

SMART URBAN FUTURES

MARCH 25 & 26 2015

Rydges, 186 Exhibition Street, Melbourne

National Conference

Building Liveable, Walkable, Sustainable Communities

Following the success of the inaugural Smart Urban Futures Conference in 2014, the 2015 event will be bigger and better: more international speakers, more case studies and more things to do.

The world is transforming rapidly. Communities of the future will have older populations and be more energy conscious, with residents struggling to balance their lifestyle and health. Cities and towns will compete with each other to provide the best lifestyle, in order to attract residents, visitors and businesses. Communities that are not built for people will face a declining future. Walkability is increasingly seen as the single most important dimension to next-generation urban planning. It underpins the development of the networked, collaborative society that is rapidly evolving.

This conference will examine how to design communities to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Key themes include:

- Common solutions to the multiple challenges of climate change, the obesity epidemic and an ageing population
- Creating dynamic urban spaces, including shared space strategies
- The walking economy – why the knowledge economy will be powered by feet
- Using walking as the design paradigm for urban developments
- Maintaining independent mobility into old age
- Using tactical urbanism, community-led initiatives and place-making to transform urban areas
- Working with developers and greenfield design
- Strategies for regional cities and towns
- Active transport approaches and a new look at shared paths.

This ground-breaking, inclusive event will feature a range of significant global and local case studies and world-class presenters including:

- **Jason Roberts (USA):** an inspiring speaker and co-founder of the Better Block movement, supporting communities to transform their streets.
- **James Lunday (NZ):** One of the leading urban designers in Australia and New Zealand, passionate about creating dynamic spaces for people in both town and country.
- **Roz Hansen:** former Chair, Victorian Metropolitan Planning Strategy Ministerial Advisory Committee.
- **Ben Hamilton-Baillie (UK):** urban designer and movement specialist, described as 'the leading international expert on the development of Shared Space' (remote presentation).
- **Walkshops:** explore the initiatives the City of Melbourne has taken to improve the CBD for walking.

Who Should attend: Councillors, directors, planners, urban designers, sustainability officers, transport planners, traffic engineers, asset managers, physical health promotion practitioners and anyone wanting to engage communities to revitalise the streets.

Conference presented by the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and Victoria Walks



SMART URBAN FUTURES

Wednesday,
March 25



8.30AM REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

9AM WELCOME FROM MAV PRESIDENT AND VICTORIA WALKS CHAIR

9.15AM EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES TO REVITALISE THE STREET

• **Jason Roberts, The Better Block, betterblock.org (USA)**

Jason Roberts is an inspiring speaker and co-founder of the Better Block movement, which has exploded across North America. The Better Block project is a demonstration tool that acts as a living charrette so that communities can actively engage in the buildout process and provide feedback in real time.

• **Sara Stace, Executive Director, Link.Place.Live**

A consultant specialising in active travel, urban design and policy, Sara is also a key player in the community driven Park to Pacific project, revitalising Clovelly Road in eastern Sydney.

10.25AM 'THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT – A CRITICAL HEALTH ISSUE,' DIANA HEGGIE, CEO, HEART FOUNDATION OF VICTORIA

As CEO of the Heart Foundation Victoria, Diana has over 30 years experience working in the community sector. She has a keen interest in the creation of environments which support health and wellbeing, an area of work in which the Heart Foundation has been a leader for more than a decade.

10.55AM MORNING TEA

11.20AM 'DESIGNING URBAN VILLAGES – TOWN AND COUNTRY,' JAMES LUNDAY, PRINCIPAL, COMMON GROUND STUDIO (NZ)

James Lunday has been a leading urban designer in Australia, New Zealand and internationally for 35 years. He is the recipient of awards in architecture, planning, landscape and economic development and has recently won design competitions in China and Kuwait. He is currently immersed in the rebuilding after the Christchurch earthquakes. The advent of personal transport reshaped our cities, but market forces have seen a return to the idea of community. People who can afford to are escaping to "Global Villages", Surrey Hills, South Yarra, Soho, Islington, Ponsonby. James' presentation will outline rural and urban projects that are attempting to reproduce the walkable communities that existed before the car and critically look at the role of the private sector in delivering the new Global village.

12.05PM PLANNING FOR MELBOURNE: WHAT NOW?', ROZ HANSEN, ROZ HANSEN CONSULTING AND ADJUNCT PROFESSOR DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

An urban and regional planner with more than 30 years experience working in Australia and the Asia Pacific Region, Roz was previously Managing Director of Hansen Partnership and Chair of the Victorian Metropolitan Planning Strategy Ministerial Advisory Committee.

12.45PM LUNCH (INCLUDING OPTIONAL SHORT WALK)

1.35PM PARALLEL SESSIONS: ATTENDEES TO CHOOSE WHICH STREAM THEY WILL ATTEND

Working with developers in growth areas',

Building walkable, liveable places from the ground up is particularly challenging – how can we do it in practice?

• **Mike Day, Director, Roberts Day**

Mike will explore how greenfield development can be designed to stand the test of time, using real world examples from Perth and Melbourne.

• **Sue Wiblin, National Manager – Community Engagement and David Sleet, Development Manager Retail and Major Projects, the GPT Group**

Building a walkable town centre out of nothing – is it possible? Yes. Sue and David will tell the story of Rouse Hill, a walkable town centre in the growth areas of northern Sydney, from a developer's perspective.

• **Panel discussion**

Regional transport planning:

Regional towns face their own challenges – how do we get people active when it is so easy to drive?

• **Trevor Budge, City of Greater Bendigo Strategy Manager: Travel motivators in regional cities.**

Bendigo's Active Living Census drew an amazing 17,500 responses. What does it tell us about the aspirations of residents and how to build liveable regional cities?

• **Active travel planning in the regions – Jodie Fincham, Recreation and Events Coordinator, Colac-Otway Shire Council and Jonathan Daly, Founding Director, Huss**

The development and delivery of an active transport strategy for the Colac Otway Shire, from two different perspectives. Jonathan will discuss the environmental psychology based framework behind the strategy, and Jodie will talk about the successes and challenges of delivering for walking and cycling in Regional Victoria.

2.25PM 'CONNECTIVITY AND PRODUCTIVITY: WALKING TO ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS'

- **'Rethinking success in regional and suburban centres,' Knowles Tivendale, Principal, Phillip Boyle & Associates**
Drawing on a range of largely unpublished research over the last decade, Knowles will look at how people travel to suburban and regional activity centres, how that compares to retailers' perceptions, and what it means for building economically successful places.
- **'Walkability in the knowledge economy,' Terry Rawnsley, Partner, SGS Economics and Planning**
Quantifying the benefits of walk connectivity and agglomeration economies is an emerging area. Using available data for the City of Melbourne and methodologies previously used to assess road and rail projects, estimates of the impact of walk connectivity and its economic value have been made.

3.15PM 'EMERGING ISSUES IN THE WORLD OF WALKABILITY', BEN ROSSITER, EXECUTIVE OFFICER, VICTORIA WALKS

A longstanding campaigner for streets for people, Ben led the establishment of Victoria Walks and is a regular speaker at conferences on liveable communities. Ben will review recent research and the trends of 2014, before looking at the challenges and opportunities of the year ahead.

3.40PM AFTERNOON TEA

4.05PM PARALLEL SESSIONS: ATTENDEES TO CHOOSE WHICH STREAM THEY WILL ATTEND

Local Government case studies: Practical examples of how to build smarter urban futures

- **Mark Griffin, Manager Engineering Services City of Marion (SA): 'Walking and Cycling - Strategy to Implementation.'**

The City of Marion has developed its strategies and plans and has now commenced the implementation of a number of key walking initiatives. These implementations not only enhance walking but the local environment and amenity.

- **Peter Duffy, Senior Transport Planner, Sunshine Coast Regional Council: Sunshine Coast Active Transport Strategy**

How to ensure planning for active transport is current, consistent and coordinated.

- **Michael Oke, Environmental Coordinator, City of Yarra: Yarra Council's sustainability program**

In August 2014, Yarra Council's world-class sustainability program saw it become the first Australian local government to achieve national certification against the One Planet Council standard and only the third Council in the world to do so.

Walkshops, hosted by City of Melbourne

View recent initiatives to support active travel in the CBD and get the back story on how it happened

Choose from:

1. **Building a walkable city – practical actions from the Melbourne Walking Plan. Led by Damon Rao, Senior Transport Planner**

Or

2. **Cycling infrastructure that works for everyone. Led by Richard Smithers, Coordinator Transport Policy**

5.20PM INFORMAL NETWORKING FUNCTION

6PM CLOSE

Thursday, March 26

9AM '23 AND A HALF HOURS': SHORT VIDEO

9.05AM SHARED SPACE: A RETURN TO SOCIAL STREET DESIGN', BEN HAMILTON-BAILLIE, HAMILTON-BAILLIE ASSOCIATES (UK). (REMOTE PRESENTATION)

Described as 'the pre-eminent shared space guru in the world', Ben is an architect, urban designer and movement specialist based in Bristol, England. His work on shared space and the factors that promote civility has helped transform established assumptions and practice in the UK surrounding traffic engineering, speed and safety. Ben will speak to his presentation remotely and be available for questions via audio link.

9.40AM 'MAKING THE TRAFFIC MODEL YOUR SLAVE, NOT YOUR MASTER', STEVEN BURGESS, PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT, MRCAGNEY

Steven is an experienced traffic engineer and former manager of transport and planning at City Design (Brisbane City Council). He is the principal author of 'Complete Streets - Guidelines to Urban Street Design' and a popular speaker at Australian and international conferences.

10.10AM PANEL DISCUSSION – DESIGNING STREETS FOR PEOPLE

James Lunday, Steven Burgess, Nigel Smith

10.40AM MORNING TEA**11.05AM PARALLEL SESSIONS: ATTENDEES TO CHOOSE WHICH STREAM THEY WILL ATTEND****'Age-friendly design to maintain mobility'**

Building liveable communities to meet the challenges of an ageing population

- **Kathleen Brasher, Manager Community Participation, COTA Victoria**
'Older People Maintaining Mobility – why, where and how?
- **Jose Mantilla, Director, movendo**
Walking is increasingly important for independent mobility as people get older. Jose will outline new research, funded by the TAC, on how to design streets to make it safer and easier for seniors to walk in their community.

'Pedestrians with impaired vision – into the mainstream'

- **Marcus Bleachmore, Government Relations Advisor, Vision Australia and Duane Burr, Walkable Communities Advisor, Victoria Walks**
Marcus and Duane will demonstrate new tools to assess walkability for the increasing number of people who are blind or have low vision.

'Build it and they may not come - capturing latent demand for walking with infrastructure and behaviour change'

Infrastructure and behaviour change are usually addressed separately, but synergies emerge when they are brought together.

- **Hywel Rowlands, Strategic Transport Planner, City of Boroondara**
Hywel is an experienced international transport strategist and researcher, responsible for the Principal Pedestrian Network Demonstration project in Camberwell. He will outline the infrastructure and targeted behaviour change campaign that increased walking participation and reduced car use.
- **Nigel Smith, Precinct Designer, Yarra Ranges Shire Council**
Nigel currently leads capital works planning for the Yarra Ranges' 54 townships. The "Lilydale – Made for Walking" Project brought together research, design, delivery and promotion strategies resulting in significant increases in walking in Lilydale and a 150% increase in walking infrastructure investment.

Sarah Maddock, Place Facilitator, Adelaide City Council: 'Placemaking in Adelaide – Relationships, Roadblocks and Results'

Placemaking successes have been underpinned by the development of relationships, the building of trust and the energy of businesses, residents and property owners but haven't been without roadblocks.

12.20PM LUNCH (INCLUDING OPTIONAL SHORT WALK)**1.20PM PARALLEL SESSIONS: ATTENDEES TO CHOOSE WHICH ONE THEY WILL ATTEND****Shared Paths: what is their role?**

Shared paths are a common way of providing for cyclists and walkers, but are they working for both?

- **Duane Burr, Walkable Communities Advisor, Victoria Walks** - the walking perspective.
- **Bart Sbeghen, Bike Futures Manager, Bicycle Network** - the cycling perspective.
- Group discussion, moderated by **Cameron Munro, Director, CDM Research**

Michael Niewestee, Research Manager Road Safety, Transport Accident Commission

What are the causes of crashes affecting vulnerable road users?

'Creating people focused urban places by putting walkability first', Anne Matan, Curtin University Sustainable Policy Institute

Anne will discuss measuring the links between active transport, urban form, human health and economic outcomes.

2.20PM AFTERNOON TEA**2.40PM 'UNDERSTANDING THE DRIVERS OF CHILDREN'S INDEPENDENT MOBILITY,' BRUCE BOLAM, EXECUTIVE MANAGER PROGRAMS GROUP, VICHEALTH**

In recent years VicHealth has supported a variety of research on the factors influencing travel to school and children's independent mobility. Their most recent report is Beyond the bubble wrap: Understanding parents' fears in allowing their children to play and travel independently.

3.10PM 'PUBLIC TRANSPORT, URBAN DESIGN AND WALKING', PROFESSOR GRAHAM CURRIE, MONASH UNIVERSITY

Professor Currie is Chair, Public Transport and Director of Research (Transport Engineering) at Monash University. He holds Australia's first professorship in public transport, where he researches and provides training in public transport planning.

3.40PM WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS**4PM CLOSE****COST:**

\$585 (including GST)

TO REGISTER:

For online registration and conference details go to www.mav.asn.au/events (click on 'upcoming events' and scroll down to March 25).

QUERIES:

MAV jhennessy@mav.asn.au
Victoria Walks dburr@victoriawalks.org.au

Note: Program subject to change. Please see web site (www.mav.asn.au/events) for any updates.

ACCOMMODATION: SUGGEST:

Mercure Hotel, 13 Spring Street, Melbourne. Toll free: 1800 813442 or

Rydges Melbourne, 186 Exhibition Street (03 96620511)