

Emerging Planners Summit 2026

Planning for What's Next

Summit Program



Friday, 31 July 2026



8:30am - 4:30pm



Spring Street Theatre - 1 Spring Street,
Melbourne



Emerging
Planners

Summit 2026 Program

PIA VIC Emerging Planners

Morning

8:30am **Study Tours Commence**
**Tours run concurrently*

Wesley Place
Hansen Partnership

Birrarung Marr
Tract Consultants

Metro Tunnel
City of Melbourne

10:00am **Registrations Open**

10:30am **Welcome Addresses**
Acknowledgement of Country
PIA VEP Convenor - Hugh McIntyre MPIA
PIA Victoria President - Patrick Fensham MPIA

11:00am **Plenary and Panel**
Current State of Planning in Victoria
Stuart Menzies - Executive Director State Planning Policy, DTP
Jane Keddle MPIA - Director Urban Planning, Hansen Partnership

12:00pm **Session 1**
Getting your First Job: Mastering CV's and Interviews
Narule Stewart - Team Leader, Public Sector People
Supported by Other Guests

Session 2
Urban Design for Planners
Nicola Smith RPIA (Fellow) - Founding Director, Niche Studio
Mike Day RPIA (Fellow) - Co-Founder & Director, Sharp | Day

12:45pm **Lunch**

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PIA VIC Emerging Planners

Afternoon

1:30pm **PIA CEO Presentation - Career Journey**
Matt Collins MPIA

1:45pm **Panel Discussion**
Where to from here? Career Progression and Emerging Specialisations
Leo Liemesak - Associate Director, Planning, Planned Resources
Zena Foale-Banks - Associate Director, Urbis
Mariah Stellato PIA (Assoc.) - Senior Manager Environment, Sustainability and Planning, Pacific Blue Australia

2:15pm **Session 1**
Career Pathways: Statutory v Strategic, Public v Private, Metro v Regions
Philip Paton MPIA - Principal Town Planner, Beveridge Williams
Oscar Yencken MPIA - Strategic Planner, DTP
Katherine Lewer - Senior Consultant, Urbis

Session 2
Getting into Advocacy and Evidence: Panels, VCAT and the reforming of the P+E Act
David Vorchheimer RPIA (Fellow) - Partner, Russell Kennedy
Supported by Other Guests

3:00pm **Afternoon Tea**

3:30pm **Closing Session**
Pitch Off: What's the Best Vision of Planning for Victoria?
Adam Henson - Executive Director State Planning Major Projects, DTP
Scott Matheson MPIA - Planning Coordinator, Macedon Ranges Shire Council
Alexandra Faure MPIA - ESG & Sustainability Lead, Niche Studio
Jon Kanoa, First Peoples Self Determination, DTP

4:30pm **Close**

4:45pm **Planners at the Pub**
Morris House - Melbourne CBD

Ticket Information

To ensure this event is as accessible to our young and emerging planners as possible, we have set ticket prices to accommodate the varying groups:

Student PIA Member	\$62.00
Graduate PIA Member	\$90.00
PIA Member	\$120.00
Non-Member	\$150.00

*For students who are non-members, we are offering an annual PIA membership **plus** a Summit ticket for \$150.*

Please contact vic@planning.org.au to unlock this offer.

[Register here](#)



Thank you to our Summit Partners



Venue Partner



Department
of Transport
and Planning

Reach out to us

W: planning.org.au
E: vic@planning.org.au