



news



HEALTHY BUILT ENVIRONMENTS PROGRAM

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A Word from the Director

Welcome to our second newsletter for 2012. In May I travelled to the United States visiting Portland, Oregon, and Seattle in Washington State. Portland is renowned for its healthy planning and in my time there I used the city's excellent light rail (very frequent and affordable services) and visited their wonderful farmers' market. I saw lots of walkers and cyclists enjoying this very liveable city. I presented a paper about the HBEP's work at the 49th International Livable Cities Conference. You can read more about the conference [here](#). When in Seattle, I visited colleagues at the University of Washington and spoke to their Healthy Places Research Group. Back home we have also been busy – read what we've been up to in our Newsletter.



Annual Report

We recently published the annual HBEP report for 2011 on our website. The report summarises our main activities and achievements and is available for download [here](#).

HBEP Submissions

The HBEP made a submission to the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure's Discussion Paper 'Sydney over the next 20 years'. We emphasised the importance of framing health as a central policy component of a new Sydney Metro Strategy, addressing key dimensions of healthy built environments through explicit policies and actions, and ensuring that the new Strategy has measurable targets. Read the HBEP submission on our website by clicking [here](#).

UNSW is now a smoke free campus - details can be found [here](#). The HBEP welcomes this initiative. We made a submission to the University supporting the overdue introduction of a smoke free campus. You can read it [here](#).

Events – Healthy Foods Forum May 1st

On May 1st, in collaboration with Kiama Council, the HBEP hosted a forum in Kiama focussing on how local councils can work with health agencies and the community to enhance access to healthy food. Local case studies were presented about healthy food initiatives in the Illawarra. The highlight was a visit to the Kiama community garden. In the [Online Education Resources](#) of the HBEP website read about the forum and view most presentations in the section called [Access to Healthy Food](#).

Density and Health

As we move towards more compact cities, the impact of density is increasingly debated and researched. The City Futures Research Centre at UNSW is grappling with some of these issues. Have a look at the Centre's High Density Living Program's [website](#). Urban consolidation and associated planning policies, strata and community title, demand drivers for higher density living, governing the compact city, and experiences of living in density are some of the topics considered. Read the recently published report 'Governing the Compact City: The role and effectiveness of strata management' which is available [here](#). You can also access the National Heart Foundation's literature review on the impact of density on a range of health outcomes. The report is available at [here](#).

Visit of Andy Dannenberg

In June, Dr Andy Dannenberg, Professor of environmental health, urban design and planning at the University of Washington, delivered a public lecture co-hosted by the HBEP and the NSW Premier's Council for Active Living (PCAL). Andy's lecture focused on healthy community design and active transportation issues in the US. This was set in the broader context of his recently co-edited book 'Making Healthy Places: Designing and building for health, well-being, and sustainability'. A recording of Andy's lecture will soon be available – we will let you know when it is on our website.

Healthy Cities Conference in Geelong

In June the *5th Australian Healthy Cities: Working Together to Achieve Liveable Cities Conference* was held in Geelong. HBEP Director Susan Thompson gave a presentation entitled 'Evidence Based Policy and Practice for Healthy Built Environments: The Three Domains'. Susan's talk was based on the Literature Review conducted by the Healthy Built Environments Program. For more information about the *Healthy Cities Conference*, including information on speakers and videos of some presentations, visit the [conference website](#).

ICSU Forum in Rio de Janeiro

HBEP Strategic Consultant Professor Tony Capon gave a presentation at a five-day Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development just prior to the Rio+20 Conference. A short piece that summarises the main messages of Tony's talk is available on '[The Conversation](#)'. Information on the Forum can be found on their [website](#).

What's New on the HBEP Website?

New Planner special issue:

This month's HBEP quarterly column in 'New Planner' is a special issue on healthy built environments and active living. The special issue was edited by HBEP Director Susan Thompson and Patrick Harris from the Centre for Health Equity Training, Research and Evaluation at UNSW. Articles include an overview of resources and tools for NSW planners keen to embrace healthy built environment issues in their work. HBEP Senior Research Officer [Klaus Gebel](#) co-authored a piece on the co-benefits for health from action on climate change. Further information about the special issue is available on the HBEP website [here](#).

e-Learning Resources:

We are continuing to add to our e-learning resources on the HBEP website. As well as the presentations from the Healthy Foods forum in Kiama (see earlier item) we have recently added a new video. Produced by UNSW TV it is entitled 'Feeding the Future – Part 2: Community Greengrocers' and features HBEP Director Susan Thompson talking about the multiple health benefits of community gardens. Not only do participants get access to healthy fresh produce, they are physically active, meet new friends and learn about sustainable garden practices. In some areas community gardens have extended to nature strips along residential streets. Neighbours meet each other, local communities are safer and there is more fresh food to eat. The video is available [here](#) along with the Part 1 video 'Food Security'.

Supported by



Built Environment



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City Futures Research Centre
Faculty of Built Environment
The University of New South Wales
Sydney NSW 2052 Australia

e: hbep@unsw.edu.au

w: <http://www.be.unsw.edu.au/programmes/healthy-built-environments-program/about>

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