



EDITORIAL

Special Issue on Building Better Towns and Communities

Welcome to the 9th Volume of the *Lincoln Planning Review*! Almost a decade ago the then National Government launched a major change in Government research funding. After a major public consultation process there was a significant shift from a competitive tender system of awarding research contracts to one that required the various research providers to collaborate to meet a set of 11 National Science Challenges. This meant, as one CEO stated at the 2015 launch of a challenge team, that “we may not have all the best individual researchers, but we are confident we have the best teams”. This year planners are starting to see the fruits of that research.

The Australian and New Zealand Planning Schools (ANZAPS) Conference, reported in this issue, was supported by *National Science Challenge 11 – Better Homes, Towns and Cities*. It was opened by Andrew Crisp, the new CEO of the recently established Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, who provided a much appreciated presence for the entire first day of urban planning research presentations. His key message was that the Ministry is not just building houses but is about building and strengthening communities. This is music to the ears of planners and an attitude that *LPR* strongly supports.

In recognition, this issue of *LPR* is our first *Special Issue* with a theme dedicated to rural towns (Oamaru, Timaru and Kaiapoi) and community development. It features three articles by members of the *Challenge 11* team and students the challenge supports. Continuing our close connection with environmental management, there is also a research article by MPlan alumni Stephanie Dwyer and former Lincoln staff member Dr Ronlyn Duncan on biosecurity and ‘lake snow’. This should be compulsory reading for those heading to the southern lakes this summer!

In an enhancement of our previous practice, not only have the four research articles been subject to our usual double blind peer review, but the number of reviewers has been increased to include at least one practising planner among the three reviewers of each article. We have decided to continue with this model in future and wish to thank all of our reviewers and copy editors for their work on this issue.

Two of the three research articles are co-authored by Dr Mike Mackay who has recently been appointed inaugural Director of Lincoln University’s new *Centre of Excellence: Sustainable Tourism for Regions, Landscapes and Communities*, reflecting the importance of tourism to the planning and development of our rural towns. The third article, continues Dr Su Vallance’s strong support for *LPR* and urban resilience as she co-authors with final year MPlan student Mithran Ramesh-Gopinath an initial report on their work on the post-quake outcomes for Kaiapoi. Dr Vallance takes over the role of Director of the MPlan in January 2019.

This issue includes two field notes with interesting data and book reviews of recent publications whose authors include Lincoln

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staff or alumni. In furthering our mission of bridging the gap between academia and practice, we continue to provide a selection of profiles of our staff and some recent alumni, information on awards, new partnerships and programmes, conference reports and lists of planning relevant research outputs by our staff and students.

This is also the first issue where we have used the Open Journal Software throughout and this has made the process run much more smoothly and enabled the workload to be more easily spread between the members of our excellent editorial and OJS support team. All will be continuing with us in 2019, enabling us to return to two separate issues of *LPR* each year.

Also a first, we include a reflective poem about the third year professional practice students, penned by contract lecturer Laurie McCallum, read to an appreciative audience of students and others at the end of the semester. Enjoy!

Hamish Rennie
Editor-in-Chief