

Nathan Collins

Renewing Minto: An Analysis of the Minto Renewal Project

In May 2002, the New South Wales Department of Housing announced that it would be undertaking a dramatic urban renewal project on the Minto public housing estate. This would involve the demolition of a significant proportion of existing dwellings and extensive redevelopment of the whole estate. The Minto estate had been developed in the 1970s based upon Radburn design principles. Since its inception, the estate had gradually deteriorated physically and had become an area of concentrated social exclusion. The Minto Renewal Project was introduced in an effort to remedy the social, cultural and environmental problems caused. The Project implements new urban design principles to address the issues created by the original Radburn layout. The Project also introduces social mix in an effort to bring diversity to the renewed community. This thesis aims to investigate whether such an urban renewal project can have a positive impact on an existing public housing estate. The results indicate that although there will be some negative impacts on the existing tenant population, the Minto Renewal Project will provide long term benefits for the estate and its future residents.

Matt Cooper

Creating Communities: An investigation of Community Title Schemes

This thesis is about planning for communities. ‘The most challenging assignment for developers on the urban fringe is creating a sense of “community” or “place” which, in its basest sense means the community having ready access to the range of social and physical infrastructure one would normally associate with an established community’ (Webster 2004). Master Planned Community Title estates have created unique opportunities for developers and councils to fashion new communities through the provision of a high level of amenity and facilities. These developments, however, face the challenge of providing a sense of ‘community’ through built form and service provision that was not traditionally required or expected in lower density suburbs of the past. The extent to which a sense of community exists within residential developments has thus become a significant contributor to improving the quality of life within Master Planned estates. This thesis examines the extent to which Community Title developments create a sense of community and explores the factors driving the proliferation of these developments. Overall, the research investigates whether Community Title schemes are an effective subdivision tool to facilitate the creation of Master Planned estates and whether such residential developments are actually creating better communities.

Renee Coull

Lifestyles of the Third Age (L3A)

The retirement industry is bound for rapid expansion with baby boomers entering their 'Third Age', a time of relative independence beyond the years of family and employment responsibilities. Many retirement villages aim to provide not only housing, but also safe and enjoyable communities for residents, well provided with facilities and services, where retirees can embark on rewarding lifestyles in their third age (L3A). But how do people make their retirement housing decisions? And what role might their children play in this process, a perspective often lacking in research about seniors and their housing decisions? This thesis explores these questions through a series of in-depth interviews with seniors living in retirement villages and independently on the NSW Central Coast. Their children were also interviewed. Key findings of the research relate to generally positive perceptions of retirement housing lifestyle options in retirement villages, the extent to which feelings of community develop, and the nature of children's role in their parents' decision-making process. The findings point to how the development industry might better respond to the desires and expectations of the market to provide successful housing lifestyle options.

Glenn Dawes

To Buffer or Not to Buffer: Land use conflicts within Sewage Treatment Plant Buffer Zones

Conflict arises when there is a disagreement in regard to viable land use. This is usually related to environmental, economic or social issues. Buffers are a key instrument in discouraging land use conflicts, whether it be protecting the environment or locating major infrastructure amongst residential or incompatible land uses. Buffer zones are an important planning practice for mitigating the environmental impacts of major infrastructure development. Failure to adhere to the provision of adequate buffers can create land use conflicts which hinder development and also cause political headaches for government. Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) are complex facilities which manage a community's waste. Land use conflicts occur around these facilities due to odour, health and other environmental issues associated with the ongoing treatment of waste. Australian society today is faced with an increasing population and less land to accommodate this increase, resulting in more people living in closer proximity to major infrastructure facilities. Adequate buffer zones around STPs help to minimise potential conflicts. Appropriate legislation and policies relating to STP buffers need to be enforced.

Denise Fernandez

Time Budgets: Commuting your way in to (and out of) the problem

Time is as precious as it is important. We spend just as much time complaining we do not have enough as we do planning our activities according to how much time we do have. Even when we are able to plan activities, it is no guarantee that we get everything done. An emerging trend is the need to factor travel into daily schedules as travel times increase. This thesis explores and analyses the effects of increasing travel times in social,

health and planning terms. The thesis discusses the importance of Time-Use Surveys as not only a tool for planning purposes but also in the creation of group identity. Travel diaries were distributed to a focus group of young people between the ages of 18-24. Results indicate that while travel pressures do not dictate eating habits, levels of exercise are limited to non-existent. The survey also showed that the 18-24 age group is becoming more car dependant than ever - even when faced with soaring petrol prices. The implications of such results are discussed and the ways in which companies, governments, and individuals can address these issues are canvassed.

Liam Frayne

The Economic Prison and Regional Areas

In the United States, regional governments, hard pressed by a combination of the rise of the free market and the increasingly laissez-faire attitude by government towards emerging regional economic disparities, have sought ways in which to bring investment into their communities. Automotive plants and sports franchises, for example, have been lured with generous subsidies. At the same time, an unprecedented rise in the American prison population has led to severe prison overcrowding, and the need for prison authorities to develop more facilities. Hence, the emergence of the economic prison as a phenomenon in the last quarter century. Desperate economically depressed regions and desperate prison authorities came together to encourage prison-led economic revival. The trend has now begun to appear in Australia and this thesis looks into local developments. It identifies implications of the development of correctional facilities in non-metropolitan areas in economic, social, and land use terms. The major case study is the town of Kempsey on the Mid-North Coast of New South Wales. Research conducted with small business owners sheds light on the significance of prisons to regional economic development in an Australian context.

Helen Kun Hai

Peak Oil and Its Consequences in Planning

Fossil fuel is the lifeblood of the world's economy. It is the cheapest transportable form of energy and 'fuels the vast majority of the world's mechanized transportation equipment' (Hirsch et al. 2005). Peak oil is a term describing the phenomenon of the peaking and then decline of world oil production. It is currently impossible to determine the exact moment of peak oil since the amount of oil in reserves is no longer public information. Past experiences from the 1973 oil embargo and 1979 Iranian crisis have shown that any disruption to world oil supply can have profound adverse impacts on the world economy. This thesis investigates mitigating strategies through urban planning as oil comes into short supply and prices rise well above the expected inflation rate. It explores approaches in public transport, infrastructure planning, land use, urban renewal and growth in seeking strategic planning alternatives to counter a sharp rise in fuel cost. This thesis is an investigation of planning pathways for sustainable and liveable strategies that allow us to embrace an energy efficient future while not hindering human progress.

Grace Houw

The making of a riot: A study on Macquarie Fields and social cohesion

Contemporary society is becoming increasingly fragmented due to major shifts in social structure. These shifts are caused by differences in race, ethnicity, education, employment status and wealth. With so many different beliefs, morals and ways of life, post-modern multicultural cities are often characterised as fractured and segregated. Indicators of disharmony are evident in day-to-day problems and civil disturbances. Social cohesion is considered an effective way to quell conflict, to promote accord, and to counteract anti-social behaviour. Social cohesion is seen as fundamental to strong communities which cultivate common values, belonging and identity. In this thesis, social cohesion is considered an indicator of social stability and, more importantly, as a preventative measure of future unrest and conflict. The research aspires to connect weak social cohesion with the outbreak of urban riots by focusing on the Macquarie Fields riot of 2005. Three localities within the Sydney local government area of Campbelltown are analysed utilising indicators of social cohesion. The intention is to ascertain the impacts of social cohesion within a community and to determine its relevance to urban riots. It is anticipated that these findings will assist planners in developing a broader understanding of complex social problems.

Angelique Iturrieta

Growing Pains: Implications of an Ageing Population on Planning Policy in New South Wales

Like many other developing nations, Australia is experiencing major demographic changes. Not only is the population ageing, the relative percentages of age cohorts are changing. In particular, the proportion of people aged 65 years and over is increasing and is projected to account for a major demographic shift, both numerically and structurally in Australia over the next few decades. As a consequence of changing demography, particularly retirements within the Baby Boomer generation, there will be a greater demand for appropriate, adequate and affordable housing for seniors, as well as for associated services and facilities. Accordingly, this will impact on the way in which governments, planners and the aged care industry respond to the ageing Australian population in the coming decades, in particular, to the provision of aged care accommodation. This thesis examines the various roles of government in the provision of aged care accommodation, through the review of initiatives, strategies and policy at Federal, State and Local levels. In particular, the effectiveness of NSW State Environmental Planning Policy - Seniors Living (2004) in the provision of appropriate, adequate and affordable housing at a local level and the responsiveness of development under this policy to community needs are assessed.

Alessandra Kane

The Implementation of Biobanking in the New South Wales Planning System

Biodiversity is recognised globally as an integral part of ecosystems with significant benefits to the economy, environment, science and culture. As NSW's population continues to grow, so do threats to biodiversity including land clearing and urban development. To achieve balance between urban development, on the one hand, and conservation of biodiversity and threatened species, on the other, the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation has developed a market based approach known as the Biodiversity Banking and Offsets Scheme (BioBanking). Biobanking proposes to allow private land owners to generate biodiversity credits through management actions that improve or maintain biodiversity. Where a development is likely to have an impact on biodiversity, a developer may purchase these credits to offset the impact of a development. This thesis examines the proposed scheme as a market based tool to conserve biodiversity and its implementation through the planning system and in the development assessment process.

Sandy Kwok

Is Sydney Barrier Free? The Disabled in the Built Environment

The built environment always offers many challenges to its users, but especially for people with disabilities. The access limitations of our urban areas, as a result of poor planning and design, are largely attributed to traditional neglect of the disabled population as a minority group. Moreover, this issue will be exacerbated by a rapidly aging population. In recent years, there has been greater recognition by government of the need to rectify accessibility barriers, and moves have been initiated to improve accessibility in building design. Yet a holistic approach has yet to be devised to remove such barriers from the public domain. Urban planning can help provide a built environment which facilitates the needs of people with disabilities and encourages both independence and social inclusion. The aim of this thesis is to identify accessibility barriers within the public domain and recommend means by which planning can help rectify them. With the aid of a wheelchair and a camera, an accessibility audit was undertaken in the CBD, inner and outer areas of metropolitan Sydney. Personal reflections of both physical and attitudinal barriers are also recorded.

Wing-Cho Lui

Is Rail-based Development still a sustainable development strategy in Hong Kong?

Rail-based development strategy in Hong Kong, integrating railway transportation with property development, is based on Transit Oriented Development (TOD) principles. This strategy has made the Hong Kong railway system one of the most successful in the world. Although it provides patronage to support railway operations, funding for railway construction, and reduces car dependency, there are criticisms of the rail-based development strategy. Large-scale development around stations can create a screen effect and trap polluted air from the urban area, residential units are not affordable, and a shopping mall culture can dominate with a negative impact on street and community. Is

the existing rail-based development strategy still a good development strategy for Hong Kong? In the 21st century, sustainability is the major concern in city growth and development. In this thesis, economic, environmental and social sustainability of rail-based development - the triple bottom line - will be discussed and analysed. This provides the basis for a critical re-think of the rail-based development strategy and offers recommendations for future improvement.

Lauren McMahon

Bridging the Gap

The notion of spatial mismatch first emerged as an academic concept in the late 1960s, predominately as an observation on patterns of development in North American cities. However, it has become a phenomenon evident in metropolitan development across the globe. The spatial mismatch theory highlights the geographic differential between where particular social groups are concentrated in the housing market and the location of employment opportunities. A common trend has been for low income households to have limited spatial access to jobs, often being forced into unemployment as a result. Consequently, social polarisation of cities affected by serious spatial mismatch has seen a socially disadvantaged class emerge, characterised by low income levels, employment exclusion, transport poverty, locational inaccessibility and low education levels. This thesis explores the Australian context of spatial mismatch with a focus on Sydney as a case study. Historical urban development patterns which have laid the foundations for the emerging spatial mismatch are described. The thesis analyses the NSW Department of Planning's latest metropolitan strategy in terms of its ability to address the challenges associated with spatial mismatch in Sydney.

Peter McManus

Influences on the Evolution of McMansions

The development of McMansions on Sydney's urban fringe has been likened to the repetitive and super-sized nature of the processes and products associated with the restaurant chain, McDonalds. In Australia, homeownership has been the quintessential aspiration - the great Australian dream. Over the last decade, the combination of the desire for the 'perfect' home, economical building costs, reduced supply of increasing land and smaller allotment sizes, have been ingredients for the gradual development of larger residential dwellings, particularly within western Sydney. Some consider McMansions to be unsympathetic in design with a blatant disregard for the existing built and natural environments. However, as the refreshed menu changes of its namesake take off across the nation, the designs of McMansions are also being further developed, with more contemporary and appealing styles cropping up on the urban fringe. The primary focus of this thesis is to examine influences on the design and occurrence of McMansions throughout Western Sydney's suburban landscape. It specifically investigates the role and motivations of state and local government, consumers and project home builders.

Beth Matlawski

Towards Healthy Cities: A planning perspective

Research has demonstrated that designing the built environment in a manner that is conducive to good health can increase the health and well being of inhabitants. The premise of this research is that people are more likely to make healthy behaviour choices when options are easily available to them. Thus, environments that support or discourage unhealthy behaviour can critically influence people's health. The planning profession plays an important role in managing the orderly development of cities and is therefore a driving force in shaping health and well-being. Effective planning policy and integration of health in the urban planning process through land use and design principles can assist in alleviating preventable diseases and increase general well being through promoting physical activity. The attitudes of planning professionals toward these ideals are crucial in producing healthy environments. This thesis investigates the attitudes, opinions and knowledge of planners in regard to health and healthy urban planning in Sydney. The research focuses on the key human factors that influence the implementation of healthy urban practices and policy at a local level as well as barriers within local government which inhibit the development of healthy cities.

Danielle Meggos

Loss of Home: The human impacts of bush fire

Australia has suffered numerous major bush fires over the past decade, causing extensive property damage and loss of life. Over time there has been an increased awareness by government authorities of these impacts with initiatives being explored to reduce the number of lives and buildings lost. Much research has been undertaken to gain a better understanding of how buildings are ignited and destroyed. However, the least considered aspect of bush fire is the human impact of losing a house. This thesis investigates the implications for residents and home owners of losing a house to bush fire. The outcome will provide further justification for the application of development controls in bush fire prone areas with the aim of minimising fire damage. The challenge is to take our current knowledge of bush fires and understanding of the social implications from past fires and apply them to disaster recovery. The thesis discusses practical responses by government and policy makers to the impacts of bush fire loss during post fire recovery. The knowledge gained will assist in identifying how government and fire agencies can more effectively integrate social impact assessment into the disaster recovery process.

Hassan Mourad

The Development and Land Use Impacts of Local Mosques

Through globalization, western nations have in recent decades experienced high levels of immigration which have contributed to the development of new cultural landscapes previously unimaginable. Muslims have played a major role in this transformation. Their presence through the gradual use and characterization of space is manifest in the urban built environment. The high growth rates of Muslims in Australia has been mirrored with a significant rise in the number of applications seeking approval for the development of

mosques. However, on many occasions, mosque proponents have been met with strong opposition. This thesis explores the land use impacts of this type of development in Sydney. Three Local Government Areas (LGAs) were selected as case studies, based on the number of Muslims residing in the LGA and whether an established mosque was present. An analysis of the findings is then used to develop recommendations that accommodate this land use in a responsive manner while providing outcomes also in the wider public interest.

Nathaniel Murray

Tourism: The Last Resort

Global economic reform has resulted in the rapid decline of the sugar industry as the dominant pillar of the Mauritian economy. After a number of failed attempts at diversifying to an alternative product to compete on the global scale, the Mauritian Government has embarked on an aggressive tourism development program as the sector to 'save' the economy. This has in turn led to loss of employment in rural areas as a result of the reduction in the sugar cane plantations, causing people to relocate to urban areas in large numbers looking for work and better living conditions. Unlike most studies on economic development which tend to focus on a single commodity, this thesis sits astride the sensitive but fast paced transition phase between the two dominating economies of Mauritius: the rise of tourism and the decline of sugar. This provides a context in which to evaluate the Government's success in managing economic development. Drawing on spatial correlation techniques and other evidence, the thesis concludes that poor management of the economic transition has led to rapid deterioration of the environment, declining standards in human settlements, and localised socio-economic problems that have not been appropriately managed.

Westley Owers

Swelling Seas: Planning for sea level rise

Emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere over hundreds of years have forced changes on one of the world's most important natural systems: climate. This will have devastating impacts. Of all the impacts of human induced climate change, sea level rise is regarded as the most certain. By the year 2100, sea level is expected to rise one metre in a best case scenario; and by up to six metres in a worst case scenario. As sea level rises, it will bring debilitating impacts such as inundation of coastal areas, increased coastal erosion, and an increased flooding of inland areas in major storm surges. The scope and magnitude of this environmental issue is such that these impacts will seriously alter human settlement and fragile ecosystems on a global basis. The extent to which the impacts of sea level rise are experienced at local, state and national levels within nations will be a direct result of government responses through coastal legislation and policy. Sea level rise needs to be addressed now so we can ensure the preservation of the coastline for future generations.

Erin Papps

The Building Sustainability Index and Local Government: Addressing the problems

The Building Sustainability Index (BASIX) was introduced by the New South Wales Government in 2004. The first of its kind in the world, BASIX is a web-based, interactive tool which calculates the energy and water efficiency of a dwelling's design. Following the success of Sydney's 'green' Olympic Games and in response to worldwide concern about environmental issues, BASIX was developed by the NSW Government to standardise development controls for energy and water efficiency across the state. The BASIX scheme requires all new residential dwellings and major alterations and additions to meet energy and water efficiency targets through dwelling design. Due to a lack of research to date, the role of BASIX in the development assessment process is not well understood. Is BASIX meeting expectations? The aim of this thesis is to investigate the role, successes and failures of BASIX in the NSW development application process and within the NSW planning framework. On the basis of a critical review of the literature, in depth interviews and personal workplace experience, the thesis concludes that BASIX requires changes to its administrative processes, reconsideration of legislative controls, and greater commitment and research from the NSW Government.

Dana Quintal

Gated communities in Sydney: A search for security

Despite growing material affluence, today's society is increasingly characterised by fear, anxiety and insecurity. The causes are diverse and include economic restructuring, 'the war on terror', crime, immigration, the privatisation of public services and infrastructure, and neo-liberal politics. The response of some individuals has been the retreat from the public realm and an increasing focus on the private sphere of the home. For the affluent, gated communities are seen to offer a solution. Gated communities are residential developments which are characterised by physical security measures such as gates, walls, guards and closed circuit television cameras. This type of residential development is often criticised because of the potential to cause divisions in society; it can generate an 'us and them' mentality. This thesis argues that gated communities are an expression of the desire of individuals to exert greater control over their living environments. They may help to reduce uncertainty, provide personal protection, and protect family and home from unwanted intrusion. An understanding of the experience of residents and their motivations for moving to gated communities is essential to enable the provision of alternative residential environments which encourage social interaction and improve community well-being.

Stuart Ratcliff

The Battle for Ku-ring-gai: Local values vs. State Government interests

The Local Government Area of Ku-ring-gai in northern Sydney is noted for its observation of 'garden city' style planning principles that led to the establishment of many grand homes on large allotments. Many of these buildings were constructed in the early 1900s and have been recognized for their heritage value. The development of the

area has also traditionally respected and incorporated the characteristics of the natural environment, particularly through the retention of the tree canopy. However, recent pressures placed on Ku-ring-gai by the State Government to address Sydney's housing requirements through the introduction of residential flat buildings have met with great resistance by the local community. Although much of this concern appears to relate to the impacts these buildings will have upon the visual character and amenity of the area's landscape and existing infrastructure, some evidence exists to suggest these are not the primary concerns of residents. The aim of this thesis is to investigate whether residents' concerns with the planning impacts are of a greater, equal or lesser importance than concerns with the potential market value of their properties.

Dave Sheehan

It's a little thing called work: Investigating employment patterns in sub-centre Sydney

This thesis provides an organic investigation of the employment structure of Sydney, and the emerging nature of specialisation and co-location of sub-centres in the Sydney Metropolitan Area. Principal Component Analysis is undertaken as a method of identifying compatibility associations between assemblages of employment. It is argued via a spatial analysis that elements of Central Place Theory still remain in the economic structure of Sydney. Groupings of aligned employment are a result of both 'milieux synergies' and the locational attributes (including labour sheds) of an area.

Natalie Stanowski

The Marketing of Community in Master Planned Estates

Community has been commodified in the development of Master Planned Estates with their promise of genuine community from place design and infrastructure. Planning for community through the built environment has occurred since the days of Ebenezer Howard and has continued through many master planned estate paradigms to contemporary planning visions such as New Urbanism and Gated Communities. Many of these estates have been scrutinized on their promise of community, with much cynicism as to the actual achievement of this promise. It is commonly written that 'community sells' and clearly evident that promises of community are used in the marketing of master planned estates to attract house buyers. Whilst such assertions are common, there is little accessible data on how community is actually depicted in marketing. This thesis aims to understand how community is portrayed within the marketing and advertising of master planned estates, through a series of case studies of diverse master planned estates in the Sydney metropolitan area. The research provides a better understanding of the forms of community that are advertised and the techniques used to portray them.

Katie Stevenson

Putting Pedestrians Back in the Picture: Exploring the Pedestrian Experience in Sydney

Pedestrians have been pushed out of the focus of city centre planning in favour of ever increasing infrastructure for private vehicles. This has not only severely impacted on the

nature of street life, but has also resulted in degradation of the environmental, social, economic and visual qualities of unique environments. The tide has begun to turn. The tremendous achievements of cities such as Copenhagen, Barcelona and London now provide inspiration for cities across the globe. These cities have transformed the character of the pedestrian realm with tremendous success, resulting in levels of pedestrian activity and amenity higher than ever before. Accessibility, opportunities for social interaction, safety, user comfort, maintenance and aesthetic considerations are the most influential factors in improving the quality of the public domain. They must be central concerns in the planning of urban streetscapes and public spaces. Today, Sydney's public realm is heavily utilised and offers a wide range of opportunities for human interaction. Nevertheless, there is a need to reduce further the dominance of vehicular traffic and to place greater emphasis on the experiential characteristics in the public domain.

Tang, Kuan Cheng Justin

Impacts of Casino Gambling as an Economic Development Strategy in Macau

Macau's economy is mainly based on tourism and the main attraction of tourists is gambling. Macau was handed over to the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1999. As the PRC's economy was rapidly rising, the economic development of the nation's cities also accelerated but the economy of Macau maintained a low growth rate. In order to increase its competitiveness, in 2001 the government opened its gaming industry to attract foreign enterprises. Economic development is about working together to maintain a strong economy. Economic development programs can take many approaches; no one strategy, policy, or program can guarantee success for a city. This thesis investigates whether or not the casino gambling as the economic development strategy has been successful in Macau. It will discuss the economic, social and environmental impacts and opportunities caused by the casino strategy.

Jenna Tuite

Urban renewal at Redfern-Waterloo: Analysing the ability of the Redfern-Waterloo Authority to guide the urban renewal process

Urban renewal is common practice in modern planning, suitable to inner city areas and frequently promoted as an attractive form of brownfield development. It is a method that can be used to bring surplus and underutilized land back into effective best use. Redfern-Waterloo is a unique inner-city area of Sydney, requiring specific planning initiatives to address social, economic and built form challenges. The urban renewal process is being managed by the Redfern-Waterloo Authority (RWA). The structure, function and output of the RWA requires analysis, as flaws in the RWA can reduce the ability to manage and address long standing economic, social and built form challenges. This project analyses the ability of the RWA to undertake appropriate urban renewal of the Redfern-Waterloo area. The suitability of the RWA as the best specialist planning authority model to achieve renewal is considered in relation to four main parameters: governance, strategic approach, plan making, and community consultation, transparency and accountability. The research suggests methods to strengthen the RWA and the urban renewal process at Redfern-Waterloo.

Michael Vine

Planning for Skateboarding Facilities

Skateboarding facilities are being built in Australia at a rate of two per week. In terms of achieving positive planning outcomes in areas of urban open space, a great deal of potential exists with a facility that contributes to community cohesion, cultural expression and healthy living. The success of a skateboarding facility can be related to its enjoyment by not only skateboarders but the broader community. This thesis examines the history and culture of skateboarding as an activity which relies on the built environment for expression and appreciation. It goes beyond the practice of skateboarding to examine the benefits and opportunities that a skateboarding facility has on the urban environment. The study highlights integral factors that contribute to successful facilities and establishes a series of performance criteria to ensure quality outcomes. The establishment of an ideal set of criteria and objectives forms the basis of empirical research. This aims to examine the degree of success Sydney has had in the provision of these facilities and hence determine if these facilities are fulfilling their full potential.

Kate Wedgwood

Destined for closure: The role and demise of urban caravan parks

Although typically associated with the provision of low-cost holiday accommodation, for over 30 years caravan parks have provided an unrecognised source of housing to the lower end of the market. Due to their often dilapidated condition and the demographic profile of their residents, caravan parks are stereotyped as enclaves of despondency and residents are often referred to as ‘trailer trash’, an expression which originated in America. However, those living permanently in caravan parks often find that the unique living environment, based on solidarity and companionship, assists in overcoming personal hardship. As urban land prices in Australia have increased exponentially and the footprints of its capital cities continue to grow, large parcels of under-developed land accommodating caravan parks have become ‘land banks’ ripe for redevelopment. While it is the park owner’s prerogative to maximise profit, individuals and families are being displaced with little or no compensation, to make way for more lucrative land uses. With deficiencies in the public housing system and the failure of the housing market to provide suitable low-cost accommodation, caravan park residents face an uncertain future, even homelessness. This trend seems certain to continue with a lack of government responsibility at policy level providing for the future housing needs of this vulnerable group.

Shirley Yu

Personal and Domestic Waste Management in New South Wales

Due to rapid economic growth in Australia, the amount of waste we produce has increased proportionally. We must manage our waste in order to maintain our quality of life. Although Australians are concerned about the environment, we still create more waste per capita than most other countries. Currently in New South Wales, different

waste management strategies are implemented, but most focus on managing waste already produced, such as increasing the efficiency of collection systems. But there are other options to minimise waste by applying the 3Rs, i.e. Recycle, Reduce and Reuse. This thesis explores current issues and problems in relation to domestic waste management. Government strategies focusing on the performance and effectiveness of various schemes are reviewed. Overseas examples are examined. For example, Hong Kong has developed a strategy to manage waste through a user-pays disposal principle. A survey is conducted to better understand personal attitudes and behaviour toward household waste management in different areas of Sydney.

Bonnie Yue

Planning and the New Use of Waterfront Space: A case study of East Darling Harbour

Waterfront land is considered especially valuable in Sydney and requires extra attention in the planning process. The 22 hectare East Darling Harbour dockland site is significant because of its proximity to the CBD. The future of the site has been under the control of the Department of Planning and the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority. A winning scheme from five finalists in an urban design competition has been chosen. The aim of this thesis is to examine urban design elements that could contribute to a successful waterfront transformation. A selection of three case studies illustrates the revolutionary changes of urban design elements for comparable waterfront areas: Battery Park City in New York, Canary Wharf in London, and the Melbourne Docklands. A total of 65 interviews was also conducted with residents who live near East Darling Harbour and King Street Wharf, domestic and international visitors, and workers from Darling Harbour and King Street Wharf. The research proposes some urban design recommendations to address issues raised by the winning scheme.