a range of outside, and on the unfortunate occasion, inside influences. The working groups ‘Repositioning Planning’ project is focussed on re-establishing planners as the preeminent spokespeople on planning matters. We are seeking to reinforce that PIA and its members will be at the forefront of the planning discussion, debate and decision making process.

The Strategic Plan is also about realigning our efforts. It has become apparent that many other organisations see the value in aligning with PIA to help further their cause however, the PIA member value associated with these partnerships or alliances can sometimes be questioned. The Board is committed to refocusing our partnership approach and with the recent appointment of Brad Hosking (National Manager Partnerships) we are hoping to establish strong long term alliances with key
organisations whose values and goals align with PIA’s. This strategy goes beyond event sponsorship, it is focussed on building member value and pursuing the alliances that help us (and our partners) shape the planning debate on behalf of and with our members.

Like any organisation, PIA has a range of corporate responsibilities that must also be managed to ensure that the financial sustainability of PIA remains strong and that our obligations can be met and exceeded. With the assistance of David Williams (COO, PIA) the Board has more financial information available to guide its decisions than it has ever had before. The level of finance monitoring we now have in place allows the Board to be fully informed when making decisions and takes the evaluation process beyond the consideration of good ideas.

The placement of the executive team across the country has provided the added benefit of them being able to work closely with the local team members to continue to integrate operational activities and importantly share ideas with those in other States and Territories. The integration of the team members and the sharing of ideas is a central strategy to improving our daily experience, as members.

Overall I believe the direction of the organisation that is being supported by the 2012 – 2015 Strategic Plan and strategies outlined above will result in a major step forward to re-establishing planners in the planning debate and ultimately make PIA an organisation that ‘we’ are all proud to be a member of.

Jason Black MPIA CPP
National Director
Executive Officer’s Report

Summary
The Victorian Division’s activities over the past twelve months have continued to focus on managing our events and projects, improving and growing our services and publications while exploring and introducing new initiatives.

We contribute nationally through the governance of PIA, supporting the participation of our National Director, Jason Black and through the delivery of national programs such as the Post Tsunami Reconstruction Project and Fellowships in Sri Lanka, Clean Energy Futures, ‘Planning for Health’ initiatives, supporting the Tasmanian Division and also host the Women’s Planning Network in Victoria.

Our activities are greatly assisted by strong levels of member participation and support, and a broad range of professional and academic partners who collaborate with us to deliver a diverse and comprehensive range of opportunities for members’ professional development and to expose them to contemporary planning issues and experts in their field.

Member Services
The Division has continued to grow and improve the range and quality of key communications such as Planning News and the Weekly Bulletin, introducing a Local Government Bulletin for local government planners. Hallmark events such as Planning Month, Kemsley Oration, Awards for Planning Excellence and the Local Government Planners Dinner complement a busy schedule of seminars and workshops.

PIA remains committed to advancing policy issues on behalf of members regarding key planning issues.

PIA Victoria has raised the profile of the profession and the Institute with key stakeholders, including:

- State and local government
- The Planning Minister, advisors and Department of Planning & Community Development
- Members and non-member planners
- Allied professional groups
- Media
- Academic institutions – Monash, Melbourne, La Trobe, Deakin, RMIT Universities
- The general public

PIA Victoria continues to deliver an extensive and targeted program of seminars, workshops, policy forums, projects, submissions and activities to assist policy development, member advocacy and professional development including:

Submissions
- Outer Suburban/Interface Services & Development Committee’s Parliamentary Inquiry into Growing the Suburbs: Infrastructure and Business Development in Outer Suburban Melbourne (December 2011)
- Participation in a Stakeholder Reference Group on the current review of the local development contribution system and PIA Response to Discussion Paper on the Review of the Local Development Contribution System (October 2011)
- Presentation in July 2011 and submission to the Victorian Planning System Ministerial Advisory Committee established to review the planning system in Victoria (September 2011)
- Environment and Natural Resource Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into Flood Mitigation Infrastructure in Victoria (August 2011)
- Following an industry information session and workshop and presentation to the Health Minister, a joint submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Environmental Design and Public Health with:
Projects

- Planning for Health & Wellbeing at both a national and state level
- Clean Energy Futures project
- Preparation for the delivery of the National 2012 Pet Friendly Planning Award

Policy and Advocacy

- Progressing our Call to Action
- Working towards closer collaboration with the Planning Enforcement Officers Association
- UDF and Urban Design Chapter – CABE down under
- Urban Renewal and Social Housing with City of Melbourne, Urban Communities, Australand, DPCD, DHS and Places Victoria
- Workshops on creating healthy communities

Major Events

- Awards for Planning Excellence
- Kemsley Oration by Peter Seamer
- A Year in Review – Stuart Morris SC
- Lunch with Andrew Tongue
- Local Government Planners Dinner
- State Planning Conference (with VPELA)
- Nexus Ball (with VPELA and UDIA)

New Publications

- Little Black Book
- Distribution of local government planners bulletins

Professional Development

Professional Development opportunities and member attendance in 2010/11 include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Member</th>
<th>% member</th>
<th>Non member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young Professionals</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat Tour with the Port of Melbourne Authority</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building your career</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning for Licensed Premises</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year In Review</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Planning Seminar</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Renewal</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Sassem Master Class</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contaminated Land</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning for Potentially Contaminated Land</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne’s Growth Corridor Plans and Biodiversity Strategies</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How do we Grow</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus Tour to University Hill with DPCD</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning and its Enforcement</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning for Electronic Gaming Machines</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating Place form Transport Space with DoT and DPCD</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noise and Acoustic Privacy</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Effects Statements (EES) – NELA and Freehills</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tips and Tricks: Best practice in Victorian EES</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIS for Planners – beginners and advanced courses with Melbourne University</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
</tr>
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</table>
With regard to specific activities for 2011/12 key indicators are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities &amp; Events</th>
<th>2011/12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning News</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Bulletins</td>
<td>51 delivered and continually improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government Bulletin</td>
<td>Initiated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultant Planner Directory</td>
<td>Completed and widely circulated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PD Seminars</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional PD Seminars</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning Month</td>
<td>Increased activities and attendance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards for Planning</td>
<td>Successfully delivered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kemsley Oration</td>
<td>Peter Seamer, GAA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Govt Planners Dinner</td>
<td>Sold out with over 600 registrations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Planning Conference</td>
<td>Successfully held</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nexus Ball</td>
<td>Delivered in conjunction with UDIA and VPELA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Tournament</td>
<td>Held in conjunction with ISV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td>Regularly updated and increasing visitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book &amp; Merchandise Sales</td>
<td>29 books listed in catalogue plus other merchandise, Successful sales at conferences &amp; National Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Surveys</td>
<td>Delivered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Leadership Award</td>
<td>Delivered 4 individual Fellowships for Sri Lankan planners and secured funding for a further round of Fellowships in 2012/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowships</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Footy Tipping Competition</td>
<td>Increased participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cadetships &amp; Traineeships</td>
<td>Continuing delivery of Rural, Metropolitan, International and Indigenous programs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Financial Position**

This year has seen the completed integration of divisional accounts nationally, as well as a painstaking but necessary ‘bringing to account’ previous programs and projects that may not have been completed or fully acquitted. While the financial results are poor, this is a prudent position to have taken and will no doubt improve in our next financial year.

**Executive, Committee and Staff**

I would like to thank the Executive of President Steve Dunn, Vice Presidents Gavin Alford and Brett Davis and Treasurer Matthew Cripps and the many office bearers and Committee members for their ongoing support and contribution. Notably the energy and activity of the Young Planners; the significant workload carried by the Planning News Editors and Award convenors.

The Victorian Division also relies heavily on the work of our staff: Eula, Mat and Sofie and their efforts and commitment is greatly appreciated.

**Professional Standards**

There have been no complaints made by members to the Professional Standards Code of Conduct review panel in the 2011/12 period.

**Liz Johnstone**

PIA Victoria Executive Officer (commenced 24 September, 2012)
Treasurer’s Report

Operating Results

The PIA-wide result for the financial year ended 30 June 2012 was a deficit of $135,582 (2011: deficit of $206,543).

The National Board initially approved a budget for the year ended 30 June 2012 of $120,000 profit. Due to a number of major events being delayed until 2012/13 and other unforeseen events, management advised the Board during the year that forecasts indicated sharply reduced profits.

The segment of the PIA-wide result attributable to the Victorian Division commenced the year with a budgeted profit of $98,475, but the same delayed events revised downwards the forecast profit (in February 2012) to $14,209.

In the final quarter of 2011/12 a number of unforeseen circumstances arose that adversely affected the forecast profit including a failure to secure budgeted untied sponsorship in Victoria ($40,000).

In addition, it was decided to take a conservative approach in relation to long-running cadetship programs by provisioning for a possible refund of fees to state government agencies, and lastly a further delay to the Metropolitan Planning Strategy Symposium event pushed the expected profit into 2012-13 and drove the year end result for the Victorian Division to a loss of $233,003.

In 2011-12, as part of the restructure of PIA’s financial systems, the accounting methodology was changed to a project-based approach which involves tracking income and expenditure transactions for some 300 separate projects throughout the year.

This highly detailed approach has provided detailed knowledge of those areas of the Institute’s activities that are profitable and those areas that are heavily subsidised. This will assist PIA to manage the necessary changes over the next three years to alter the range and volume of activities undertaken in order to provide sustainable and reasonable levels of profits so that membership fees provide real value for money.

David Williams
PIA National Chief Operating Officer
Young Planner Group Report

The PIA Victoria Young Planners’ have had a successful year coordinating a range of events, while advocating on matters relevant to young planners.

Events
Our events are held with the intention to allow members to network with their peers and seniors, or for professional development. A new strategic direction with the events held in the last year have been to increase the presence of our committee members by providing them with the opportunities to host, present or facilitate at events. The 2011-2012 events comprised:

- **BBQ at Birra 2012 Welcome Event** (37 registrants) is an annual ‘orientation’ function held to meet and greet new and returning young planners for the year.
- **Two Port of Melbourne Boat Tours** (March - 65 registrants, October – 90 registrants) held in conjunction with the Port of Melbourne Corporation, and consists of a guided tour around the Port to learn about their ongoing activities and interface issues.
- **Building Your Career** (75 registrants) is an annual professional development function held in a semi-formal locations with a range of speakers to inform and allow members to ask pressing career ‘issue-of-the-day’ questions. Speakers are selected from recruitment companies, Local and State Government and private consultancies. This year’s panel included Will Bartley (VYP).
- **Two Movie Nights** (Glitch Bar - 29 registrants, Uni of Melbourne – 90 attendees) held to screen planning and urban design documentary Urbanized. The first event was an intimate screening introduced with a ‘conversation’ between Jeremy McLeod (Breathe Architects) and Tina (VYP).
- **Regional Bendigo Event: A Planner’s Life After Uni** (40 attendees) a panel discussion involving 5 speakers (including Tina from VYP) to inform students of the transitional period between work and study. The event assisted in establishing closer alliances with La Trobe University Students’ Group Plan B and their members
- **Three Planners in the Pub Events** (40 attendees) to provide a semi-regular networking function to foster existing relationships with members and to maintain return attendees at future events.

Events to be held for the remainder of the year include:

- **Ride to Work Day** (Oct) consisting of an urban bike tour led by Mike Scott (Planisphere) around Melbourne. The purpose of this is to promote the use of bicycles around the city and to learn about the geeky urban parts of Melbourne.
- **MSP Symposium YP Session** (Oct) to include a panel of hip, young and innovative speakers discussing the role of planning and engagement with the wider community. The session will include a recorded “vox pop” of the public, and is to be hosted by Will and Tina from VYP.

Member Opportunities
In conjunction with La Trobe University, a VYP member (non-committee) was provided with the opportunity to participate in the La Trobe University International Planning Program in Sri Lanka, enabling them to travel and develop an amenity plan for Trincomalee in Sri Lanka. We would like to continue to support and facilitate opportunities like these in future.

Policy Submissions
Our committee has internally prepared one policy submission to the proposed zone amendments, and will continue to do so for policy matters we consider to be of relevance to our members. As part of our strategic planning process, we are currently discussing our future role in this area.

Planning News and Print Articles
In the past year we have started to provide regular contributions to Planning News and hopefully will continue to do so in future. Our members have submitted a number of detailed articles for publishing and are greatly appreciative of the opportunity to do so.
University Alliances
We continue to keep our presence with La Trobe University (Bendigo), RMIT, the University of Melbourne, and Deakin University (Geelong) by presenting at Orientation Week and industry night events. In future, we hope to establish closer relationships with our student base as they are the core components of our membership base.

Membership
We have increased our membership based on 2007-2008 figures (exact figures unknown, but some claim it has quadrupled). Our Facebook VYP group page has 286 members, all of whom actively participate through sharing planning related news, event invitations, and generally poking fun of government decisions. A survey will be circulated later this year in order to improve our understanding of the needs and wants from our members. The information will be used to reframe our strategic plan and refine future actions.

Future Directions
We are currently in the process of developing our 2013-2014 strategic plan within the Committee. Over the next coming months, our committee will reflect on topics such as:

- Long term planning
  - What type of role and function will the VYP have in 10 years’ time and how do we get there?
- Individual goals and aspirations
  - Why did you join the Committee?; Is this what you thought it would be like?; What do you want more/less of?; How do we foster in-house skills?
- Structure and overview of events
  - Why do we hold them?; What’s the purpose?; Are we holding the right type of events?
- Representation / Marketing
  - How do we increase our presence and identity within the industry?
  - What type of image should we put forward to the planning world?

The Committee
We were lucky enough to have an extremely passionate and strongly committed membership this year, with high attendances to all our monthly meetings. The members are:

- Jessica Noonan (former National Rep) - planner, ERM
- Gareth Hately (National Rep) – planner, MAV
- Tina Ngu (State Rep) – planner, Planisphere
- Andrew Bishop (Melb Uni Rep) – project manager / student, Lateral Planner
- Ardavan Abedian (La Trobe Uni / Bendigo Rep), student
- Chris Greenland – transport engineer, GTA
- Holly Patrick – planner, Taylors
- Lauren Schneider – planner, Warrnambool City Council
- Mateusz Buczko – events coordinator, PIA
- Norm Kortum – planner, Greater Dandenong City Council
- Rupert Dance – former planner, DLA now computer science student
- Ryan Thomas (Traralgon rep) – planner, DPCD
- Sarah Kernohan – (former Traralgon Rep) planner, Hume City Council
- Simon Loader (Geelong Rep) – planner, Geelong City Council
- William Bartley – lawyer, Russell Kennedy

Gareth Hately GMPIA and Tina Ngu GMPIA
VYP National Representative and VYP State Representative
Social Planning Chapter Report

This year has been quiet for the Social Planning Chapter nationally, as several people have left their positions interstate. I hope that interstate communication and co-operation can be resumed after the Annual Division Meeting, as I found it valuable to discuss social planning matters with other chapter convenors. I particularly feel that all of the Chapter convenors across the States need to work together to develop a meaningful role for Chapters within PIA, one which includes responsibilities for professional development and networking activities.

Students continue to show a keen interest in social planning, and several have been in touch throughout the past year seeking career advice and mentoring. It might be worthwhile giving greater prominence to the lesser known areas of planning at career events.

We have not held a social planning focussed seminar this year, for various reasons. However, I have worked with the PIA team to develop a one-day seminar around planning for communities which I hope will be held in the near future.

I will be stepping down at this Annual Division Meeting after two years in the Social Planning Chapter convenor’s role. I have learned a lot during my time on the Committee and hope to be involved again in the future. I wish my successor good luck in the role.

Ruth Davies MPIA
Social Planning Chapter Representative
Urban Design Chapter Report

Consistent with the Victorian Division’s desire to work collaboratively with allied professional bodies, the Urban Design Chapter’s activities have been undertaken jointly with Urban Design Forum.

This included a well-attended joint lunchtime event on 11 October 2011 reviewing initiatives and projects in the USA and UK/Europe by members who had recently undertaken study tours, and support by the Urban Design Chapter for a national forum of Urban Design Forum hosted in Melbourne on 20 April 2012.

These events and strong cross-participation is strengthening the cooperation and sharing of organisational demands between the two groups. With PIA’s new national structure and ‘One PIA’ agenda it may be timely to review the future role of Chapters and forward relationships with kindred groups and organisations.

Ed Zagami FPIA CPP and Rod Duncan FPIA CPP
Co-chairs