



Planning Research Centre Update 2009



Greetings to all of the members of the Planning Research Centre. Your PRC Council at its first meeting this year endorsed a busy plan for 2009 with a range of activities and events that we hope you will find relevant and beneficial.

Staff and administration

This year the PRC welcomed Professor Alan Peters as the new Director of the PRC and farewelled Professor Ed Blakely who, after five years as Director, has joined the United States Study Centre at University of Sydney. Ed played a fundamental role in the Faculty and as PRC Director, his work on the Metro Strategy and more recently his efforts overseeing the re-build of New Orleans are testaments to his skill and professional capacity. We are keen to see Ed maintain an active role with the PRC.

Professor Alan Peters is Head of Urban and Regional Planning at the Faculty of Architecture, Design & Planning. He comes to us from the USA where most of his work was on the impact of regulation and taxes on growth. Alan will be joined at the PRC by John Elliott, Faculty marketing manager, and Sue Lalor, marketing coordinator for administration assistance. These additional resources give us the capacity to better market our activities, conduct a wider range of events and communicate more effectively with our members.

Special thanks goes to Warren Julian, Dean, Faculty of Architecture, Design & Planning for his support and commitment which will ensure that the PRC has a successful year in 2009.

Research

We intend to restructure the PRC research activities to be more integrated into the research that is taking

place within the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning. The hope is that the PRC will then be better placed to improve the quality of decision making and information available to the planning profession.

Upcoming events

The PRC Council has endorsed a varied range of events for our 2009 program, they are:

- Current Thinking Seminars - this is a new series at which prominent researchers will talk about problems facing cities in NSW, Australia and the world.
- Sunset Seminars – this is an opportunity to hear politicians discuss current issues and is also a great place for members of the profession to meet and network.
- Planning Roundtable - leading planners in an open discussion.
- Short Courses - a range of short courses are currently in preparation; we hope to have more details to you in the next newsletter.
- Case Studies – this series will allow members of our profession to present case studies of planning activities and projects. This will create an opportunity to exchange information and ideas.

Looking forward to a great year. All the best.

The Hon. Craig Knowles
President, PRC Council

Our Contacts

The PRC is currently updating its databases so if you are aware of someone who should be receiving our newsletter please let us know so that we can include them on our list. Our new website (www.arch.usyd.edu.au/prc) will allow you to access all of the event information and maintain contact. Feel free to contact us:

PRC Councillors:

Craig Knowles (President)

www.investec.com

Terry Byrnes (Deputy President)

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Welcome from Professor Alan Peters



It is an exciting time to be the new Director of the Planning Research Council. We are preparing an exciting range of events and research activity that we hope will deliver real benefits to planners, developers and policy-makers, primarily in NSW where our research is focused.

In meeting with the PRC Council it was clear there is a need for ongoing, impartial and independent planning research in NSW. What is also apparent is the need for a mechanism to communicate the output of that research, and to encourage informed debate and discussion within the profession. These needs form the core of all Planning Research Centre activities and will drive the content of all our upcoming seminars, symposia, round-table discussions and training events.

I would like to join Craig Knowles in thanking Professor Ed Blakely for his work as Director and look forward to maintaining his involvement and support of the PRC in his new role with the US Studies Centre at the University of Sydney. Also thanks go to Warren Julian, the Dean of the Faculty, for continued support of the PRC, and to John Elliott, Sue Lalor, Carmen Lau and Julia Wilson, our marketing team, who, over the past few months, have put quite incredible effort into the PRC.

I think at this point I should introduce myself to those I have not already met. I joined the Faculty of Architecture, Design & Planning this past July as Professor and Head of Urban and Regional Planning. Prior to this I spent 18 years at the University of Iowa where I was Chair of the planning program. And before that lived on the American east coast and South Africa. Most of my research work has centred around the creation of large economic microsimulation models used to estimate the impact of regulation and taxation on economic growth. In fact, I have an on-going grant from the US National Science Foundation looking at precisely this issue. For the past decade and a half I have also been involved with the adaptation of Graphic Information Systems (GIS) to planning and the use of visualisation technology to simulate the shape of future development and the impact of regulatory changes on that development.

So while relatively new to Sydney I hope that planning knowledge and techniques can cross state and national boundaries; I look forward to making a useful contribution to planning in NSW. With the full resources of the academic team in Urban and Regional Planning, and support from the Faculty of Architecture, Design & Planning, the PRC will continue to provide its members, the profession and the broader community a unique academic, procedural and practical outlook on the key planning issues in NSW.

Looking forward to meeting you at our upcoming events.

Professor Alan Peters
Director, PRC Council

PRC Events

March

Current Thinking Seminar | George Galster

Date: Thursday 19 March 2009, 5.30 – 7.30pm

Location: Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning, 148 City Road, Darlington

Cost: Free

Speaker: George Galster, Distinguished Professor, Clarence B. Hilberry Professor of Urban Affairs, Wayne State University. George Galster is one of America's leading housing economists and will talk about the housing finance crisis in the US.

Current Thinking Seminar | Tim Beatley

Date: Tuesday 31 March 2009, 6.00 – 8.00pm

Location: Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning, 148 City Road, Darlington

Cost: Free

Speaker: Tim Beatley, Teresa Heinz Professor of Sustainable Communities at the University of Virginia and an internationally prominent planner, will launch a new book on sustainability and cities "Resilient Cities" written by Peter Newman, Tim Beatley and Heather Boyer. This event is jointly sponsored by PIA.

April

Sunset Seminars | Kristina Keneally

Speaker: The Hon. Kristina Keneally M.P., Minister for Planning

Date: Wednesday 8 April 2009, 5.30 – 7.30pm

Location: Holme Building, Science Road, University of Sydney

Cost: Free

May

Current Thinking Seminar | Book Launch

"Dialogues and Urban Planning: towards sustainable regions" is edited by Tony Gilmour, Ed Blakely with Raphael Pizzarro. There will be a small reception and the opportunity for an informal discussion of sustainability issues in NSW.

Date: Thursday 7 May 2009, 6.30 – 7.30pm

Location: Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning, 148 City Road, Darlington

Cost: Free

Upcoming Events

Planning Roundtable

"What's wrong with the system and how to fix it?"

This Planning Roundtable will involve leading planners in an open discussion to look at the planning system as it now is and the likely impacts of the Commonwealth Government's involvement via its various infrastructure packages on the assessment/approvals process. Information about this event will be sent out to you soon. Stay tuned for details.

Case Studies

Port Macquarie Case Study

The PRC will conduct a series of events which will allow members of our profession to present case studies of planning activities and projects. This will create an opportunity to exchange information and ideas. The first case study will be a jointly sponsored PRC/PIA event looking at development in Port Macquarie. Stay tuned for details.

Short Courses

Planning short courses have always been an important activity for the Faculty and PRC. It is important to note that later this year some PRC events will qualify as CPD activities, and, in some cases, constitute advanced standing for postgraduate study. Stay tuned for details.

Registration and further information

To register for these events or for more information please contact:

Sue Lalor on slalor@arch.usyd.edu.au or (02) 9114 0941 or have a look on the PRC website: www.arch.usyd.edu.au/prc