

NZPI MEDIA RELEASE

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Christchurch planner wins national Distinguished Service Award

Christchurch planner Bob Nixon is one of 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.

Bob's award citation recognises him as one of New Zealand's leading planning thinkers. Throughout his career Bob has made a significant contribution to planning practice with his leading role in the cutting edge Christchurch City Plan in 1991 and his vigorous defence of planning when the profession came under attack in the late 1990s. He also spent time on a work exchange at Norwich City Council in England and served on Ministerial Working Parties dealing with the RMA Amendment Bill and on the NZPI's National Council.

Bob Nixon joins Auckland Council planner Hayes Perkins, Wellington's Gina Sweetman and Waikanae-based Stuart Kinnear 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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