Top Awards help celebrate the Value of Planning

Professional planners gathered in Canberra to celebrate the city’s centenary and the value of planning are also celebrating some of Australia’s top planning projects for the year.

A 20 year vision for the Gold Coast, a new plan for the Bendigo CBD and the conversion of a former industrial facility into a community precinct have taken out top awards.

The projects are among innovative and unique planning projects from across the country to receive national recognition at the 2013 Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) Awards for Planning Excellence. The announcements were made as part of the 2013 PIA National Congress.

PIA President Dyan Currie said the annual PIA Awards Program showcases projects by teams of planners from all states and territories.

“Each year we see continuing improvement in the way teams have worked together to plan places and spaces in communities throughout Australia,” Ms Currie said.

“This Awards Program not only helps planning colleagues to be aware of each other’s work but it also reaches out to the wider public with the message that great places wouldn’t exist if it wasn’t for planning.”

Projects that have been recognised at state or territory level through the year are entered in the program to be recognised nationally. Winners are announced in a number of categories and one practitioner is named Planner of the Year.

This year the Great Place category was won by a project that took a former industrial facility and transformed it into a functional and attractive precinct now well used by the community. The Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability (the Coal Loader) is an exciting new community resource in Waverton in Sydney.

Announcing The Coal Loader the winner of the Great Place Award the judges said - ‘The coal loader centre represents best practice adaptive refurbishment, the application of sustainable design and a philosophy to return value to the community.

‘In doing so it has been adopted by the community as an integral part of its social infrastructure. It supports cultural and historical interpretation to this part of Sydney’s foreshore, and has been designed to achieve effective connectivity with adjacent development sites.’

The Best Planning Ideas – Large category was won by a project which is part of the delivery of a strategic plan for the Gold Coast.

‘The Gold Coast Rapid Transit Corridor Study’ not only focuses on public transport connectivity but also adopts the principles of integrated planning practice to operate spatially at a metropolitan scale.

The judges said the project was a substantial and significant piece of work noting ‘The Gold Coast faces many challenges as one of Australia’s fastest growing regions, the sixth largest city and a geography that exposes it to the threats of climate change.’

Another category called ‘From Plan to Place’ was won by a project that transforms the CBD of Bendigo. The judges they were impressed by the delivery of a project from its inception in accordance with a clear vision and direction established through a comprehensive and well developed strategy.
Category Winners

**Category: Hall of Fame Award**
**Winner:** Roz Hansen  
**Location:** Victoria

**Category: Planner of the Year**
**Winner:** Nicole Halsey  
**Location:** South Australia

**Category: Outstanding Achievement by a Young Planner**
**Winner:** Michael Arman  
**Location:** South Australia
**Commendation:** Shannon Batch  
**Location:** Queensland

**Category: Planning Champion Award**
**Winner:** Graeme Newton  
**Location:** Queensland

**Category: Cutting Edge Research and Teaching Award**
**Project Team:** Connor Holmes, Oxigen, Botanic Gardens of Adelaide  
**Winner:** Green Infrastructure Working Paper  
**Location:** South Australia

**Category: From Plan to Place Award**
**Project Team:** Planisphere  
**Winner:** Bendigo CBD Strategy  
**Location:** Victoria
**Commendation:** Christies Beach to Port Norlunga Foreshore Revitalisation  
**Location:** South Australia

**Category: Hard Won Victory Award**
**Project Team:** Brimbank City Council  
**Winner:** The Brooklyn Evolution  
**Location:** Victoria

**Category: Best Planning Ideas Award – Small**
**Project Team:** Hansen Partnership  
**Winner:** 1 Heller Street Brunswick  
**Location:** Victoria
**Commendation:** Streaky Bay District Management Plan  
**Location:** South Australia
**Commendation:** Adelaide South East Precinct Master Plan  
**Location:** South Australia

**Category: Best Planning Ideas Award - Large**
**Project Team:** Gold Coast City Council, HASSELL, Queensland Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, Aurecon, John Gaskell Planning Consultants, MacroPlan Dimasi  
**Winner:** Gold Coast Rapid Transit Corridor Study  
**Location:** Queensland
Category: Improving Planning Processes and Practices Award  
**Project Team:** Queensland Reconstruction Authority  
**Winner:** Planning for stronger, more resilient floodplains  
Queensland  
**Commendation:** Streets for People – Compendium for South Australia Practice  
South Australia  
**Commendation:** Feasibility and Viability of Medium Density Redevelopment in SEQ  
Queensland  

Category: Public Engagement and Community Planning Award  
**Project Team:** Tablelands Regional Council, James Leech Consultancy.  
**Winner:** Tablelands Community Plan 2021  
Queensland  
**Commendation:** South Kempsey – One Community One Mob  
New South Wales  

Category: Promotion of Planning Award  
**Winner:** Queensland Reconstruction Authority  
Queensland  

Category: The Great Place Award  
**Project Team:** North Sydney Council  
**Winner:** The Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability  
New South Wales  

Category: Outstanding Tertiary Student Project  
**Andrew Wheeler:** Faculty of the Built Environment UNSW  
**Winner:** Planning for Urban Health: An Analysis of Metropolitan Strategic Planning in Australia  
New South Wales  

Category: Outstanding Secondary Student Project  
**Alexandra Gilley:** Stuartholme School  
**Winner:** An Investigation into the issues and management of Macgregor Tce, Simpsons Road and Jubilee Tce intersection; located in Bardon  
Queensland  

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