

Congratulations to Dr Wendy Sarkissian and her team have just taken the Planning Scholarship, Research or Teaching at the NSW Awards for Excellence in Planning 2010 for their trio of new books on Community Engagement.

NSW AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN PLANNING 2010

The annual awards for excellence in planning promote the benefits of planning to the community at large; recognise outstanding achievements of planners; and acknowledge the role of public and private organisations in creating environments of distinction.

State winners are automatically entered in the Institute's Annual National Awards for Excellence, which will be held in March 2011. Winners of the National Awards are drawn from the winners in each state of Australia. The NSW winners were announced on 3 November, at Doltone House's Darling Island Wharf, Pyrmont Bay, Sydney.

The Tools for Community Planning Series is engagingly written and packed with practical guidance and tools. These books are important resources for planning professionals, community groups, activists, planning students and anyone aiming to facilitate engagement particularly within a sustainability framework. Three of the books are co-authored by six Australian planners: Wendy Sarkissian, Steph Vajda, Yollana Shore, Kelvin Walsh, Andrea Cook and Cathy Wilkinson.

Kitchen Table Sustainability: Practical Recipes for Community Engagement with Sustainability (2009) By Wendy Sarkissian with Nancy Hofer, Yollana Shore, Steph Vajda and Cathy Wilkinson

Offers a unique view of sustainability. The core of the book is a bottom-up approach to participatory community engagement and development, referred to as EATING, that consists of six components: Education, Action, Trust, Inclusion, Nourishment and Governance.

SpeakOut: The Step-by-Step Guide to SpeakOuts and Community Workshops (2009)

By Wendy Sarkissian and Wiwik Bunjamin-Mau with Andrea Cook, Kelvin Walsh and Steph Vajda

Introduces the SpeakOut, an interactive drop-in engagement process, and provides hands-on guidance and detailed checklists for managing community engagement processes, as well as facilitation and training.

Creative Community Planning: Transformative Engagement Methods for Working at the Edge (2010) By Wendy Sarkissian and Dianna Hurford with Christine Wenman and a foreword by John Forester

Clear access to emerging innovations in artistic, narrative, embodied and technological methods. Reflecting on the wide continuum of participatory practice, the authors explore the frontiers of community engagement within a fresh sustainability framework.
