The planning profession has enormously important and positive contributions to make to the future. Planning strengthens communities, facilitates economic development and improves the choices available for where and how people live and work. It facilitates consultative decision making, identifies and reduces risks, and recognises and protects environmental, social, cultural and heritage values.

The Planning Institute of Australia’s National Awards for Planning Excellence showcase best practice across a range of planning disciplines and sectors and provide the opportunity to celebrate, recognise and reward outstanding planning and planners who make valuable contributions to the future of our communities across Australia.

The Awards begin at state and territory level, seeking out the best of planning in each jurisdiction. Once judged and celebrated locally, the winners of eligible categories across Australia are elevated for judging by a national panel, culminating in the National Awards for Planning Excellence ceremony. The National Awards recognise the best of planning and planners that Australia has to offer, demonstrating leading practice, leadership and outstanding achievement in planning and the profession.

Promoting planning success stories is a great way to show that #planningmatters.

David Williams
Chief Executive Officer

Brendan Nelson RPIA
National President
National Awards Convenor
Awards Convenors from all state and territory judging panels came together as a collective to form a comprehensive National Awards Judging Panel, chaired by PIA’s National President.

This year the Judging Panel considered 59 high quality entries across 12 categories, and were once again highly impressed by the broad cross section of work undertaken by planners and their allies right across Australia.

Judging for the 2017 National Awards has been a challenge this year due to the variety of projects and unique strengths demonstrated by each entry. The entries have without doubt brought forth the most diverse assessments from the judges that we’ve seen in several years. All the nominations demonstrate the important role that planners play in bringing people and ideas together to create great places and to pave the way for sustainable and prosperous communities. Overarching themes of this year’s projects were thorough consultative practices, transformation of places to be more people-friendly, and access to information and technology.

The Judging Panel would like to congratulate all nominees, and particularly the National Award Winners, and encourage all planners to start preparing their nominations for 2017/18.

BRENDAN NELSON RPIA
JUDGING PANEL CHAIR

Brendan is the National President of PIA and Deputy Secretary – Growth, Design and Programs with the NSW Department for Planning and Environment. Prior to this, Brendan was Director – Asia Pacific at Hawkley Consulting, General Manager – Land Use Planning at Queensland Reconstruction Authority and Executive Director – Planning Services at the Department of Infrastructure and Planning Growth Management, Queensland.

Brendan has more than 20 years’ national and international experience in the private and public sector and holds a Bachelor of Environmental Science (Griffith University) and Graduate Diploma of Urban and Regional Planning (with Distinction) from QUT. Brendan’s management of significant resilience projects saw him named Queensland Planner of the Year in 2011 and the Inaugural Australian Planner of the Year in 2012 by PIA. He is a member of the American Planning Association and Australian Institute of Company Directors, and is an Adjunct Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Engineering and Surveying at the University of Southern Queensland. Brendan is motivated by shaping strategic thinking in urban planning practice and has a proven ability to undertake complex planning projects with a focus on achieving and devising practical solutions. He is well known for his strong commitment to advancing and enhancing the quality of communities through clear, logical and participatory planning and stakeholder engagement. Brendan is a leading advocate for the importance of planning nationally.

DANIEL ARNDT MPIA

Daniel is the current Director of Planning and Development at the City of Cockburn in Western Australia and has a Bachelor of Arts (Urban and Regional Studies) and a Grad Dip (Urban and Regional Planning) from Curtin University. He has over 25 years experience in local government planning, having worked for City of Swan, City of Armadale, City of Fremantle, City of Mandurah and City of Nedlands. He took up his current position at the City of Cockburn in July 2006. In these positions he has worked on numerous complex and large scale subdivision and development projects, as well as developing significant planning policy reforms. Daniel currently sits on the Division Committee of the Planning Institute of Australia (WA) and has served as the PIA (WA) State Awards Convenor for five years.

MESSAGE FROM THE
JUDGING PANEL

On behalf of the National Judging Panel

Brendan Nelson RPIA
PIA’s National President

Daniel Arndt MPIA
City of Cockburn, Western Australia
DONNA FERRETTI RPIA (Fellow)
Donna is an urban and regional planner with over 30 years’ experience working in state and local government, the private sector and as an academic teaching planning at the University of South Australia. She has particular skills in strategic planning, social planning, development assessment, policy planning and community/stakeholder engagement for which she has won a number of State and National planning awards.

A PIA Fellow, Donna has served on numerous boards and committees and is committed to developing and championing the planning profession across Australia - a commitment which is underpinned by an ethic of environmental responsibility and social inclusion.

MEDINA HANDLEY MPIA
Medina has 13 years of wide ranging experience in local government, state government, consultancy and academia. She has worked in strategic planning, development assessment, policy development, environment, resources, infrastructure and major project roles. She has qualifications in planning, environmental management and science. Medina is passionate about best practice and has been the PIA Queensland Awards Convenor for the last four years.

JENNY RUDOLPH RPIA
Jenny is a Director, and partner, of Elton Consulting and leads the growing urban and regional planning practice, particularly in Sydney, Canberra and Darwin.

Jenny is a town planner with over 26 years of experience and has worked in both the public/government and private sectors. Jenny has extensive experience in strategic and statutory planning, project management and facilitation of small and large projects in both greenfield and infill development. Jenny also undertakes community and stakeholder consultation as part of the project implementation.

Jenny provides strategic advice to progress projects as well as best the planning pathway. She has been involved in the preparation and co-ordination of planning policies and major strategic planning studies, including affordable housing, growth management strategies and town centre master plans.

FIONA RAY RPIA
Fiona’s pathway to planning was founded in a Geography degree and social research. Her first ‘real’ job was with the Western Region Council for Social Development in Footscray, Melbourne. The organisation was initially funded through the Whitlam Government in recognition of the need for Commonwealth engagement in urban and regional issues. Exposure to the social, environmental and economic debates at RMIT in combination with VUT and working with inspirational community leaders made the decision to pursue a career in urban and regional planning very clear. Fiona’s career spans working in local and territory government on policy development and major land release projects, statutory planning and most recently with a power authority on land acquisition for solar facilities in remote Indigenous communities. Fiona maintains an interest in community led initiatives and is an active member of Bicycle Network NT.

STUART MENZIES MPIA
Stuart is an urban planner with over 25 years’ experience and is Director of City Development at Brimbank City Council. Prior to working with Brimbank, Stuart held management roles at Yarra Ranges Shire Council and Nillumbik Shire Council. He has worked in China with Australian Volunteers International advising on sustainability policy and social impact assessment. He is a member of the PIA Victoria Committee, Vice-President Local Government and was convenor of the Victorian Awards for Planning Excellence in 2016.

LIZ DE CHASTEL MPIA CPP (Fellow)
Liz is an urban and social policy planner with over 25 years’ experience covering urban and regional planning, national policy development, and project management related to the built environment. Liz has worked in senior roles within the private, public and NFP sector within NT, Qld and the ACT. Since 2013 she has worked as the Director of Social Policy for a NFP in Canberra where she advocates for improving the lives of the most vulnerable people in our communities.

Liz is a Fellow of PIA and has been the ACT Division Awards Convenor for the past four years.
The Planning Institute of Australia is the only national organisation representing urban and regional planners in Australia. PIA (and its predecessor, the Royal Australian Planning Institute) have proudly represented planning professionals in Australia and abroad since 1951. Through Leadership, Advocacy and Education, we continue to assist planning professionals to create a more liveable, prosperous and sustainable built environment.

PIA believes in the power of planning to shape our world. Good planning supports our everyday life by creating and connecting us with places to live, work, study and play. Through planning, our natural and built environments are also made more resilient and able to adapt to an ever-changing world.

Planners - ethical professionals with a broad range of skills and knowledge - are the key agents to deliver great planning outcomes. PIA inspires, supports and educates planners at all stages of their careers through our accreditation and professional development programs.

Our business is built upon a foundation of good governance, efficient and effective systems, member support services and financial sustainability. For more information on PIA or to become a member, go to www.planning.org.au

**NATIONAL BOARD**

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**DIVISION PRESIDENTS**

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TRACT is a national design practice specializing in landscape architecture, urban design, town planning & associated digital media. Between our six offices we have over 150 people. Tract is owned and operated by our senior practitioners. We have grown to our present level of prominence through a commitment to design and technical excellence, together with an understanding and experience of the construction and development processes. Our comprehensive planning & design services, and the scale & pedigree of our practice provide the capacity to address projects of all scales and complexities. We work throughout Australia and internationally.

tract.net.au

The Attorney-General’s Department delivers programs and policies to maintain and improve Australia’s law and justice framework, and strengthen our national security and emergency management. Through the Australian Government Solicitor, we also provide legal services to the Commonwealth (including legal advice and representation). Our department is the central policy and coordinating element of the Attorney-General’s portfolio, for which the Attorney-General and the Minister for Justice and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on Counter-Terrorism are responsible.

ag.gov.au
NSW DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

We exist to make people’s lives better by making NSW a great place to live and work. We help to provide homes and services, build great communities, create jobs and protect the environment by creating plans for the future of regions and local areas, revitalising urban areas, providing land for new homes, services and open spaces, assessing important projects to ensure the need for new jobs is balanced with the needs of the community and environment, and developing policies that guide planning activity for government and local government across NSW.

Local people play a vital role in our work by providing important local insights, information on community needs, and feedback on your policies and plans.

planning.nsw.gov.au

WALKER CORPORATION

At Walker Corporation we’re proud to be Australia’s largest private, diversified development company. We’ve over 50 years’ experience and have delivered over 1,000 projects that span the length and width of Australia, and internationally. In America, Canada, Fiji and Malaysia. We’re one of the few developers with expertise across all areas of the property spectrum, from residential through to master planned communities, retail, commercial, industrial and resort living. What is most important to us is that we serve their respective communities well, incorporating leading edge engineering, technology and ecologically sustainable development practices.

Our Executive Chairman, Lang Walker AO, is at the helm leading our highly experienced team. His eye for detail brings precision and practicality to all aspects of our business, with his passion and enthusiasm for development apparent in everything we do.

Today, we have a project pipeline of $25 billion of work to complete in the next 15 years. During this time, it is expected that we will deliver 40,000 lots across our many communities, 11 commercial towers, 25,000 dwellings in Malaysia and 6,000 apartments in Australia alone.

Our proven track record is evident in our completed projects and extensive pipeline of future projects, of which there are many.

walkercorp.com.au

ALLEN'S ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING GROUP

From project approvals through to dispute resolution, we have the experience and expertise to deliver the best commercial results for all your environment and planning requirements in Australia and across Asia.

Our depth of experience enables us to offer a complete range of services, from advice on commercial transactions and infrastructure projects, to representation (including advocacy and mediation services) in complex litigation matters. We work closely with environmental scientists, engineers and commercial advisers to achieve your desired outcomes on projects or transactions.

Our experts have particular expertise in creating innovative and commercial solutions to the issues that arise from environmental liability and pollution law, the planning and regulatory requirements of major projects, and environmental risk in mergers, acquisitions and privatisations.

allisons.com.au

EXTENT HERITAGE

Extant Heritage are leaders in heritage and archaeological consulting specialising in Built & Urban Heritage, Indigenous Heritage and Archaeology. We have provided heritage advice to Australia and the Asia Pacific region for over two decades. With teams based in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth, our multidisciplinary team of archaeologists and built heritage specialists deliver seamless conservation advice on sites with extant structures and subsurface archaeological features.

Our core expertise is supported by a range of in-house experts in historical research, industrial heritage, community and stakeholder engagement, spatial analysis, artefact analysis, conservation management, documentation and interpretation. This wide range of specialist expertise means we can offer our clients a comprehensive service ranging from high-level strategic planning through to dispute resolution, project approvals, site selection, site specific assessment, development approvals, excavation, analysis and interpretation.

extent.com.au
TOOWOOMBA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Toowoomba is one of Australia’s most attractive regions blending the best of both a city and country lifestyle. The temperate climate, strong economy, community spirit, access to arts, culture, health and education services, beautiful parks and the broader landscape is attracting new residents and business investment. Moreover, the Toowoomba Region is recognised as one of the three most diverse and stable economies in Australia and also as Queensland’s most family friendly city.

Established around an agricultural sector that takes advantage of fertile farming land, the region’s economy and population has grown and diversified to a point where Toowoomba is currently the nation’s second largest inland city after Canberra. Due to this factor in concert with its central geographic location, Toowoomba has also developed as a major logistics hub with a new airport and construction of the bypass resulting in freight companies moving to the area.

tr.qld.gov.au

VILLAGE BUILDING CO.

Village Building Co. has been developing award winning residential communities in the ACT for 28 years and 20 years in New South Wales and Queensland. We have recently gained a presence in Victoria. Our Canberra based company is fully integrated with strong capability across property development, construction and investment, with our own construction businesses in Canberra and Wollongong. Village Building Co. works across the full spectrum of developments including land, house and land, apartments and mixed use developments. We have an extensive track record in land development, managing everything from acquisition, financing, planning, engineering, design and the subdivision process, to delivering products that respond to market demand.

Our communities consistently deliver innovative designs and showcase value for money, high safety standards and a commitment to environmentally friendly design principles. Village Building Co. believes that every Australian should be able to fulfil their home ownership dreams in a community they can be proud of, and at a price they can afford.

villagebuilding.com.au

COX ARCHITECTURE

Cox Architecture is a multidisciplinary Australian practice which integrates architecture, planning, urban design and interior design. As a large multi-studio practice, we have approximately 400 designers and support staff in Australia and collaborative partnerships across South East Asia, the Middle East, New Zealand, India and China.

Since its inception, the practice has continued to deliver exemplary architecture and interior design that reflects the culture of each project’s city, region and community.

Our specialisations are wide ranging and include projects for sport, public realms, workplaces, education and research, living and infrastructure. Within these large categories are areas of particular specialisation that include exhibition and convention centres, stadia and sports halls, tertiary and research facilities, galleries and museums, theatres, hotels and residential communities, and mixed use development.

Our work and culture is defined by an ethos based upon principles of Structure, Craft, Art and Nature that is infused into everything we do.

coxarchitecture.com.au
Awarded to recognise a planner who provides visionary leadership.

AWARD KATE ISLES MPIA

STATE QLD

Kate Isles is known for her immense passion for planning, dedication to excellence and genuine desire to make a difference for Queensland’s communities and improve the lives of people within them. She is a strong and tireless advocate for achieving quality planning outcomes and processes.

Kate has a consistent track record of going ‘above and beyond’ in every situation.

Kate’s extensive planning experience includes varied positions across the private and public sectors including time with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and overseeing a number of key projects to build a more resilient Queensland.

With many wonderful career achievements under her belt, the judges were particularly impressed by Kate’s demonstrated leadership, vision and commitment to planning excellence. Always ready to roll up her sleeves, Kate is a ‘doer’ and gets things done. In her previous role as President of PIA’s Queensland Division, she was an effective and strong advocate for the planning profession in the state. Through her commitment to leading debate on planning issues, Kate has made a significant contribution to help raise the profile of the planning profession and the importance of planning in Queensland. Kate’s nomination demonstrates not only professional achievements in the last 12 months but an ongoing commitment to planning.

In an award category packed with excellent planning practitioners from around Australia, Kate is a very deserving recipient of the Planner of the Year Award.

COMMENDATION DR ALAN MARCH MPIA

STATE VIC

Dr Alan March has made an outstanding contribution to improved planning practice regarding bushfire vulnerability, disaster risks and resilience. Alan is Associate Professor Urban Planning at the University of Melbourne, and is also recognised for his leadership in planning education.

Following a number of major bushfire incidents, Alan worked with a range of emergency, planning and research agencies to improve the urban planning and design response to threats. His work, involving extensive community engagement, has led to on-the-ground planning changes.

Alan has brought about better connections between emergency management and applied planning research. This has been recognised with support from the Bushfires and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre. Most recently, Alan has been central to the PREPARE research group - an initiative that brings together a range of critical concerns such as disaster resiliency, social equity, climate change adaptation and urban change.

In addition to his work on bushfire management and natural disasters, Alan has shown leadership in planning education and supported the careers of many young planners through his teaching and as an active mentor with PIA and the University of Melbourne.

Alan has a reputation for not just getting people thinking, but for getting them involved and changing what they do.
Awards to recognise outstanding contribution or achievement by a Young Planner.

AWARD

BRIGHID SAMMON
PIA (ASSOC.)

STATE
VIC

Brighid Sammon displays an exceptionally strong commitment to planning demonstrated through a pro-active approach to advocacy, networking and public speaking. Her communications skills, initiative in the workplace and professionalism in private practice are very impressive.

A start in local government gave Brighid exposure to all facets of statutory planning ranging from rural, coastal and urban development and technical skills in this area. Brighid also displays an understanding of strategic planning theory and processes together with limitless enthusiasm, intelligence and professional maturity.

Brighid has been involved in a number of high profile developments, such as Nightingale Housing projects in the Melbourne suburbs of Brunswick and Fairfield, and her ongoing voluntary work on these projects is commendable. Testimonials and the strong support from her employers at Hansen Partnership indicate the positive impact she is making in her chosen profession. She has been described by clients as bright, measured, determined, diligent and knowledgeable beyond her years.

The Victorian Young Planners, Women’s Planning Network and RMIT University have all benefited from Brighid’s involvement, assistance and advice. Brighid’s clear passion for planning and commitment to the profession is unsurpassed for someone relatively new to the profession.

COMMENDATION

DEAN HOSKING MPIA

STATE
NSW

Dean Hosking is an exceptional Young Planner who is highly motivated and makes a significant contribution to the planning profession, in particular through his commitment and dedication to Young Planners.

Dean continually seeks to provide opportunities for Young Planners to expand their knowledge and expertise, as demonstrated by his creation and development of the NSW ‘Emerge Series’ and participation with the YPConnect conference stream.

He is an excellent role model for Young Planners, through his commitment to the planning profession, his advocacy for the role of planners within our communities and through the mentoring of other Young Planners as they complete their university studies and commence their planning careers.
Recognising a non-planner who is promoting good planning or the planning profession to the public.

AWARD
TERRY RAWNSLEY
STATE
VIC

Terry Rawnsley is one of Australia’s leading commentators on economic and planning issues. He has carved out a unique role in the public discourse about the future of our cities. In part, this is due to his insights to the market forces that are driving the outcomes that planners observe. Terry also has a knack for explaining complex ideas in an understandable way. His language is always colourful and engaging, helping to bring media attention to important urban policy issues of the day.

Terry was one of the first economics practitioners in Australia to calculate the rate at which increases in the spatial density of economic activity (agglomeration) improves the productivity of firms. This was a momentous technical innovation that has led to profound changes in the way major infrastructure projects are evaluated. It was highly influential in the Commonwealth’s renewed interest in urban policy and is now a routine consideration in the preparation of metropolitan planning strategies.

Terry has demonstrated how certain types of transport projects literally reshape the pattern of urban development through their influence on urban agglomeration.

His annual production of SGS’s city and regional ‘GDP’ accounts provide a sometimes confronting perspective to the patchwork nature of Australia’s economy and the growing social divide that afflicts the country.

Terry’s work highlights the need for positive planning action to better connect suburban growth areas and regions with the knowledge economy which is powered by the hearts of our great metropolises.

AWARD
RENEWING THE COMPACT CITY
PROJECT TEAM
CITY FUTURES RESEARCH CENTRE, UNSW
STATE
NSW

Urban renewal is occurring within every major city across the country, with some difficulties and challenges especially to multiple landownership.

Strong population growth in our Australian cities, particularly Sydney, means the cities need to densify. This poses design, behavioural and regulatory challenges. An important regulatory change is dealing with older strata schemes that often sit on land under pressure for more intensive uses. They are also often at a point in their life-cycle when substantial investment to demolish or upgrade an ageing building and amenity is on the cards.

The City Futures Research Centre research and paper presented in NSW is highly pertinent to our growing cities. The methodology, research findings and outcomes have broad applicability in the industry. This is ground-breaking research on the economic feasibility and social impact of strata renewal that has been incorporated into the NSW Strata Schemes Development Act (2015).

For outstanding achievement in planning scholarship, research or teaching.
The judges were suitably impressed with the body of work presented in this nomination. They felt that the content and approach was highly original and innovative, and are not aware of a similar resource in Australia. The book provides accounts and experiences from 70 or so senior practitioners, and is an invaluable resource which will help to give new planners perspective and reassurance in confronting challenges similar to those referenced in the book.

This work is particularly award worthy because it addresses early career anxieties and challenges in an accessible, thoughtful and constructive way. The book provides a sound approach to the age-old challenge of “putting an old head on young shoulders” by consolidating important career advice into a single resource, and helps reinforce to new planners the importance of their role in informing and influencing good planning decisions. Additionally it is a valuable reference for ethical, interpersonal and life challenges faced early in a career.

The attitudinal rather than technical approach that Robin has taken with this resource will not only help to build professional and personal resilience, but also provides a basis for creating a better reputation for the planning profession more generally.

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Movies and television can influence community perceptions, thinking and expectations about cities, suburbs and neighbourhoods. They may show what is real. They may make things seem real. They may show the good and bad of places and spaces. Movie Towns and Sitcom Suburbs is an outstanding feat of scholarship. Dr Stephen Rowley’s extensive research is based on post-war suburban America - a time when Australian popular culture and social attitudes were heavily influenced by American popular culture, including through films and television.

Through this fascinating work, Dr Rowley explores the relationship between national places in cinema and television and how this affects the ability to shape urban futures through new visions for cities and towns.

Dr Rowley argues that the influence of media depictions of place can be so strong that it makes it difficult to implement alternative visions of community and design. Movie Towns and Sitcom Suburbs links popular culture and social attitudes, manifested as “idealised” urban settings that influenced planning history - bridging disciplines that are largely unfamiliar to each other.

Movie Towns and Sitcom Suburbs is thought provoking about how community views are shaped, how planning seeks to influence day to day life, and how public opinion can be harnessed to guide and implement change.
Awarded to recognise the implementation of a plan into a successful place.

**AWARD**
**MONASH UNIVERSITY CLAYTON CAMPUS MASTERPLAN**

**PROJECT TEAM**
MGS ARCHITECTS
MASTERPLANNERS WITH MONASH UNIVERSITY AND THE MONASH DESIGN CONSORTIA

**STATE**
VIC

The adoption of the Monash University Clayton Campus Masterplan in 2011 has led to the successful transformation of a dated, mid-twentieth century campus into a contemporary learning, teaching and living environment. MGS Architects and Monash University’s vision and purposeful implementation of the Masterplan has shown demonstrable cumulative benefit from improved use of buildings, enhancement of the spaces between them, and a cohesive, yet diverse, overall urban form. Critically, the Masterplan has successfully addressed the poor wayfinding issues to create a legible network of pedestrian streets and public squares that has effectively stitched the campus together.

The establishment of a strong and more urbanised set of east-west and north-south links and walks have been reinforced by the placement of major new buildings and alterations to older structures. The Masterplan recognised that both the physical and strategic planning of the campus is integral to the University’s central role in the wider Monash Research, Education and Employment Cluster.

The delivery of the Masterplan together with design excellence, demonstrates how large institutional and commercial campuses or sites can be successfully reinterpreted and reorganised to create stronger and more user friendly, interesting and productive places.

**CATEGORY SPONSOR**

**COMMENDATION**
**THE GOODS LINE**

**PROJECT TEAM**
ASPECT STUDIOS, PROPERTY NSW, CHROFI, GARTNER ROSE

**STATE**
NSW

Taking its cues from High Line Park in New York, the judges were impressed by the adaption of this approach to suit the particular characteristics of the former goods rail line corridor in inner city Ultimo, NSW. The transformation of a forgotten transport corridor and unused piece of land into an inclusive, connected place that respects and presents its history is considered particularly remarkable. The ability of the Goods Line to create a people-focused address to the nearby cultural, educational and media institutions is one of its strongest attributes. Consultation with significant landowners and institutions along its edges and inclusion of the needs of numerous Government agencies was also a feature.

The judges were impressed with the ability of the consultant team to take an idea and create a lasting asset to Sydney’s inner city public domain.
Awarded to recognise a planning initiative, effort or leadership that has resulted in positive planning outcomes in the face of difficult or trying circumstances.

AWARD  
PLANNING FOR FUTURE FLOOD RISKS: MARKS POINT AND BELMONT SOUTH LOCAL ADAPTATION PLAN  
PROJECT TEAM  
LAKE MACQUARIE CITY COUNCIL  
STATE  
NSW

Against a backdrop of scepticism, a defiant press and little confidence in its policies, this Council brought together a community through engagement and openness.

The story of how Lake Macquarie City Council developed their first sea level rise adaptation plan starts with conflict between the community and Council, and culminates in a collaboration to produce a plan supported by the community and Council.

Concerns about increases in insurance premiums, reductions in property values, disbelief about climate change and anger that Council wanted to make decisions based on something that “might happen” a long time in the future, made it difficult to engage people.

Council did not dismiss concerns out of hand. Instead of prescribing the process that would be followed to develop the first sea level rise adaption plan, Council invited the community to co-design the process. This helped transform community opposition into collaboration.

Through collaborative effort, the science of climate change, the prospect of sea level rises and future flood risk are to be managed locally through implementation of this bold adaptation plan. A truly hard won consensus.

COMMENDATION  
CONNECTING GREATER BENDIGO: INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AND LAND USE STRATEGY  
PROJECT TEAM  
CITY OF GREATER BENDIGO  
STATE  
VIC

Following strong community opposition to a draft roads strategy, the City of Greater Bendigo embarked on a four-year process to develop an integrated transport and land use strategy that has led to a complete ideological shift in the way Bendigo sees itself as an integrated and sustainable community.

The strategy process showed strong community leadership and meaningful engagement to transform initial scepticism of a new approach to integrated planning, into a partnership across local and state government as well as delivery agencies, such as local transport operators. Over 25,000 residents were engaged as part of the strategy’s development.

This commitment to real change has led to initiatives such as the Bendigo Metro Rail concept, linking a suburban rail network in Bendigo with Melbourne, and will be truly transformative in what has been a car-based regional city for many decades.

This collaborative approach has also built a series of partnerships, not only with transport providers but also with broader community groups and businesses to generate community ownership and real changes in perceptions about living in and moving around Bendigo.

This collaborative approach changed the way leaders and the community of Bendigo view their city, which has had significant benefits beyond what may have otherwise been realised.
Awarded to recognise outstanding planning ideas for a project that is limited to a site or local place/ neighbourhood.

**AWARD**

**TROPICAL URBANISM – CAIRNS CITY IMAGE STUDY**

**PROJECT TEAM**
CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL, TRACT CONSULTANTS, FOLLENT, PEDDLER THORP, CA ARCHITECTS, TOTAL PROJECT GROUP ARCHITECTS

**STATE**
QLD

The Cairns City Image Study project represents a turning point in the perception of building heights in Cairns for both the public and Council. The project delivers a contemporary and viable policy for built form through planning scheme provisions that increase development opportunities whilst preserving Cairns’ identity as a ‘city in a rainforest’.

Cairns Regional Council and the team of consultants are commended for undertaking a collaborative planning exercise, working with local architects to provide input into the study and to test the draft policy outcomes, capitalising on their local experience. The Judges acknowledge that broader community engagement with the community was undertaken as part of consultation on proposed changes to the Council’s draft planning scheme.

The study represents a significant contribution of tropical expertise that can be offered, transferred and adapted to suit the needs of other tropical cities. Cairns is defining itself as a leader worldwide in the area of tropical urbanism.

The Judges acknowledge the broader community engagement with the community was undertaken as part of consultation on proposed changes to the Council’s draft planning scheme.

The Cairns City Image Study project, in collaboration with the City of Melbourne and Total Project Group Architects, has been awarded the Best Planning Ideas Small Project Award.

**AWARD**

**CITY ROAD MASTER PLAN**

**PROJECT TEAM**
CITY OF MELBOURNE

**STATE**
VIC

The City of Melbourne’s City Road Master Plan wonderfully combines visionary ideas with practical actions in its effort to revitalise areas within Southbank that are currently unfriendly, underwhelming and underperforming as well as divided by City Road.

The master plan aims to transform the City Road area into a safer, more welcoming and productive place and effectively stitch the two halves of Southbank back together. As the master plan states, it addresses ways to better balance the road’s two primary roles – as an important transport corridor, and as a place that supports local street life that is people-friendly for all the residents, workers and visitors.

The master plan identifies opportunities and constraints for improvement, with a real understanding of trade-offs between competing interests that need to be made, while staying true to its aim of reconnecting a divided neighbourhood. Innovative approaches and effective community consultation and engagement have clearly benefited the plan.

The clear and logical approach taken to developing the master plan can be directly transferred to other street renewal projects aimed at better balancing movement and place functions, and provides a valuable contribution to furthering the principles of good planning.
Awards to recognise outstanding planning ideas for a large project that has town or city, regional, state-wide, national or cross-jurisdiction benefit.

**AWARD**

MORETON BAY REGION UNIVERSITY PRECINCT

**PROJECT TEAM**

MORETON BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL

**STATE**

QLD

The Moreton Bay Region University Precinct is an ambitious and bold plan by Moreton Bay Regional Council (MBRC), which will be a gamechanger for the South East Queensland region. MBRC is commended for taking the initiative to make a strategic landholding purchase of the former Petrie Mill, deliver a major university campus, and successfully attract a university provider, the University of Sunshine Coast.

This project, the first ever led by a local government in Australia, will create significant cultural, sporting, recreational and environmental community-owned facilities that the region can be proud of. Whilst unique and innovative, the project has transferability to other local governments looking to diversify their economies and transform disused precincts.

Whilst the project is in its initial stages, MBRC has already undertaken extensive community and industry consultation through online engagement platforms, letters to the public, information kiosk, and community open days. Initial feedback indicates overwhelming support for the project. The project also has support politically where funding from the federal government has been secured.

**COMMENTS**

Melton City Council Dry Stone Wall project represents an innovative approach to identifying and protecting heritage fabric, which has been enriched by connecting it with education, place-making and tourism development.

The project was a 13 year commitment by the Council and represents the most comprehensive survey of dry stone walls and other dry stone structures ever undertaken in Australia - and possibly worldwide.

The project relied on a groundbreaking approach to the collection of data that included manual and technological methodologies.

Not content with having these heritage assets successfully listed for heritage protection in the local planning scheme, the Council undertook a comprehensive implementation program that included dry stone walling workshops, publication of guides to aid preservation, public art and sculpture projects, modification of Council’s roadside maintenance program, a tourism-focused driving tour, interpretive signage, direct assistance to landowners (including financial support) and the development of Council showcase projects.

The way in which the Council has used dry stone walls as a place making tool in public buildings and throughout the community is very impressive. The project cleverly moves beyond a simple ‘identify and protect’ approach to heritage to embrace a more comprehensive, considered and practical program of community engagement that raises awareness and instills an appreciation of these heritage assets.
Awarded to recognise the achievements of planners, planning authorities and development entities in translating good planning policy into improved processes and practices in the workplace and ‘on the ground’.

AWARD
IMPLEMENTING BUSHFIRE AND BIODIVERSITY CONTROLS

PROJECT TEAM
SHIRE OF MUNDARING PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT TEAM

STATE
WA

Development challenges emerged as landowners and the Shire of Mundaring struggled to reconcile mitigating bushfire risks whilst preserving and protecting the Shire’s high biodiversity values. To address this, the Shire has created a suite of implementation tools and services that encourages the early consideration of both bushfire and environmental factors in the design and development process before there has been significant investment by the landowner.

By examining the site-specific risks and avoiding generalisations, the Shire of Mundaring has simplified the process for landowners. As a result, this approach is improving development, environmental and land management outcomes and contributing to a positive planning culture in the Shire. Furthermore, this approach can be easily transferred to other local authorities thereby making the process simpler for landowners, streamlining the approval process and reducing costly delays. As the risk of bushfires increases across Australia with higher summer temperatures, this initiative is timely and innovative.

COMMENDATION
GOLD COAST FLORA & FAUNA DATABASE

PROJECT TEAM
CITY OF GOLD COAST

STATE
QLD

The City of Gold Coast’s new Flora and Fauna database is an innovative tool that provides a single point of reference regarding information on flora and fauna in the Gold Coast region to ensure critical natural assets are appropriately managed and to inform strategic planning and development assessment decisions.

The database collated scientific technical reports and existing information into one location which is easily accessed by a wide range of audiences. Developed in-house, it captures data previously stored in a number of formats and displayed across many sources, applications and data custodians, to establish a one-stop shop for natural asset information.

The value of the database has been further realised since its implementation, creating demonstrable efficiencies for both internal and external customers through the ease of access to information in an online format, reducing the volume of manual enquiries for the information and allowing Council’s resources to be allocated to other critical areas.

The inbuilt flexibility of the database allows for regular updates of information and the addition of scientific reporting, changing legislative and planning requirements, and technological advancements. The judging panel recognised the excellence of this entry in collating vital natural asset information in a transparent and responsive manner. This project is an exemplar model that achieves excellence in planning and is transferable to other agencies seeking to achieve similar process improvements, efficiencies and positive outcomes.
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

Awarded to recognise initiatives in best practice public engagement that achieve an outstanding and innovative contribution to social planning practice and outcomes.

AWARD
CAMPGING WITH CUSTODIANS – IMINTJI COMMUNITY PROJECT TEAM
TOURISM WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND IMINTJI ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

STATE
WA

This is a significant initiative, which provides a unique opportunity for visitors to regional Western Australia to stay at an Indigenous owned and operated tourist accommodation, whilst providing sustainable economic and social benefits to the local community. Tourism WA together with the Imintji Aboriginal Community, through the Camping with Custodians Project, has provided a model development which demonstrates how public engagement and community planning can deliver a tourist outcome, whilst providing an ongoing source of income and employment for members of the community.

The immersion of the project team with the local community was integral to its ultimate success. It provided Tourism WA with a greater understanding of the existing community knowledge and aspirations whilst actively involving the Imintji Community members through the stages of land assembly, planning, approvals and development. The Camping with Custodians Project has enabled the Imintji Aboriginal Community to develop a capacity to manage their land and resources as part of a network of community enterprises and to use it as a platform upon which to develop further value adding activities.
COMMENDATION
CITY ROAD
MASTER PLAN

PROJECT TEAM
CITY OF MELBOURNE

STATE
VIC

The City Road Master Plan demonstrates the best in public engagement and community planning practice and how well-considered consultation can amplify great planning outcomes. The City Road Master Plan is a public realm plan that sets out a range of actions to deliver improvements to City Road and adjacent areas.

The variety of communication tools utilised as part of the community engagement phase of the project and the apparent effectiveness of these methods was very impressive. The City of Melbourne utilised a series of workshops, walking tours, pop-ups, drop-ins and online activities to obtain community ideas and feedback that was used to drive the final outcomes.

The use of online interactive maps was particularly inventive. These measures combined crowd sourcing with digital mapping and mobile technology to collect information about user experiences. An interactive master plan map allowed participants to ‘slide’ between existing and proposed conditions of specific proposals. This enabled them to view and comment on the options that were developed for City Road.

The feedback was utilised to generate the six actions that have been costed and endorsed for implementation. The community’s needs and aspirations were reflected in these actions, which will provide enhanced social outcomes in the form of new community space, an expanded bicycle network and upgrades to the road itself to improve safety and mobility for a wide range of users.

COMMENDATION
GINNINDERRY

PROJECT TEAM
LAND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY AND RIVERVIEW DEVELOPMENTS

STATE
ACT

The ‘Ginninderry’ project, which proposes a new community residential development in the north of the ACT and across the border into NSW, used different consultative techniques over a long period of time to communicate messages and interact with the community, industry groups, government agencies and community stakeholders both within ACT and NSW.

The Ginninderry Group demonstrated that it has pushed the envelope in its attempt to negotiate cross-border issues and consistently articulated its vision for sustainable development throughout the consultation processes. The resultant urban form as well as related aspects such as employment initiatives reflects the results of this extensive consultation and feedback from stakeholders.
AWARD
THE GOODS LINE
PROJECT TEAM
ASPECT STUDIOS, PROPERTY NSW, CHROI, GARTNER ROSE
STATE
NSW

A planner knows place to be somewhere or something thought to be special by people. In creating a linear park representing Sydney’s linear history, this transformed former transport corridor has developed special characteristics. The Goods Line illustrates the potential for urban design to transform isolated city spaces into creative and connected public destinations which enhance public life.

Forming a strategic link from Central Station to Chinatown and Darling Harbour, this elevated park has transformed a redundant and isolated industrial corridor into a vibrant, physically and socially connected public space in Sydney’s most densely populated area. The Goods Line has created a people-focused address to numerous cultural, educational and media institutions. These include UTS’ Dr Chau Chak Wing Building, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and Sydney TAFE, all of which border the park.

Loaded with civic ambition and public purpose, The Goods Line is a place which speaks to a new kind of social infrastructure where multiple opportunities for gathering, playing, and exchange of ideas can occur.

Awarded to recognise a great place, street or neighbourhood in Australia
AWARD
RICHARD BARRY
PIA (ASSOC.)

PROJECT
EXPLORING THE VIRTUAL CITY - IMMERSIVE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION USING VR HEADSETS

STATE
NSW

For decades, Virtual Reality (VR) headsets providing a gateway into immersive digital representations of our environment have typically been the dreams of video gamers and sci-fi fans. Stemming from this innovative movement, this student thesis explored a new participation technique for planners to utilise VR headsets to visualise future development during the public participation process by being immersed in a one-to-one scale digital model of their city or neighbourhood. The main research question answered was: “To what extent can VR headsets be used to better visualise proposed developments?”

The Judges all agreed that this thesis took on a very cutting-edge topic, one that is becoming increasingly popular to engage people in complex development projects. It was innovative and could easily be transferred and learnt by anyone in the development industry who has access to the technology. The Judges were impressed by the practical research methods carried out which is now being used in development projects across the country.

COMMENDATION
MARY STREET PIAZZA

PROJECT TEAM
CITY OF VINCENT, PLACE LABORATORY, AND LE GROVE LANDSCAPING

STATE
WA

The Mary Street Piazza is the physical culmination of a balanced ‘bottom up’ ‘top down’ approach between the local Beaufort Street community and the City of Vincent. The Piazza was conceived through consultation with local community members and the Beaufort Street Network, a collective of business owners, residents and landowners, which was then taken up by the City of Vincent, who have shifted towards a more ‘place-led’ form of place governance.

The consultants, Place Laboratory and Le Grove Landscaping, in collaboration with the local community, have successfully transformed a stark car dominated location into an adaptive flexible community-focused space, with a uniquely Beaufort Street Flavour. The Piazza is a safe, welcoming and unpretentious space which compliments and supports the surrounding land uses. The Mary Street Piazza is not only deserving of being a great place for what it is today but also for what the community is making it become.
COMMENDATION

BENJAMIN WOLLINSKI
PIA (ASSOC.)

PROJECT TEAM

MISMATCH OF HOUSING: ADEQUACY OF HOUSING FOR THE POPULATION

STATE

SA

Ben Wollinski’s thesis is a fine example of well-founded and well-researched student project work. It employs a Greater Adelaide case study to explore the vexed issue of housing mismatch. In doing so Ben’s work displays three key attributes that make it deserving of the Outstanding Student Project commendation.

First, the study poses a clear research problem and thoroughly engages with the wider Australian-based housing literature to formulate and refine the research question.

Second, the study provides a clear and robust rationale for adopting a case study approach, allowing for the development of logical and iterative research strategy.

Third, a range of data sources have been analysed and synthesised within a theoretical framework in a coherent manner, premised upon both empirical and evaluative forms of analysis. Moreover, the study’s findings hold salient lessons for both the study of housing provision and professional practice. Ambitious in its scope and undertaking, the study’s clarity and coherence make it a worthy recipient of this commendation.

Table 5.1 – Persons per Dwelling Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dwelling Type</th>
<th>Ownerships</th>
<th>Persons</th>
<th>Average Person per Dwelling</th>
<th>Aggregated Dwelling Representation %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Separate house</td>
<td>305,512</td>
<td>954,670</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>77.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse, etc.</td>
<td>37,765</td>
<td>108,079</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat, unit or apartment</td>
<td>15,812</td>
<td>79,674</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>35.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other dwelling</td>
<td>1,216</td>
<td>1,967</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>472,440</td>
<td>2,144,146</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dr Claire Boulange’s doctoral thesis Walkability Planning Support System extends the usual scoring system of walkability tools through its predictive modelling capacity that can be used in design and strategic planning. The system uses ‘sketch planning’ tools to identify how changes in community design impact transport-walking participation and can assist in designing more walkable communities.

The Walkability Planning Support System compares a baseline condition and tests scenarios being proposed in the built environment to predict walkability impacts, addressing the questions of how amenable an area is to walking today and how much better could it be.

Underpinned by a logical methodology and extensive research, the model is evidence-based, linking features and variables that influence walkability such as residential density, land use mix and street connectivity. The Walkability Planning Support System can be applied to any location, whether greenfield or an existing developed area, at any scale.

The model can provide an evidentiary base to the exploration and evaluation of strategic planning development options that enhance likely walkability outcomes.

The Walkability Planning Support System has the potential to make a significant contribution in creating more walkable and liveable communities. It also has the potential to be further developed and refined as more data becomes available.

Figure 5.29 – Type of dwellings being constructed in Adelaide, 1991-2011 (DPT 2014)
PLANNING EXCELLENCE 2017 NATIONAL AWARDS

PLANNER OF THE YEAR AWARD
NSW
Graham Jahn AM PIA (Hon Fellow)
QLD
Katie Isles MPIA
VIC
Alan March MPIA
WA
Robina Crook MPIA

YOUNG PLANNER OF THE YEAR AWARD
ACT
Imogen Featherstone PIA (Assoc.)
NSW
Dean Hosking MPIA
QLD
Julie Brook RPIA
SA
Timothy Bourner PIA (Assoc.)
VIC
Brighid Sammon PIA (Assoc.)
WA
Amanda Ying PIA (Assoc.)

FROM PLAN TO PLACE
NSW
The Goods Line
ASPECT Studios, Property NSW, CHROFI, Gartner Rose
QLD
Kwong Sang Walk
Toowoomba Regional Council, Place Design Group, Dig It Landscapes
SA
Gawler Town Centre
Town of Gawler, URS and WAX Design
VIC
Monash University Clayton Campus Masterplan
MS8 Architects
WA
The Impact of Driverless Cars
Dylan Melsom

THE HARD WON VICTORY AWARD
NSW
Planning for Future Flood Risks: Marks Point and Belmont South Local Adaptation Plan
Lake Macquarie City Council
QLD
Loganholme Local Plan
Logan City Council
SA
Beulah Road Bicycle Boulevard Project
City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters
VIC
Connecting Greater Bendigo: Integrated transport and land use strategy
City of Greater Bendigo
WA
The Impact of Driverless Cars
Dylan Melsom

OUTSTANDING STUDENT PROJECT
ACT
Blurred Walls - Teleworks in Australia: A lack of policy representation?
Peter Hanna PIA (Assoc.)
NSW
Exploring the Virtual City - Immersive Public Participation using VR headsets
Richard Barry PIA (Assoc.)
QLD
Mismatch of Housing: Adequacy of Housing for the Population
Benjamin Wolinski PIA (Assoc.)
SA
Salisbury City Centre Urban Design Framework
City of Salisbury, WAX Design, IntraPlan and URSPS
VIC
The Walkability Planning Support System. An evidence-based tool to design healthy communities
Dr Claire Boujane
WA
Moreton Bay Region University Precinct
Moreton Bay Regional Council

BEST PLANNING IDEAS SMALL PROJECT
NSW
Tweed Shire Council Rural Villages Strategy
Tweed Shire Council Strategic Planning and Urban Design Unit
QLD
Topical Urbanism - Cairns City Image Study
Cairns Regional Council, Tract Consultants, Follent, Peddle Thorp, CA Architects, Total Project Group Architects
SA
Salisbury City Centre Urban Design Framework
City of Salisbury, WAX Design, IntraPlan and URSPS
VIC
City Road Master Plan
City of Melbourne
WA
City of Swan Strategy for the Ageing Population
City of Swan and Pracsys

BEST PLANNING IDEAS LARGE PROJECT
ACT
Integrated Transport and Land Use Planning Guidelines
SGS Economics and Planning and Transport and Infrastructure Council
NSW
Quay Quarter Sydney
Urbis Pty Ltd, AMP Capital, City of Sydney Council
NT
Master Plan for Mountain Biking in the Northern Territory
Tourism NT, TRC Tourism Pty Ltd, Earthcheck, Edacana consulting
QLD
Moreton Bay Region University Precinct
Moreton Bay Regional Council

FROM PLAN TO PLACE
NSW
The Goods Line
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SA
Gawler Town Centre
Town of Gawler, URS and WAX Design
VIC
Monash University Clayton Campus Masterplan
MS8 Architects
WA
The Impact of Driverless Cars
Dylan Melsom

TO THE PLANNER OF THE YEAR

TO THE YOUNG PLANNER OF THE YEAR

TO THE STUDENT PROJECT

TO THE SMALL PROJECT

TO THE LARGE PROJECT

TO THE BEST IDEAS

TO THE OUTSTANDING PROJECT

TO THE VICTORY AWARD

TO THE EXCELLENCE AWARD

TO THE NEXT GENERATION
PLANNING EXCELLENCE 2017 NATIONAL AWARDS

PLANNING EXCELLENCE

IMPROVING PLANNING PROCESSES AND PRACTICES AWARD

NSW
Liverpool eDA Project, business and Planning Reform Unit – Liverpool City Council

QLD
Gold Coast Flora & Fauna Database
City of Gold Coast

SA
Projects & Partnerships / Development Project Initiatives at Rivergum Homes
Rivergum Homes

WA
Implementing Bushfire and Biodiversity Controls
Shire of Mundaring Planning and Environment Team

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNITY PLANNING AWARD

ACT
Ginninderry
Land Development Agency and Riverview Developments

QLD
Clifton Township Concept Master Plan
Tract Consultants, Toowoomba Regional Council, Clifton State High School

SA
One Mitcham Many Cultures Multicultural Fair
City of Mitcham

VIC
City Road Master Plan
City of Melbourne

WA
Camping with Custodians - Imintji Community
Tourism Western Australia and Imintji Aboriginal Community

GREAT PLACE AWARD

ACT
Bowen Place Crossing
National Capital Authority, Lahanimo Architects and Spackman Mossop Michaels (landscape architects)

NSW
The Goods Line
ASPECT Studios, Property NSW, CHROFI, Gartner Rose

NT
The Boulevard Stage 1 and Goyder Square (Palmerston City Centre Upgrade Program)
City of Palmerston

QLD
 Beenleigh Town Square
Logan City Council, AECOM, Wilsons Architects & Mr Cogney

SA
One Mitcham Many Cultures Multicultural Fair
City of Mitcham

VIC
City Road Master Plan
City of Melbourne

WA
Camping with Custodians - Imintji Community
Tourism Western Australia and Imintji Aboriginal Community

CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH AND TEACHING AWARD

NSW
Renewing the Compact City
City Futures Research Centre, UNSW

QLD
Mastering the Art of Planning - 100 Stories from Urban Planning Practice
Robin King-Cullen RPIA (Life Fellow)

VIC
Movie Towns and Sitcom Suburbs: Building Hollywood’s Ideal Communities
Dr Stephen Rowley MPIA, RMIT University

GREAT PLACE AWARD

ACT
Bowen Place Crossing
National Capital Authority, Lahanimo Architects and Spackman Mossop Michaels (landscape architects)

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City of Mitcham

VIC
City Road Master Plan
City of Melbourne

WA
Camping with Custodians - Imintji Community
Tourism Western Australia and Imintji Aboriginal Community

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Heritage Awards to Sustain Our Rich Past

Heritage Awards to Sustain Our Rich Past

Heritage Awards to Sustain Our Rich Past
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