

# BRANCH OUT

Seasons Greetings

Issue 18

NZPI® Branch Newsletter | December 2010



## 2011 Annual Awards

The deadline for awards submissions is fast approaching - please click on the link below for criteria information. The awards will be presented at the annual conference held in Wellington on Thursday 31 March 2011

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Nominations close 12 noon, 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 10

#### The Awards are:

- [Institute Gold Medal](#)
- [Lance Leikis Graduate](#)
- [Award of Merit](#)
- [NZPI® Research](#)
- [Alfred O Glasse](#)
- [NZPI® Outstanding Scholarship](#)
- [NZPI® Project](#)
- [NZPI® Best Practice](#)
- [Nancy Northcroft Planning Practice](#)

If you have any queries please contact the NZPI® office.

**Courier your nominations to:**  
New Zealand Planning Institute®  
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393 Khyber Pass Road,  
Newmarket, Auckland

**Phone:** 09-520-6277  
**E-mail:** [savana.carroll@planning.org.nz](mailto:savana.carroll@planning.org.nz)

Please consider carefully the award category for the project/work you are nominating to ensure it meets the relevant criteria for that award

[Click here to the download the 2011 Nomination Form & Criteria](#)

## Congratulations

- AIKEN, Nicholas (Napier)
- BROWN, Philip (Auckland)
- CARROLL, Nicholas (Taupo)
- COMPTON-MOEN, David (Christchurch)
- CRACK, Charlotte (Wellington)
- DAVISON, Cecilia (Auckland)
- DAY, Rosalind (Dunedin)
- FORBES, Richard (Auckland)
- HENDERSON, Ralph (Queenstown)
- KEATING, Evan (Auckland)
- LIANG, Annejo (Whangarei)
- POROU, Tina (Rotorua)
- ROWE, Deborah (Auckland)
- SARGENT, Christiane (Christchurch)
- SPROTT, Fiona (Auckland)
- STEVENSON, Mark (Christchurch)
- SWAN, Laura (Whakatane)
- TAYLOR, Neil (Hamilton)
- VYFHUIS, Leslie (Auckland)



**Congratulations to the above who recently became Full members of the Institute. This is a memorable point in any planner's career, so we would like to congratulate those that have recently stepped up to Full membership...**

### ABOUT US

Branches allow you to be involved in Institute activities at the local level. As a member of NZPI® you are automatically a member of your local Branch. Branches have regular meetings, seminars and workshops. They are active in assisting with continuing professional development and advancing local issues to central government.



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[Click here if you would like to apply for full membership](#)

# Auckland

## World Town Planning Day

The Auckland Branch of NZPI celebrated Planning in Auckland on the eve of change, at an early World Town Planning Day, held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at the School of Architecture and Planning, University of Auckland. Around 120 people attended the event. CEO, Susan Houston along with Lee Beattie welcomed the audience to the first World Town Planning Day event of New Zealand. Guest and keynote speaker, Ree Anderson, Auckland Council's Manager for Regional Strategy, Community and Cultural Policy, spoke about her role developing the Spatial Plan reflecting international examples and current context of the Auckland region. Ree's presentation and discussion of the Spatial Plan highlighted the significant change and new planning embarked in the new Auckland Council.



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## Distinguished Service Award

The evening was concluded with Janine Bell being awarded with a Distinguished Service Award for her tremendous contribution, efforts and dedication to the planning profession, presented by Jane Douglas, President of the NZPI. A special thanks goes out to the University of Auckland, School of Architecture and Planning and to the Auckland Branch of NZPI for supporting and organising the event.



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## In the New Year

Also to keep in mind, the Auckland Branch will be running its Annual Summer Bowls in mid February 2011. Look out for the flyer and event details in January 2011, limited spaces and always a lot of fun!

As we concluded for the year and begin to think of 2011, the Auckland Branch would like to wish all its regional and institute members a warm and merry Christmas and safe holiday break. We look forward to seeing you all back in the New Year! Bring on the Rugby World Cup 2011.





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## A Word from the Branch

Spring has been relatively quiet for the Waikato Branch, with only a few events happening. MWH kindly hosted an urban design evening for the Young Planners. This was a great night and we received some excellent feedback. A big thank you to MWH, as the Young Planners who attended found it was a valuable experience. Andrew Trevelyan gave a seminar on two cases that were destined for the Environment Court, but through incorporating elements of good urban design, the Environment Court was able to be avoided. A meet and greet followed the presentation, where the young planners were able to mix and mingle and pick Andrew's brains.

The committee is beginning to think about and plan the annual conference which is to be held in Hamilton in 2013. Watch this space and look forward to seeing the plans unravel.

By the time this goes to print, we would have held our annual end of year function. This year, we decided to hold a combined event with the New Zealand Institute of Surveyors. The theme was 'The Implications of the Proposed Regional Policy Statement.' The event featured a presentation from Environment Waikato and then Waikato and Waipa District Councils gave their response to the Proposed RPS.

**From the Waikato Branch we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year**



# Bay of Plenty



The temperatures have soared in the last week and now the beaches and lakefronts are a hive of activity in the District. In a regional roundup at the last committee meeting it seems the last year has been a gradual slowing of activity for Tauranga and Taupo but Rotorua has stayed fairly steady.



## The Comings & Goings

### Tauranga:

Brigid Buckley started as the new young planner at H&G as Esta Farquhar left H&G to travel. Kahu Tapsell is leaving URS to work for Tauranga City Council. Gary Schofield left S&L Consultants.

### South Waikato:

Some big projects are underway in South Waikato with 2 supermarkets and 3 Dairy Companies. They have also recently taken on a new planner.

### Rotorua:

Sigma consultants is having a change with Ingrid Snyman taking her leave of planning to pursue art and Lorelle Barry will be going on maternity leave shortly. Rotorua District Council has two new graduate consents planners (Paul Spurdle starting 29/11 and Laura Clemens starting 6/12) with Portia McKenzie having started in October as a senior consents planner.

### Taupo:

The news for Taupo is that the District Council is going through a major restructure and will be making between 30-40 people redundant by March. It is unknown as yet whether there will be planners within that at this stage. However, despite this, since the last Branchout we've added three new planning babies with David Greaves, Rowan Sapsford and just this week Kara Maresca having new family members.

### District Events:

Tauranga hosted a lunch time talk for UN Habitat Day. Tauranga City Council did a living roofs and walls presentation on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September that was well attended by a range of people many of them not planners but was still related and very interesting.

## World Town Planning Day

WTPD was well attended at four different events in the District. Taupo started with a gathering for morning coffee which totally overloaded the café with the buzz of planning talk. A great turn out and chance to connect with the local professionals. Rotorua had afterwork drinks which had another 20 with Whakatane also having a gathering of the local crew.

The big event of the day though was in Tauranga where nearly 40 people turned out to see who it was that was being awarded the *Distinguished Service Award* from the NZPI.

The citation that accompanied the award covered Craig's professional contribution to his past 20 years at the heart of many planning matters and strategic directions in Tauranga. The following snippet regarding his character however, demonstrates why we are proud of the recognition this award gives his work and the quality he brings to planning in Tauranga and nationally.

*"Craig is a well respected director, manager and mentor to his many staff at Boffa Miskell and planners in the Company nationwide. He is known for his ability to be extremely professional and courteous at all times, patient with clients, staff, councillors, and other consultants and has always been a very hard working and diligent planner who is well respected as an expert witness in the Environment Court. Craig is known to bring intelligence, a high degree of professionalism and quiet common sense to any issue, application or policy debate."*



Craig Batchelar receiving his Distinguished Service Award

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## Christmas Events

Everything is happening on the  
**7th December:**

**Tauranga:** 5pm on 7th December at  
*The Naked Grape Cafe, The Strand:*  
Drinks at own cost

**Rotorua:** 5pm onwards at *Abracadabra Amohia Street, Rotorua:*  
drinks at own cost, nibbles provided.

**Taupo:** 3pm to 5pm with coffee and cake; Presentation and Discussion from Alex Keys: Registered Valuer

## Branch Happenings

As many of you will be aware the Central North Island Branch covers a wide geographic area from Taranaki to Gisborne, so it is always challenging to have meetings that everyone can get to. This means that while the branch as a whole tries to have some events that will attract people from throughout or region we have had to accept that this will not always be possible.

In August a branch seminar was held in Whanganui at which Jenny Chetwynd and Quintin Howard from the NZTA spoke about transport issues and their impact on our region. At the same meeting Lisa Hooker from Opus and Genevieve Doube from the Wanganui District Council provided a detailed rundown on the Christchurch NZPI Conference. The day finished with a mid-winter dinner at *Stellar* restaurant. This year the Central North Island Branch decided to offer two awards of the registrations costs for the NZPI conference which Lisa and Genevieve had been lucky enough to win. In the case of Genevieve it was particularly lucky as it allowed her to pick up the *Lance Leikis Graduate Planner Award*, something the branch thinks is very well deserved. Genevieve provides a link from the branch and the Young Planners to the students at Massey University.

In October the Massey students held their annual netball tournament that sees the different year groups and the staff compete in a rapid fire round robin tournament. To everyone's surprise the staff were triumphant for the first time in living memory, scooping up the *Miller Plate*, a rather battered silver salver.

Wanganui ensured that our regular planning lunch fell on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> in celebration of World Town Planning Day. We had an excellent turn out and Rachelle Voice was the winner of a copy of *The Unsung Profession* by Caroline Miller. This was appropriate as Rachelle is new to Wanganui having taken on the role of Senior Planner at Wanganui District Council. Rachelle is a former Committee member for the Central North Island branch from her earlier time in Palmerston North.

In Hawkes Bay the strong local planners group hold well attended events about every 6-8 weeks. Recent gatherings have featured HDC discussing the HPUDS project and HBRC their strategic planning initiatives, a local young planners-led event, and most recently the celebration of *World Town Planning Day* at *The Factory* in Napier – perhaps appropriately the *Unsung Profession* was won by a surveyor – Aaron Hick.... In other HB news Planner Michele Frey has just been appointed Captain of the Central District Women's Cricket team for 2011-12 – well done Michele.

In December the branch AGM and Christmas meal with the usual mind stretching quiz will be held after an afternoon meeting looking at the regional experience. That event to be held at the Manawtau District Council's offices in Feilding, will bring together speakers from the Taranaki and Hawke's Bay Regional Councils and Horizons to share their varying and challenging experiences of producing regional plans.

***Best wishes for a safe and merry festive season.***



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**A Word from the Chair**

Since our last report the Branch has hosted a number of evening and afternoon events which have included:

- A presentation on the Environmental Protection Agency and Environmental Governance with input from Libby Harrison, Fran Wilde and Raewyn Peart.
- An evening talk on designations by Andrea Rickard and Fiona Blight of Beca;
- A seminar on Ethics facilitated by Sarah Jenkin and which was led by Robert Schofield, Brett McKay and Kathryn Edmonds;
- A joint event with the RMLA on the findings of the Urban and Infrastructure TAGs with kind input from Helen Atkins, Mark Snowden, Adrienne Young Cooper, John Hassan and Susan Houston.

World Town Planning day this year was celebrated in good fashion at a pub quiz at the Southern Cross. The event attracted a diverse range of 50 odd planners from all sectors, who under the MC guidance of Rhodd Simmons seemed to all have a highly enjoyable night (or at least there were a few heads the following day which were slightly worse for wear). Well done to Team 2 for winning, and in so doing providing the only credible response to accusations of lacking the imagination to come up with a team name. Special mention also to the tie breaker which entailed the age of a young bar man being correctly 'guessed' by some planners (generally of the fair variety) after some very close verbal and physical scrutiny indeed.

The event was preceded by the Geok Ling Phang Memorial award ceremony. This was the awards first year and the committee was delighted with the calibre of nominations. The winners of the awards are reported elsewhere, and in short comprised:

- Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resources Committee of Greater Wellington for bringing a new co-governance arrangement to improving environmental performance; and,
- Laura Keenan for her bold and involving approach to instream flow assessment.

The Branch has established a sub-committee to set up and manage the National Conference next year. That committee under the chair of Helen Anderson and the enthusiastic involvement of others are now entering the final phases of establishing next years event. The line up sounds great as do emerging details of site visits. I can also advise that the Conference will get to test the World Cup 'events' centre (yes it will be ready in plenty of time unlike another, more northern venue...), which will provide a great basis for a memorable and what I am sure will be a tremendously successful event.

Christmas looms and with it the silly season combination of late night parties and impossible deadlines (one might perhaps be related to the other). In amidst all of that the MfE is busily adding detail to the proposed RM phase II reform (which may or may not include spatial planning for New Zealand and not simply Auckland), new legislation expanding the role of the EPA and also for Aquacultural reform and the Treasury works on a revised National Infrastructure Plan (NIP v.2), which individually and in combination ensure that the interest of even the ardent planners remains piqued. Busy times in Wellington.

On that note, Merry Christmas all and keep safe.

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Chair of Wellington Branch

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# Canterbury/Westland



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## What's Coming Up

We are cruising (or racing, depending on your point of view) towards the end of the year now. The last event planned for the year in Christchurch will be the joint NZPI/RMLA/EIANZ Christmas do, which is to be held on 9 December in the Belgian Bar. In the new year (February to be exact), a CPD event/planners forum will be held in Timaru, with a presentation from Meridian's planners. Further details to come closer to the time. As always, we welcome suggestions as to other CPD topics that people would like to see covered in the region.

## Planners on the Move

Earthquake jokes aside, there is a lot of movement in the planning market at the moment... Katherine Glasgow has joined the West Coast Regional Council. Nick Boyes left RMG for fatherhood and part time work with PZP. Jeff Page left Response Planning to join Meridian while Andrew Feierabend left Hurunui DC for Meridian. Julia Forsyth left Christchurch CC for Wellington CC. Maurice Dale left CCC for Boffa Miskell. Anne Iggo has also left CCC, as have Sharyn Brown and Simona Marra. Emma Chapman (CCC) has had a baby girl and is now on maternity leave. Chyi Sim has started as a graduate planner at Timaru DC. Dave Brown has joined Timaru DC from Opus and Steve Sullivan is a new monitoring officer at Timaru. Liz White has left Hurunui DC to join RMG. Melanie Foote has also joined RMG. Mike Vincent has started with NZHPT. Kasuni Thewarapperuma has started with Davie, Lovell-Smith.

## Recent Events

A lot has been happening in the Canterbury/Westland area since the last Branch Out. Events in Greater Christchurch have of course been heavily dominated by the September 4<sup>th</sup> earthquake and its aftermath. Thank you to everyone for their expressions of support and patience during what has been a difficult period for most people here. Work-wise, things have been back to normal for most people for quite a while now, though there has been a little shuffling in the Councils to accommodate earthquake and heritage priorities.

On the West Coast, recent events have been greatly overshadowed by the tragic loss of the 29 miners at the Pike River mine and, like everyone, the Canterbury planners have been deeply saddened for our colleagues and their friends and family on the Coast.

In early September another West Coast Planning Forum was held in Greymouth. It was attended by Jane Douglas (el presidente), Susan Houston (CEO) and Kim Seaton (branch chair) and we were mightily impressed at the level of support for the event on the Coast, both from planners themselves and from those who are more generally involved in resource management. An NZPI membership drive and ethics CPD event was held in Timaru for the Sth Canterbury planners in October and we hope that that event will be the first of many future CPD events hosted in that part of the world. Also in October in Christchurch we hosted a visiting speaker Professor Bruce Glavovic, on disaster recovery lessons from Hurricane Katrina. The seminar was both interesting and pertinent to the developing post-earthquake situation in Christchurch and Bruce informed us that research will be undertaken in Christchurch over the next few years to monitor and analyse the recovery process.



## World Town Planning Day

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*Photos from Bruce Thompson's function*





## Upcoming Events

Our Christmas Lunch, in conjunction with RMLA, is scheduled to be held on 8 December 2010 at 'Ratbags' (corner Octagon and Lower Stuart Street). If you have not RSVPed yet, you can do so by emailing [dsyca-more@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:dsyca-more@dcc.govt.nz) before 2 December 2010. We look forward to catching up with everyone then and hope that we have a 'jolly good time!'.

If you wish to discuss any possible events, or want to run, host or sponsor any events please contact either:

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## Goings On

A "Natural Hazards Planning Seminar" was held on 26 November 2010. The presenters were Julia Becker from GNS Science and Glen Hughes Opus International Consultants. Julia addressed the question of whether current planning timeframes for natural hazards are enough. Glen discussed his experiences in the Christchurch earthquake in relation to trying to get infrastructure up and running again. Admission to this seminar was by donation with all proceeds being donated to the Canterbury Earthquake Relief Fund.

On 27 September 2010, the 1<sup>st</sup> year Master of Planning students, along with support from a number of local practitioners, participated in a mock hearing. The scenario for the mock hearing was a private plan change request which provided a new policy framework for the provision of wind turbines in rural areas. Not only was the mock hearing a worthwhile and valuable learning experience for the students, which they reportedly enjoyed, it was also rather entertaining. Well done to all of those involved.

Our last regular networking lunch was held on 16 September 2010, at 'Velvet Burger' on Lower Stuart Street. Around 30 local planning practitioners attended. We all got the opportunity to catch up with each other while enjoying some good food.

Otherwise, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone. See you in 2011.





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## Branch Happenings

Spring is upon us, and so is La Nina. She's making a strong appearance at the start of spring with consistent hot dry conditions indicating, from a meteorological perspective, the start of a cracker summer and, from a financial perspective, the time to buy shares in beers!

Lunchtime presentations organized by the Branch continued with recent events including:

- The Wakatipu Trails Trust and the implications of Queenstown's successful national cycleway bid
- Wilding Pines, the proposed NPS for Forestry and carbon credits

Measuring sustainability – comparing the adoption of the Natural Step in Whistler with the Queenstown's experience under the LGA & RMA

During the recent Council elections the Local Branch also organized a Mayoral Candidates 'hot tub' forum on planning issues, which was variously described as having been 'revealing', and 'got down to the bare bones where it mattered the most'.

We are looking forward to *Making Urban Design Work in Practice, Digging it into the Plan* which will be held in Queenstown in early December.

Preparations for this year's World Town Planning Day event were unfortunately unsuccessful. Due to a failure in spell checking apparatus the emails encouraging local branch members to become 'Planning Idols' actually exhorted people to be just 'Plain Idle'. Due to the unexpected success of this method, Council will be trialing a similar approach for notification of plan changes.

**From the Central Otago Branch we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year**





## RMLA / LGNZ Landscapes Roadshow

On Wednesday 10 November the RMLA / LGNZ landscapes Roadshow was held at Environment Southland in Invercargill. This event was well attended by local Branch members. The Branch appreciates RMLA / LGNZ bringing the roadshow to Southland.

## Wild the City Seminar—September

As part of the International Year of Biodiversity Tessa Bunny, a landscape architect from Dunedin, presented a talk entitled 'Wild the City' on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September in Invercargill. The seminar explored the benefits of creating wild spaces in urban places.

## Social Impact Assessment Presentation

On 27 September 2010 Justine Bray from Opus International Consultants gave a presentation on Social Impact Assessments to the Southland Branch of the NZPI at Environment Southland's Council Chambers in Invercargill. Justine spoke to the Branch about her experiences in preparing Social Impact Assessments in both New Zealand and overseas. The Branch would like to thank Justine and Opus for the presentation.

## Welcome

Welcome to Simon Moran who is the new Manager Resource Management at Southland District Council. Simon was previously Manager of Environmental and Planning Services at West Coast Regional Council.

## Southland Branch of NZPI Award

The Branch sponsored an award for the Bachelor of Environmental Management course at the Southern Institute of Technology which was won this year by Stephen Munro. As part of year three of the course students have to submit a research project with the Branch award going to the best project. His research project was titled *Comparative Analysis of PM<sub>10</sub> Levels: Tiwai Peninsula and Bluff* congratulations to Stephen.

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