Sydney has the Greatest Place

A former Sydney industrial facility transformed into a functional and attractive community precinct has taken out The Great Place category at Australia’s premier planning awards.

The Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability (the Coal Loader) is an exciting new community resource in Waverton in Sydney.

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 Coal Loader have all 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.

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
Victoria.

Category: Planner of the Year
Winner: Nicole Halsey.
South Australia.

Category: Outstanding Achievement by a Young Planner
Winner: Michael Arman
South Australia.
Commendation: Shannon Batch
Queensland
Winner: Graeme Newton
Queensland

Category: Planning Champion Award

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

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

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

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