



## Henry Halloran Trust

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SYDNEY**

**The Henry  
Halloran Trust**

# Annual Report **2015**

**Director:** Professor Peter Phibbs  
**Period:** January through December 2015

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## About the Trust



The Henry Halloran Trust was established through the generous gift of Warren Halloran, and honours his father, Henry, an active advocate for town planning in the first half of the 20th century. Henry introduced and implemented new concepts of town planning in the many settlements he established as part of his contribution to nation building. Henry was a surveyor, valuer, engineer and town planner as well as a flamboyant and dynamic real estate developer who promoted and created new settlements throughout coastal NSW.

One of his lasting successes was the development in 1905 of the Seaforth Estate, a waterside suburb on Sydney's Middle Harbour. His other well-known settlements include Avoca on the NSW Central Coast, and Stanwell Park and Jervis Bay on the South Coast.

The Trust aims to become a leading voice and advocate for the advancement of liveable cities, thriving urban communities and sustainable development. The objectives of the Trust include:

1. To promote a collaborative cross-disciplinary environment where established scholars and leading practitioners, together with industry and government partners, can engage in leading-edge research developing innovative approaches to urban and regional policy, planning and development issues;
2. To support scholarly research into critical policy issues relevant to current practice in Australian and international urban and regional land management, encouraging the development of innovative approaches to the management of land and natural resources. In this regard land, natural resources and urban and regional development are to be given a broad interpretation.
3. To support academic, professional and public debate through public lectures and the publication of research that can beneficially transform current practice and encourage inspirational thinking about how to better manage urban and regional development.
4. To promote an inter-disciplinary international network of leading scholars and practitioners who will assist and advise the Director of the Trust in identifying critical issues and on priorities for research.

## Introduction

This report will focus on the 2015 activities of the Trust, using the objectives of the Trust as reporting framework. Annual reports for 2014 and 2013 can be found on the Henry Halloran Trust website. [www.sydney.edu.au/halloran](http://www.sydney.edu.au/halloran)

## Trust Activities in 2015 organised by Trust Objectives

*Objective 1: To promote a collaborative cross-disciplinary environment where established scholars and leading practitioners, together with industry and government partners, can engage in leading-edge research.*

### The Practitioner-in-Residence Program

Ms Julie Walton completed her project on planning systems and corruption risks. Julie will deliver a presentation about her research at the third Urban Research Festival in March 2016.

*Objective 2: To support scholarly research into critical policy issues relevant to current practice in Australian and international urban and regional land management, encouraging the development of innovative approaches to the management of land and natural resources. In this regard land, natural resources and urban and regional development are to be given a broad interpretation.*

## Research Grant Round

The EOI for our third round of research projects was issued in October 2015. In addition to the Blue Sky projects and strategic partnership projects, we have called for an EOI for a second incubator mid 2016. The Advisory Board, at its final meeting of the year, decided to fund 4 research projects as well as a research incubator. The winning projects included:

### Strategic Partnership

- Including health and health equity in strategic land use planning in the Sydney area - \$27,640 (*The University of Sydney, South Western Sydney Local Health District and Sydney Local Health District*)

### Blue Sky

- Urban design and health: A large-scale natural experiment of residential relocation - \$18,605, (*The University of Sydney*)

### Incubator

- Urban Housing Lab@Sydney: Predictive analytics and policy platform for Sydney's housing market - \$439,589 over 3 years (*The University of Sydney*)

Two other projects will be chosen at the third Urban Research Festival (URF) in March 2016. A list of 2015 funded projects is included in Appendix 1.

## Completed Research projects

One of our 2014 projects was completed and a final report for this project has been submitted;

- Enabling audience participation through Urban Media as a diagnostic method in Urban Planning

### **The Urban Housing Lab Incubator project**

In its 2015 funding round the Trust funded a 3-year research incubator project led by Professor Nicole Gurrán. The incubator had a successful start-up year. It drafted a research agenda, held the initial meeting of its Advisory group and held a launch event in April. It has an ambitious research and public engagement program in place for 2016. Professor Ann Forsyth held a review of the Incubator for the Trust and provided some good advice to Professor Gurrán and her colleagues for their work in 2016 and beyond.



Professor Gurrán (back row, right) and her incubator colleagues with her two recent visiting professors from University College London and Hong Kong University.

*Objective 3: To support academic, professional and public debate through public lectures and the publication of research that can beneficially transform current practice and encourage inspirational thinking about how to better manage urban and regional development.*

The year was a busy one for the Trust’s public engagement program. The first public event for the year was co-hosted with The Committee for Sydney. Dr Tim Williams, CEO of The Committee for Sydney delivered a presentation focusing on Transport in Sydney. This event was well attended and aroused public debate and attracted significant media attention.



The major activity public engagement activity of the Trust in 2015 was the second Festival of Urbanism. This was held between 1<sup>st</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> of September. The Festival featured a series of stimulating and engaging talks and conversations on planning and making our cities with the theme ‘Urban Myth busting ‘.

As part of the Festival, the 2015 Henry Halloran Lecture was delivered on 9<sup>th</sup> September. Professor Laurence Murphy from The University of Auckland delivered this lecture in conversation with Hon Craig Knowles AM. The lecture focused on the myth that housing supply leads to affordable housing. Approximately 200 were in attendance. The Festival attracted widespread media interest.

A full list of the Festival events is contained in Appendix 2.

In May 2015, the Director joined the Judging panel of the Smart Seeds innovation competition. The competition fosters the creation of truly innovative solutions targeting real infrastructure challenges from among the multidisciplinary teams taking part, as judged by a panel of experts. Participating organisations included GHD, IBM, Lend Lease, Sydney Water, and Transport for NSW and Urban Growth NSW

The dedicated efforts of our Director, Professor Peter Phibbs, were recognised due to some impressive metrics monitored by the University. Professor Phibbs managed to establish himself as the third most prominent media performer within the University of Sydney in May this year with his commentary around affordable housing reaching an audience of 2,036,415 people.

The Director has also been delivering a two-day professional development course to strategic planners across the State on the use of property economics in planning. This has been an opportunity for the Director to highlight the work of the Trust to some of the State's best strategic planners.

*Objective 4: To promote an inter-disciplinary international network of leading scholars and practitioners who will assist and advise the Director of the Trust in identifying critical issues and on priorities for research.*

Ann Forsyth from Harvard visited the trust in December and she undertook a short review of the trust's new research Incubator.

**An extract from her report notes:**

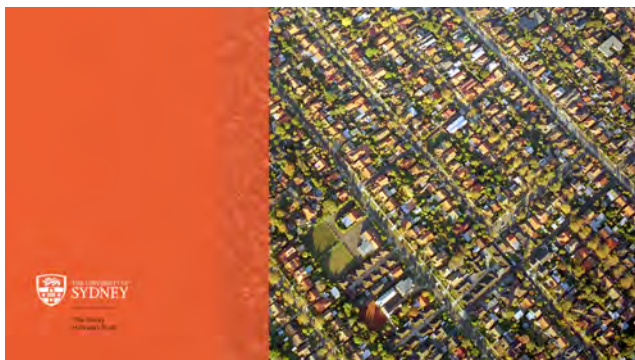
*In general the first year has been used productively to bring together a group of scholars examining a broad range of important issues related to housing policy and related urban issues. They see fairly clearly how they can make contributions to theory, empirical understanding, and research methods in policy-relevant areas. The unit is now well positioned to move to the next stage of its development.*

## Highlights from the Trust Annual Lunch

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 9<sup>th</sup>



Above: Professor Phibbs making his speech to the attendees of the Annual Lunch.  
Below: the retrospective slide deck celebrating the year's accomplishments.



## APPENDIX 1

### DETAILED LIST OF NEWLY FUNDED PROJECTS

#### 2015 Funding Round

##### STRATEGIC

#### **Community engagement for the 'hard-to reach': Trialing participatory social network mapping in Tasmania (\$27,895)**

*Associate Professor Susan Goodwin, The University of Sydney*

*Dr Kathleen Flanagan, The University of Tasmania*

*Dr Julia Verdouw, The University of Tasmania*

The issue of how to build community engagement and promote pathways to economic and social inclusion for the most excluded social groups is one of the most vexed areas of social policy. This project addresses this concern through an innovative approach designed to avoid 'benevolent othering' in areas where place-based stigma creates division and social exclusion that extend to within the neighborhood itself. The project combines volunteering with participatory community-based action research to develop a system map that extends asset-based community development approaches by identifying how networks operate as enablers and constraints through relationships of power, trust, conflict and collaboration.

##### BLUE SKY

#### **Assessing environmental impacts of major transport infrastructure projects: where does human health fit? (\$24,291)**

*Dr Patrick Harris The University of Sydney*

*Dr Jennifer Kent, Macquarie University*

*Associate Professor Peter Sainsbury, The University of Sydney*

*Professor Fran Baum, Flinders University*

This research investigates 'How, why, and to what extent, human health is considered in environmental assessments of major transport infrastructure projects?'. There is strong evidence of the links between transport planning and human health. Environmental Assessments (EAs) are a regulated mechanism for considering health in infrastructure planning but traditionally have not fully captured health issues. This research will develop four case studies of major transport EAs, three in NSW and one in South Australia, to explain how and why health was or was not included. The project will foster collaboration between two emerging research leaders from public health and planning.

#### **Visions of Sandstone: Reducing cost and increasing safety of heritage infrastructure inspection using aerial robotics. (\$21,440)**

*Dr Rob Saunders, The University of Sydney*

*Dr Simon Weir, The University of Sydney*



Developing an advanced visual inspection tool for assessing the quality of ageing sandstone in public infrastructure. Applying off-the-shelf quad copters equipped with high-resolution cameras to the problem of inspecting the built fabric of ageing infrastructure, we can increase efficiencies of maintenance work. The project was developed after discussions with sandstone section of the New South Wales Department of Public Works, and has been tailored to the specific needs of sandstone inspection, but many of the project details can be readily adapted to similar surveillance conditions.

## INCUBATOR

### **Urban Housing Lab@Sydney: Predictive analytics and policy platform for Sydney's housing market. \$439,589 (over 3 years)**

*Dr Nicole Gurrán, Urban and Regional Planning, The University of Sydney*

*Dr Somwrita Sarkar, Design Lab, The University of Sydney*

*Dr Jennifer Kent, Urban and Regional Planning, The University of Sydney*

*Ms Catherine Gilbert, Urban and Regional Planning, The University of Sydney*

*Ms Stacey Miers, Design Lab, The University of Sydney*

*Mr Hanley Weng, Design Lab, The University of Sydney*

Housing is a central component of urban infrastructure, yet provision of appropriate and affordable housing near transport and jobs remains a key challenge. Addressing this challenge depends on better understanding the mechanics of the housing market and how policy interventions – like urban planning – might enhance housing outcomes. Building on the big-data capacity of UrbanLab@Sydney, this Incubator constructs a research platform for examining housing market dynamics in Sydney and potential levers for change. Research fostered within the Incubator will connect to wider scholarship on planning, infrastructure, the market and big-data analytics while distilling key implications for urban policy and practice.

## APPENDIX 2

### PUBLIC EVENTS 2015

#### **1 April – Incubator Launch**

We held a public lecture at the University where John Toon from the Advisory Board formally launched the Trust’s research incubator. This 3-year program provides an opportunity for young and experienced researchers to come together on a research program. Our first incubator is “Urban Housing Lab@Sydney: Predictive analytics and policy platform for Sydney’s housing market. The two speakers that night were Professor Nicole Gurrán the head of the Incubator and Dr Madeleine Pill from the Faculty of Arts and Social Science (see below).



#### **23 April - Tim Williams Lecture on Transport**

The NSW government is spending a significant amount of money on transport in Sydney. Will it deliver the Sydney we need? Dr Tim Williams gave an overview and answered questions from a panel of transport planning professionals. This talk received a lot of publicity in the Sydney Morning Herald.

#### **12 June - One day Forum: Creative Spaces and the Built Environment**

Australia’s cities have shifted from centres of manufacturing and industry to the drivers of a globalized economy fuelled by knowledge, creativity and innovation. This shift relies on a host of new cultural enterprises. The Trust provided the venue and some logistics support for a one-day forum organised by the City of Sydney Council.

This forum brought together experts within the fields of building, planning, access and safety with those working within the cultural, creative and knowledge sector to explore some potential ways of improving the regulation of these activities.

Clover Moore gave the opening address and Kurt Iveson from the Faculty of Science ran the afternoon workshop session. Approximately 110 were in attendance.

### **30 July - IES July technical meeting**

The Trust sponsored the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES) of Australia and New Zealand's July Technical meeting, where a panel of speakers presented on the pertinent topic of "Future city lights: art and information or light pollution". Among the speakers was one of the Trust's own grant recipients, Dr Martin Tomitsch, whose research into Media Architecture and Interaction Design within the urban context investigates the future utility of interactive displays for public engagement and information communication.

### **1 – 10 September 2015 - The Festival of Urbanism:**

#### **1 Sept**

- **The Love Affair with the Cable Car**

Professor Michael Humphrey of the University of Sydney

A symbol of the 'urban miracle' of Medellín, Colombia's former violent drug capital, the cable car is on the move. But is the cable car the answer to a way out of the slums?

- **The Festival of Urbanism Launch Event**

Do more roads equal less traffic?

Will increasing housing supply lead to improved affordability?

These are just some of the questions being answered by our 'urban myth busters' in a series of talks and conversations on planning and making our cities. An address by the Lord Mayor of Sydney Clover Moore, The University of Sydney Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Stephen Garton, Director Henry Halloran Trust Professor Peter Phibbs and Professor William Livingstone LAU.

#### **2 Sept**

**Myth: Chinese investors are buying up Australian real estate forcing 'Aussies' out of the property market.**

Professor Hans Hendrichke, the University of Sydney, Dr Dallas Rogers, University of Western Sydney and Sha Liu, University of Sydney

Are Chinese investors responsible for driving up property prices? This panel tests the myths, drivers, politics and data on Chinese real estate investment in Australia.

#### **3 Sept**

**Myth: Crime is out of control in Sydney**

Dr Garner Clancey and Dr Jennifer Kent, The University of Sydney

Is crime really on the increase? Or is it all just media hype? And what more needs to be done to protect our citizens from becoming victims? This talk might just bust a few myths about crime in Sydney.

#### **4 Sept**

- **'Myth: Mosquitos as democratic urban planners: the case of Darwin**

Associate Professor Tess Lea, the University of Sydney

How did the humble mosquito shape and determine the city of Darwin? Mosquitoes are indifferent architects, and in their indifference, show just what powerful forces of urbanism they are.

- **Myth: Living in the city makes you sick**

Professor Susan Thompson, University of New South Wales

Are our buildings sick? Is city living affecting our health? Professor Susan Thompson explains.

- **'Documentary Film Screening: The Pruitt Igoe Myth**  
An exclusive student screening and post-film discussion with University of Sydney Director of Heritage Conservation Dr Cameron Logan.

#### 5 Sept

**City transformations: Big 'A' Architecture**  
Sydney Architecture Walks (SAW)

#### 6 Sept

**City regeneration: Little 'a' architecture and urban infill**  
Sydney Architecture Walks (SAW)

#### 7 Sept

**Myth: Not-for-profits (NFPs) aren't real property developers**  
Who is responsible for providing affordable housing? And how can we maximize housing supply from not-for-profit developers? David Cant, CEO of Brisbane Housing Company (BHC), Australia's largest NFP developer, will highlight the significant role that NFP housing developers can play. Joined by panelists Janelle Goulding City West Housing, Robert Pradolin Australand and Carrie Hamilton Associate, Housing Action Network.

#### 8 Sept

- **Behind the Myth: The work and time of Denis Winston the first Professor of Town Planning at the University of Sydney '1949-1974'**  
Ms. Stacey Miers, The University of Sydney  
A visual reflection of the life and time of Denis Winston, first Professor of Town Planning at the University of Sydney.
- **Myth: You can't get a decent cup of coffee in Parramatta: culture and development walking tour of Parramatta**  
How does Sydney's second CBD stack up for heritage, history, culture, diversity and a good café latte? Take a walking tour of significant sites, hear the latest developments and thinking about the city – and stop for a coffee.
- **Myth: Everyone in Western Sydney works in the city: travel and transport in Sydney's west**  
The latest Journey to Work analysis shows that most people who live in Greater Western Sydney work in the area and a high proportion travel by car. Join a discussion lead by Barbara Beard, WESTIR LTD and Simon Ginn, Transport Planner, Parramatta City Council in the planning of a light rail network and integrated transport system for Western Sydney.
- **Myth: Place creates disadvantage: Struggle Street: urban geography and disadvantage**  
Associate Professor Deborah Warr, The University of Melbourne  
Are we disadvantaged by our address or by how the media portrays it?  
Facilitated by David Borger, Western Sydney Director, and Sydney Business Chamber  
Joined by expert panelists, Councilor Stephen Bali, Mayor of Blacktown, Dr Shanthi Robertson, University of Western Sydney and Peter Rogers WESTIR.

#### 9 Sept

- **Myth: Political donations buy rezoning decisions**  
**Cameron Murray, The University of Queensland**  
When whom you know speaks louder than money talks.

While public debate centres on the role of political donations as a way to buy favours from politicians, relationship networks tell a far more interesting story. Professor Nicole Gurran, who convenes the Urban Housing Lab a research incubator at The University of Sydney, funded by the Henry Halloran Trust, will chair the session.

- **Myth: Increasing housing supply leads to more affordable homes**

The 3rd Annual Henry Halloran Lecture

Professor Laurence Murphy, University of Auckland in conversation with Hon Craig Knowles AM.

Is the solution to housing affordability in Sydney and other Australian cities more supply? Recent evidence from Sydney does not seem to support this suggestion. Professor Murphy will examine the relationship between housing supply and house prices and draw conclusions for housing policy-makers.



## 10 Sept

- **Myth: Formal planning and informal urbanism don't mix**

Professor Kim Dovey, The University of Melbourne

Do we need to formalize informal housing settlements of the global south? Or informalise over-determined public spaces of the global north?

In a unique twist on the north-south divide, this discussion on form and control is truly global. Associate Professor Paul Jones, who convenes the Informal Urbanism Research Hub at The University of Sydney, will chair the session.

- **Myth: Roads are the solution to congestion**

Co-presented with Sydney Ideas. Professor Michiel Bliemer and Dr Matthew Beck, The University of Sydney

More roads mean less traffic right? Wrong. More infrastructure supply may result in higher travel demand, or, 'induced demand'. Building new roads could also result in more congestion. This talk looks at the importance of careful transport planning, using appropriate transport models for predicting future traffic conditions.

**16 September - Potential policy options for improving housing affordability**

Professor Nicole Gurrán, director of our incubator project, The Urban Housing Lab, chaired a program inviting Professors Christine Whitehead from Cambridge University and Steven Rowley from Curtin University to discuss how strategies to address housing affordability in Australia will unfold in coming years

## APPENDIX 3

### THE ADVISORY BOARD

#### Members



**Dr Gary Cox**  
Roehampton Regeneration Project  
Manager, UK



**Dr Deborah Dearing**  
Executive Director of Place  
Development, Sydney Harbour  
Foreshore Authority



**Professor Roland Fletcher**  
Professor of Theoretical And World  
Archaeology at the University of  
Sydney



**Mr Glenn Grimshaw**  
Recently resigned from a role as  
principal advisor at the NSW  
Treasury to return to full-time study



**Martin Payne**  
Faculty of Architecture, Design and  
Planning, the University of Sydney.



**John Toon**  
Honorary Associate Professor,  
Faculty of Architecture, Design and  
Planning, University of Sydney



**Professor Tong Wu (Chair)**  
Emeritus Professor, Office of the  
Vice Chancellor, University of  
Western Sydney.

#### 2015 Advisory Board Meetings

- Meeting 1: 17<sup>th</sup> March
- Meeting 2: 16<sup>TH</sup> June
- Meeting 3: 23<sup>rd</sup> September
- Meeting 4: 18<sup>th</sup> November

APPENDIX 4

**Income and Expenditure Statement 2015**

**Carried Forward** \$405,161

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**Income** \$274,126

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**Donation from Warren Halloran** \$5,000,100

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**Expenses**

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Research Grants \$180,392

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Directors Salary \$48,925

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Admin & FoU\*Salaries \$53,174

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Festival of Urbanism \$45,900

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Other Events inc HH Annual lecture \$12,500

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PIR Program \$8,900

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Other Expenses \$13,073

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Academic Advisor \$4,500

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APO online Subscription \$15,000

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**Total Expenditure** \$382,364

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Withdrawn by University (to Capital account) \$5166, 736

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**Carried forward** \$129,887

\* Mainly Kim Beecroft, also includes FoU Curator and Web Designer





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we look forward to seeing  
you at our events.