

NZPI MEDIA RELEASE

Supreme Award to Auckland planner for Hobsonville Point project

An Auckland Planning Consultancy has scooped the Supreme Award at the 2014 New Zealand Planning Institute (NZPI) Awards, presented in Queenstown tonight, with two other Auckland planners also picking up awards.

The Gala Awards Dinner was the culmination of the NZPI's national conference and recognised winners from Auckland, Wellington, Kapiti and Canterbury.

NZPI CEO Susan Houston says the awards celebrate the important role of the planning profession in the community and highlight the best of the best from around the country.

"Planners are grappling with some of the most complex issues facing our communities today and the winners have all triumphed in their areas of expertise and made a positive impact on New Zealand communities," Ms Houston says.

Ponsonby-based Campbell Brown Planning Ltd won both the Nancy Northcote Supreme Best Practice Award and the Best Practice Award for Excellence in Integrated Planning for its work on the Sunderland Hobsonville Point Development Plan.

The award recognised that the plan has been carefully designed to provide a compact urban form while at the same time recognising and protecting a range of significant natural and heritage features that give the site its unique character. The plan provides for a range of housing choices and incorporates affordable housing. This includes attached and detached housing, innovative small house types, apartments and retirement living, as well as a neighbourhood centre.

Campbell Brown Planning's role was to actively participate in the design and development of the plan and to secure the necessary resource consent for the plan.

Judges described the project as demonstrating outstanding creativity and innovation in an example of best practice planning for a high quality urban environment.

In presenting the Supreme Award, the NZPI also acknowledged the outstanding contribution of other project team members, including The Hobsonville Land Company, Isthmus Group, Construct, Salmond Reed Architects, Flow Transportation and Harrison Grierson.

The University of Auckland's Dr Lee Beattie won the Wallace Ross Graduate Research Award for his PhD thesis which addresses the fundamental and critical question of whether or not district plans are actually delivering their intended planning outcomes. The research revealed several disconnects between intended and actual outcomes and concluded with a number of recommendations that could be used to improve the quality of planning practice in New Zealand.

Auckland Branch Young Planners representative Sebastian Clarke won the Reginald Hammond Scholarship, presented to a student in their final year of study for an accredited planning degree. He was recognised for his mentoring role for Maori and Pacific Island planning students and his role as an international buddy for planning students through the Planning School.

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New Zealand Planning Institute (NZPI)

The NZPI is the voice of planning in New Zealand. It is the professional organisation representing this country's planners, resource managers, urban designers, and environmental practitioners. Planners have a critical role in shaping New Zealand's future by helping to develop solutions to key issues, such as population growth, infrastructure needs, pressure on natural resources and environments, demographic change and transport. For more information visit www.planning.org.nz.

Note to media: Full citations for all NZPI Award winners are available on request.

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