Re-imagining the Australian Suburb

Seminar Program

2:00 - 2:10 Introduction and Welcome
2:10 - 2:15 Dr Robin Hirst, Director collections, research & exhibitions, Melbourne Museum

Welcome to the Melbourne Museum

2:20 - 2:50 Keynote Speaker: Dr Peter Newman, Director for Sustainability and Technology Policy, Murdoch University

Re-imagining the Old Suburb and the New Suburb in Australian Cities
Peter will provide an overview of sustainability as a means of re-imagining the Australian suburb in older areas and in new land releases. He will cover the eight sustainability criteria he has developed and applied in suburban Sydney and at Rockbank in Melbourne.

2:50 - 3:20 Tim Grant, Manager LCA projects, Centre for Design

The Eco-Footprint of Aurora
Tim will speak about the use of the Ecological Footprint methodology and how it has been applied to a master planned community development, Aurora, situated in Epping North. Aurora, by VicUrban, has been designed to be a sustainable suburb. Tim will examine how the eco-footprint of Aurora compares to that of another community that does not have sustainability features included in its design.

3:20 - 3:40 Alex Lechner, Masters Student, RMIT University

Dynamic Landscape Model for the Southern Brown Bandicoot
The Southern Brown Bandicoot is listed as an endangered species. Alex will discuss the development of a population viability (PVA) model for populations in Melbourne. This can be used to test the impact of different landscape scenarios to determine what management actions will have the greatest effect in decreasing its risk of a localised extinction.

3:40 - 4:00 Lisa Opray, Research Consultant, Centre for Design

Yarra Valley Water, Sustainability of Alternative Water and Sewerage Servicing Options
Lisa will speak about the environmental impacts of providing different water and sewerage services to future greenfield and infill developments.

4:00 - 4:20 Ralph Horne, Director, Centre for Design

International comparison of building energy performance standards
How do Australian homes compare with the rest of the world? Ralph’s presentation will examine the energy performance of Australian homes compared to houses in the United States, Canada and United Kingdom as rated by AccuRate software.

4:20 - 4:50 Ascelin Gordon, Post Doctoral Research Fellow, RMIT University

Developing tools to preserve biodiversity in urban fringe areas
Ascelin will talk about the factors involved in creating models to help preserve biodiversity in urban fringe suburbs. The aim of his research is to produce tools to help local governments and developers plan their future development sites so that the flora and fauna in the local area can continue to thrive.

4:50 - 5:00 Session Close

About the Project

Re-imagining the Australian Suburb is an umbrella research project which uses a triple helix approach – examining the social, economic and environmental consequences of current housing development and the potential in the future for this to be more sustainable.

The project is a collaborative effort involving the work of research managers, PhD and masters students. We work closely with industry partners such as the City of Whittlesea, VicUrban, Stockland, Metricon, Australand, Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority, to name just a few, to develop information and frameworks that will aid the integration of sustainability into industry processes and policy.

Visit our website www.re-imagining.org.au

Speakers

Peter Newman is the Professor of City Policy and Director of the Institute for Sustainability and Technology Policy, at Murdoch University. He is Chair of the Western Australian Sustainability Roundtable advising the Premier on how to implement their Sustainability Strategy. Peter’s book with Jeff Kenworthy ‘Sustainability and Cities: Overcoming Automobile Dependence’ was launched in the White House in 1999 and his 2001 co-authored book is called Back on Track: Rethinking Australian and New Zealand Transport. In 2004 he was made a Sustainability Commissioner in NSW.

Tim Grant is manager of the Life Cycle Assessment project area at Centre for Design at RMIT. Tim has been working with the Centre for Design at RMIT University since 1996, focusing on Life Cycle Assessment and EcoDesign projects, and has been the Assistant Director of the Centre for Design since June 2003.

Alex Lechner is currently completing a Masters in Geospatial Science at RMIT. His interest is in the use of technology such as GIS, remote sensing and the web as tools for land management. His background is in ecology, GIS and IT.

Lisa Opray is a researcher at the Centre for Design. She has worked with large engineering consultancies where she specialised in hydrogeology.

Ralph Horne is Director of the Centre for Design. He is a specialist in environmental management tools and sustainable development initiatives, and has extensive experience in Environmental Impact Assessment, Life Cycle Analysis, and Environmental Management Systems and auditing. He has developed his interests through commercial consultancy, academic research and teaching.

Ascelin Gordon is a post doctoral research fellow at RMIT. His research aim is to develop a more strategic approach to conservation planning in urban environments using recent advancements in ecological modelling and mathematical optimisation.

Seminar 2005

A series of presentations that explore issues surrounding sustainable urban development

Keynote Speaker

Professor Peter Newman, Director for Sustainability and Technology Policy, Murdoch University

Tuesday 18 October
2pm - 5pm
The Age Theatrette, Lower Ground Floor, Melbourne Museum
Cost: Museum entry - $6, concession - free
Re-imagining the Australian Suburb

is presented with the assistance of:

RMIT University
School of Social Science and Planning

Also on the day...

Water Futures 2:
A series of presentations that explore water conservation and re-use in urban areas

Tuesday 18 October
9am - 1pm

The museum entry fee is applicable to both seminars
For more information on this seminar visit www.rmit.edu.au/re-imagining/events

We would also like to thank our Re-imagining the Australian Suburb project partners:

VicUrban
Stockland
Port Philip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority
City of Whittlesea
Hume City Council
Department of Sustainability and Environment - Biodiversity and Natural Resources Division
Yarra Valley Water
City West Water
Origin Energy
Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria
Building Commission
Delfin Lend Lease
Hassell Architects
Melbourne Water
Metricon Homes
Australand

Registration

To register your interest for our seminar, simply email or fax the following details:

+ Name
+ Number and names of attendees
+ Organisation
+ Contact phone number

by email to margaret.lee@rmit.edu.au or by fax 03 9639 3412

Payment is the Museum's admission fee of $6 for Adults and free for Concession Card holders. This is payable on the day at front counter.