



# news



HEALTHY BUILT ENVIRONMENTS PROGRAM

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## A Word from the Director

**Summer holiday greetings to you as we farewell 2013 and welcome a new year.** 2014 promises to bring new challenges and opportunities for healthy planning as we increasingly focus on activating built environments to support wellbeing. The NSW Planning Bill 2013, debated in the State Parliament until late last year, includes specific health objectives framed around the notion of healthy built environments. At this point we don't know the outcome of the objective, nor the Bill (it's now back at the Department of Planning and Infrastructure for further consideration). What we do know is that more and more health professionals and urban planners recognise the crucial role that the built environment plays in supporting human health. The links between health and environmental sustainability policy and practice are also becoming better understood (see what's happening at the [CRC for Low Carbon Living](#)). Education and capacity building activities in healthy planning are growing. Last year the Healthy Built Environments Program undertook a series of workshops up-skilling the health and related workforce in understanding the planning system. Research into healthy built environments also continues to grow. Academic conferences are replete with papers crossing the health-built environment disciplinary divide. The most recent State of Australian Cities Conference showcased some of this scholarship (see item below). This year HBEP will be hosting a free symposium entitled 'Healthy built environments: Making it happen'. More news on this event soon, but for now please mark your diaries – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April (World Health Day). So, lots happening in the healthy built environments space!

## FitNSW

You are invited to a free forum exploring what we've achieved and what is being planned to encourage healthy built environments and increased active transport opportunities both internationally and across NSW. Join us on Wednesday 26 February 2014, from 8.30am to 1.00pm at Parliament House. Registration is essential – click [here](#) for all details.

## SOAC Conference

The [6<sup>th</sup> State of Australian Cities Conference](#) (SOAC) was held at the Shangri-La Hotel in Sydney from 26-29 November 2013. The conference is Australia's most important bi-annual meeting of urban scholars who present the latest research across a range of urban issues, including environment, economy, community, governance, design and transport. All papers presented at SOAC are fully refereed and if accepted, are published on the Conference website.

HBEP was delighted that Dr Jennifer Kent won the Peter Harrison Prize for the best PhD student paper at the Conference. The prize is awarded to the paper which is judged to make a distinctive contribution to knowledge and capacity for the ecologically sustainable development of Australian cities and regions. Jennifer's paper, 'Private Car

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Use as Resistance to Alternative Transport: Automobility's Interminable Appeal' is based on her doctoral research and explores the depth to which private car use is embedded in the everyday lives of Sydneysiders. Click on these links to read Jennifer's SOAC [paper](#) and her [PhD thesis](#).

The HBEP team also presented a paper on our ongoing ARC Linkage research into neighbourhood environments and health. You can read our paper [here](#).

There were many other healthy planning related papers presented at SOAC 2013. Enjoy some summer reading [here](#) – both papers and presentations are available!

*Right: Jennifer receives her award from Professor Stephen Dovers, Director of the Fenner School of Environment and Society at The Australian National University.*



## Obesity Australia Summit

The [2<sup>nd</sup> National Obesity Australia Summit](#) was held in Canberra on 28-29 November 2013. The theme of the Summit was 'Obesity: Understanding and Action'. HBEP Director Susan Thompson was invited to present on 'Creating Healthy Built Environments'. You can view the Summit program and Susan's presentation [here](#).

## Professor Andrew Dannenberg's visit

HBEP was delighted to host US Professor Andrew Dannenberg in December as part of his Fulbright Specialist Program in Australia. During Andy's visit to Sydney he presented two public lectures – one at Customs House in the Sydney CBD entitled 'How Can the Design of Our Cities Support Human Health and Sustainability?'. This lecture was audio recorded and will be available soon from our website. The other public lecture was presented at UNSW on research into healthy built environments. Entitled 'Healthy Community Design: Current Research and Opportunities', the slides can be accessed [here](#).

HBEP also held a curriculum development workshop for educators across Australia teaching healthy planning related courses. As well, NSW stakeholders were invited to a half day forum on activating healthy planning. We greatly benefited from Andy's international experience and expertise in a broad range of healthy built environment initiatives. Reports from the workshops have been prepared and will go up on our website soon.



IMAGES: (L-R): Andy lecturing, the UNSW lecture and the curriculum workshop



## LuminoCity

LuminoCity showcases the work of UNSW Built Environment graduating students, together with a dynamic program of public events. The 2013 event was a huge success. You can relive the memories [here](#). The HBEP also showcases exemplary student research in healthy built environments. Check this out [here](#).

## What's New on the HBEP Website?

We have several new reports on our [resources page](#):

[Sydney's Cycling Future](#) presents the NSW State Government's approach for cycling in Sydney to support the increasing numbers of cyclists riding for transport.

[Sydney's Walking Future](#) discusses how the NSW Government wants to get Sydney-siders walking more to make short trips and catch public transport. The aim is to make walking a more convenient, better connected and safer mode of transport.

[NSW Healthy Eating and Active Living Strategy](#) provides a whole of government framework to promote and support healthy eating and active living in NSW and to reduce the impact of lifestyle-related chronic disease.

## And Our Regular Website Features:

**New Planner column:** Read the latest [Healthy Built Environments column](#) in 'New Planner', which discusses the achievements of 2013, while warning against complacency.

Keep up-to-date with our [Fortnightly Literature Review](#) where we compile new research relating to the three key domains of healthy built environments.



*From the HBEP Team (with thanks to Emily Mitchell for her fantastic art work!!)*

Supported by



## HEALTHY BUILT ENVIRONMENTS PROGRAM

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