



news



HEALTHY BUILT ENVIRONMENTS PROGRAM

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A Word from the Director

Welcome to our first newsletter for the year. The new HBEP website is now up and running with a range of resources – the layout differs from our old website but we hope it is easy to follow. We are developing e-learning resources to keep you abreast of the latest initiatives in healthy built environments. And don't forget about our fortnightly literature reviews – regular updates on the latest research on healthy built environments (see item below). There are some exciting conferences coming up too – details of these are on our website. So pay us a visit and all the best for your work in healthy built environments in 2012.

Changes at the HBEP

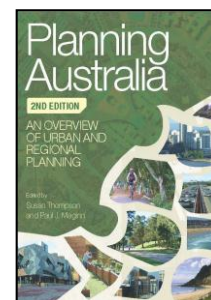
We are delighted to introduce Dr Klaus Gebel who is the new HBEP Senior Research Officer. Klaus joins the HBEP with a wealth of experience in physical activity and the ways in which the built environment can support people being active as part of everyday life. Originally from Germany, Klaus has studied and worked at seven universities in three countries and has received multiple scholarships and awards. And when he is not busy researching and writing, you can find Klaus catching public transport, playing beach volleyball and working out at the gym – he certainly walks the talk! You can read more about Klaus [here](#).



'Planning Australia' Textbook – Released

Planning Australia: An Overview of Urban and Regional Planning

The second edition of *Planning Australia: An Overview of Urban and Regional Planning* was published by Cambridge University Press in February 2012. Edited by HBEP Director Susan Thompson and Paul Maginn from the University of Western Australia, *Planning Australia* provides a comprehensive introduction to town planning in Australia. The second edition includes a new chapter on healthy planning, as well as lots of updated material. Click [here](#) for more information and an order form.



HBEP Submissions

The HBEP has made a submission to the [NSW Review of Strata and Community Laws](#). We focussed on the health benefits of pet ownership, such as encouraging recreational walking and socialisation, reducing stress and providing companionship. We argued that overly restrictive rules prohibiting responsible pet ownership are detrimental to physical and mental well-being. The full HBEP submission is available [here](#).

The HBEP also made a submission to the second phase of the [NSW Planning System Review](#). This builds on our submission to the first phase of the Review and was informed by a forum jointly hosted in January by HBEP and PCAL. The full HBEP submission is available [here](#).

HBEP Reports

The HBEP has released its [Research Strategy for 2012-2014](#). This provides direction for policy relevant research in healthy built environments. It identifies current gaps in research and prioritises projects that will help to build the evidence base for healthy built environments policy in NSW.

A report summarising the HBEP's 'End of Year Strategy Think Tank Meeting' has also been completed. This report summarises ideas for collaborative research projects, engaging a broader range of professionals in healthy built environments work and ways to improve how we communicate the healthy built environments message. The full report is available [here](#).

Fortnightly Literature Reviews

The HBEP undertakes a fortnightly review of new research relating to the three key domains of healthy built environments – Getting People Active, Connecting and Strengthening Communities and Providing Healthy Food Options – as well as other relevant policy and research. Healthy built environment related email alerts, websites and newsletters are checked for new publications, initiatives and news. All relevant research papers are tabulated, with web addresses, key words and a brief summary provided. These HBEP Literature Reviews can be found [here](#).

HNE Liveability Forum

In February Hunter New England Population Health hosted a Liveability Forum focussing on ways to create liveable communities in the Hunter. HBEP Director Susan Thompson gave a presentation on the [HBEP Literature Review](#). Two key resources were launched at the Forum: [Model for Working with Local Government to Create Liveable Communities](#) and a [Liveability Assessment Tool](#).

Events – Healthy Foods Forum May 1st

On May 1st the HBEP and Kiama Municipal Council will host 'Healthy Foods for Sustainable Communities: Building Local Partnerships'. The forum will be held in Kiama and will feature the excellent work being done to develop healthy food access in the Illawarra. Local case studies will be presented, including the Kiama Community Garden. Speakers include Kiama Mayor, Sandra McCarthy, NSW Health's Karen Tavener-Smith and Robyn Tindall, Wollongong Council's Vanessa John, Healthy Cities Illawarra's Kath Van Weerdenburg and HBEP Director Susan Thompson. This is a free event but you must register by April 23rd – email Klaus Gebel: k.gebel@unsw.edu.au.

What's New on the New HBEP Website?

Visit our [new website](#) for different research and educational resources – please note that we have a new URL: <http://www.be.unsw.edu.au/programmes/healthy-built-environments-program/about>

New Planner March Column:

The latest edition of the Healthy Built Environments column in the *New Planner* is about the effects that environments can have on children and what planners can do to create environments that support healthy behaviours in young people. The March edition is available [here](#).

e-Learning Resources:

In the [Online Education Resources](#) of the HBEP website we now provide links to several videos related to healthy built environments. The videos cover topics such as food security, climate change, the importance of social interactions for health, the health benefits of physical activity and healthy planning.

The HBEP website (<http://www.be.unsw.edu.au/programmes/healthy-built-environments-program/about>) provides information on a range of local and international healthy built environment initiatives. We welcome suggestions for inclusions on the web site.

Supported by



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