

The Australia and New Zealand Association of Planning Schools (ANZAPS)

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Foreword

I'm pleased to prepare this brief background note about ANZAPS at the request of the editors of *Lincoln Planning Review*. It is an abbreviated version of a history of ANZAPS, which is currently being prepared following a resolution at the most recent ANZAPS meeting, held in Christchurch in April this year.

Foundations

The Australia and New Zealand Planning Schools Association is a scholarly society formed by the urban planning schools and programs at Australian universities – Canberra, Curtin, Edith Cowan, Griffith, La Trobe, Macquarie, Melbourne, New England, Charles Darwin (Northern Territory), Queensland, QUT, RMIT, South Australia, Sunshine Coast, Sydney, UNSW, UTS, Western Australia and Western Sydney – and New Zealand universities – Auckland, Lincoln, Massey, Otago and Waikato – as well as planning educators and individuals concerned with urban and regional planning education and research. The original membership was smaller than this but there has been no attempt to restrict membership so that newly created planning schools or programs are able to join.

Membership and structure

Membership of ANZAPS is through subscription to the listserv 'RePlan' (replan@listserv.uts.edu.au) and attendance at an annual meeting.

ANZAPS has a minimum of hierarchy and bureaucracy. The host of the annual meeting is the president of the association until the conclusion of the next annual meeting. There is no membership fee and no registration fee for the annual meeting.

Activity

Since its formation ANZAPS has held an annual conference of planning schools at venues ranging from Perth to Auckland and from Darwin to Dunedin.

The most common type of ANZAPS meeting has taken place over a weekend. Generally participants have arrived on a Friday afternoon and the structure of the program has been roughly as follows:

- a formal/informal opening session on the Friday evening
- a full day of papers on the Saturday
- a dinner on the Saturday evening
- a session on Sunday morning (ending at lunchtime or early in the afternoon) addressing issues such as accreditation policy, World Planning School Congresses, news of developments at individual planning schools and confirming

the venue and rough dates for the next ANZAPS meeting. Choice of venue has sought to take account of a balance between Australian and New Zealand hosts, such that the conference goes to NZ roughly every third year. Some ANZAPS conferences have been organised collaboratively between universities in the same city or state.

Recently some conferences, including Lincoln, have been longer, extending over 2-3 days. Field trips have also been part of some ANZAPS conferences.

Theme(s) of ANZAPS conferences

In recent times there has been a regular debate about whether ANZAPS should confine itself primarily to issues of planning education and pedagogy, or whether it should also include general research papers by planning school staff and research students on a variety of planning-related themes. I was always a proponent of the former view, on the basis that there are plenty of conference opportunities for planning academics and PhD students to present their research, but only one opportunity - ANZAPS - to engage in scholarly discussion of planning education.

Recent ANZAPS conferences have included refereed papers because of the pressure on academics, in Australia at least, to attend refereed conferences and to publish in refereed journals. Academics at some planning schools also find it difficult to obtain funding to attend unrefereed conferences. However, to date, ANZAPS conferences have managed to retain room in their programs for a number of presentations of a 'show and tell' character on work in progress, on teaching, or on educational innovations; none of which are refereed. Research students have also presented their work at some ANZAPS conferences.

Maintaining the ANZAPS network between conferences 'RePlan' has been the main means of communication between ANZAPS members. This mailing list has worked splendidly since its establishment by Jeremy Dawkins at UTS. It is now maintained by Associate Professor Paul Maginn at UWA.

ANZAPS has also had a website for a number of years, thanks largely to the efforts of Angus Witherby at UNE. As with most websites, there is a challenge in keeping this up to date and its future is currently under review.

ANZAPS on the international stage

Collaboration between international planning school networks began in earnest in the 1990's with the first joint conferences between AESOP (Europe) and ACSP (North America) taking place in Oxford in 1991 and Toronto in 1996. Discussions took place on the possibility of expanding the conference to include

the other planning school associations active at that time - APSA and ANZAPS. Jeremy Dawkins was a major contributor to these discussions.

Steve Hamnett was the ANZAPS representative on the international steering committee that undertook the planning for the first World Planning Schools Congress, which was held in Shanghai in 2001. The other members were Michael Hibbard (ACSP), Louis Albrechts (AESOP) and Anthony Yeh (APSA). The local chair was Professor Zhiqiang (Siegfried) Wu, Dean of Architecture and Planning at Tongji University (and now director of the Shanghai Expo).

In the course of the Shanghai conference it was decided to set up GPEAN – the Global Planning Education Association Network. Two GPEAN committees were set up - a general committee and one charged with the specific task of planning for the next WPSC, which eventually took place in Mexico in 2006. Angus Witherby and Michael Gunder were the ANZAPS nominees on these two committees. Their roles have now been taken over by Ali Memon and Jo Rosier. The next World Planning Schools Congress is being hosted by ANZAPS in Perth, Western Australia, in July 2011. Details at <http://www.wpsc2011.com.au/>

The network of global planning school associations now extends to include ANZAPS, the Association of African Planning Schools (AAPS), the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning [USA] (ACSP), the Association of Canadian University Planning Programs (ACUPP), the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP), the Latin American Association of Schools of Urbanism and Planning (ALEUP), the National Association of Urban and Regional Post-graduate and Research Programs [Brazil] (ANPUR), the Association for the Development of Planning Education and Research (APERAU) and the Asian Planning Schools Association (APSA).

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Photo courtesy of Gary Middle ANZAPS conference