

NZPI MEDIA RELEASE

7 November 2014

Wellington and Kapiti Coast planners win Distinguished Service Awards

Wellington planner Gina Sweetman and Waikane-based Stuart Kinnear are among four planners who have been honoured this week with Distinguished Service Awards from the New Zealand Planning Institute.

The NZPI Distinguished Service Awards recognise individuals who have made as a significant contribution to planning over many years, have undertaken original research which has advanced planning in New Zealand and overseas, have made a major contribution to the affairs of the NZPI, or have achieved national or international recognition as a leader in the planning profession.

Gina's award citation recognises her personal and professional passion for planning issues facing New Zealand today. With roles across central and local government and in private practice, as an NZPI Councillor (2006-2012) and as Editor of Planning Quarterly, Gina's contribution to the planning profession has been and continues to be wide ranging. Her technical expertise has seen her involved in developing amendments to the RMA and her strengths in communication and training have led to her designing and delivering RMA training courses to many audiences.

Stuart's award citation acknowledges that his award could well have come sooner. He began his planning career 46 years ago and continues to make a highly respected contribution to planning practice today. Stuart has 18 years experience as a Hearings Commissioner and has dealt with nearly 70 hearings covering a wide variety of topics. His strengths include what has been described as an encyclopaedic knowledge of planning, plans, case law, legislation and developments and his surveying and land development background is widely regarded as bringing an extra dimension to his work as a planner.

Gina Sweetman and Stuart Kinnear join Auckland Council planner Hayes Perkins and Christchurch's Bob Nixon in being recognised as leaders in their field in the 2014 awards.

NZPI CEO Susan Houston says all four 2014 Award recipients are not only among planning's leading lights but have made immense contributions over many years and their careers are stellar examples of positive planning in action.

“Planners in New Zealand have a critical and often thankless role in shaping our communities so it is important to recognise and celebrate their work. They are often at the forefront of solutions to some of our most complicated issues, from infrastructure development and transport requirements to protecting natural environments and resources,” Ms Houston says.

“This year’s award winners showcase what dedicated planners with a positive approach to planning can contribute to communities in New Zealand and internationally. Congratulations to all of them.”

For further information on the 2013 Distinguished Service Award winners visit www.planning.org.nz.

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