

NZPI MEDIA RELEASE

Wellington and Kapiti Coast projects win planning awards

Wellington Zoo's Carbon Neutral project and the Kapiti Water Supply project were winners at the 2014 New Zealand Planning Institute (NZPI) Awards, presented in Queenstown tonight.

The Gala Awards Dinner was the culmination of the NZPI's national conference and recognised winners from Auckland, Wellington, Kapiti and Canterbury across 11 categories.

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.

Wellington Zoo's Carbon Neutral project was heralded as a world first, collaborative effort between a zoo and a planner steeped in greenhouse gas emission knowledge. The winning planner was James Luty of Beca, who was supported by the Wellington Zoo Trust and EnviroMark Solutions.

Mr Luty received the Best Practice Non Statutory Planning Award for his work with the zoo to obtain CarboNZero certification. The certification was a world first for a zoo and has led to significant discussion on the effects of climate change on biodiversity amongst zoos internationally. In the month that Wellington Zoo achieved certification, visitor numbers increased by 20% on the same period in the previous year.

The project was recognised for the award because it exhibited a new way forward for best management practice for complex problems specific to zoos.

Kapiti Coast District Council, Te Ati Awa ki Whakarongotai Water Working Group and CH2M Beca Ltd jointly received the Rodney Davis Project Award for their work on the Kapiti Water Supply project.

The Award recognises planning processes, evaluation of alternatives, decision making and any physical, economic, cultural or social change which resulted from the project.

Water management is recognised as one of the most significant issues facing New Zealand communities and the planning profession. The Awards judges said the winning project showed the benefits of high quality planning and innovation in responding to that issue and has delivered an outstanding outcome of a 100 year water supply for the Kapiti community.

The Nancy Northcroft Supreme Best Practice Award went to Auckland-based Campbell Brown Planning for its work on the Sunderland Hobsonville Point Development Plan.

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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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