



Warmest greetings from everyone at Visionary Design Development. We would like to take the opportunity via this newsletter to update our clients, colleagues and associates on the first half of 2011.

Pacific Eye Institute Suva now fully operational



VDD are proud to have been the access consultants for this important health facility located in the heart of the Pacific. Ralph and Mary Ann were accompanied around the completed facility by PEI's General Manager, Losalini Tavaga. The various accessibility features of the complex, such as wide, level entry doors and ramped access to the upper floor, is daily benefiting both patients and staff, including a wheelchair-using visiting ophthalmologist.



Two Day Accessibility Workshop in Fiji

Mary Ann and Ralph recently participated in a two-day Assessing Accessibility Workshop in Suva with AusAID, Fijian Disabled Peoples' Association (FDPA) and the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF). Attendees included several persons with a disability and representatives from disability organisations, various government departments, Fijian architects association and consulting engineers etc. Topics discussed included the current status of accessibility regulation in Fiji and current processes for removal of built environment barriers. As a result of the Workshop, a Taskforce is to be established. We also conducted a micro trial of the built environment component of the UMI. In three separate teams, each team evaluated the same three external and internal areas (elements) of the conference centre using the UMI process. With only one exception (a Very Bad rather than Bad) all three teams independently allocated the same rating for each element.

New VDD Office Premises in North Melbourne

VDD has taken new premises in a brand new accessible office building within 2 km of Melbourne CBD. 8/204 Dryburgh Street, North Melbourne 3051. Telephone is now +61 3 9329 7887, fax remains +61 3 9376 6020. Train, tram and bus within easy walking distance, plus on-street parking. Front entry features a wheelchair lift, while the rear door is level access; accessible toilets on all floors. Other sustainability features include: bicycle racks, shower and sensor lights. Two meeting rooms are available. Please drop in and visit us. 



Kensington UMI Pilot Completed

The first pilot of VDD's Universal Mobility Index – the first tool to measure the overall accessibility of neighbourhoods – has just been successfully completed. Centered around the Macaulay Road shopping strip and extending to a surrounding region that included infrastructure, housing, public and commercial buildings. Some of the built environment categories scored much better for accessibility than others. These results should interest all accessibility stakeholders. Please contact ralph@vdd.com.au for a copy of the pilot report.



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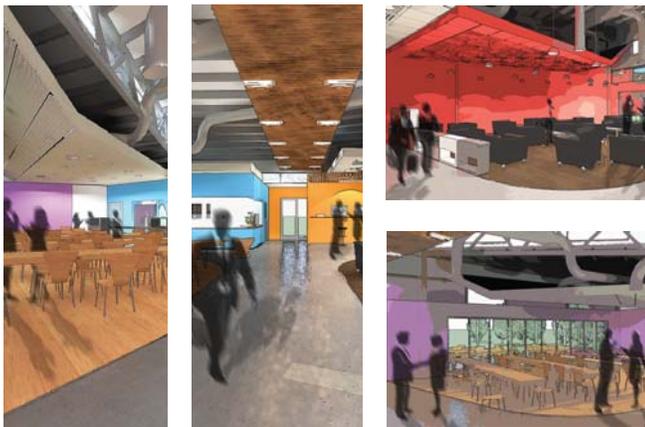
4th Annual Healthy Cities Conference, Noosa

VDD's presentation in July was very well received. Conference delegates included local government, consultants and academics. VDD will also be presenting in Hobart at the 12th International Cities Town Centres and Communities 2011 conference Cities with People in Mind, late October.



Wayne Swan officiates at Sanofi Aventis sod turning ceremony in Brisbane

Global pharmaceutical and healthcare company Sanofi Aventis is expanding its operations on the Northside of Brisbane. In collaboration with Life Sciences and Process Engineering firm Synertec, VDD's architectural design and documentation included new staff café, laboratories and production facilities.



Sustainable Urbanisation Delegation July 2011 South America

Karol represented VDD on the Brasil component of this very busy mission, facilitated by the Victorian government. Cities visited included Curitiba, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. Meetings were held with and presentations made to government Ministers of Planning, Environment or similar and industry leaders in all locations. Both VDD Latin America representatives, Daniel and Karol, attended the mission's Sustainable Cities of the Future Forum in Santiago where they met up with the bi-partisan Victorian government delegation and senior representatives from the Office of Disability for the Municipality of Santiago.

Nick Shearman commences Master of Architecture at University of Melbourne

And is currently working on a Youth Crisis Centre design project. Nick is also in charge of two competition entries, an educational facility and tropical housing (multiple types.)

Mary Ann completes Master of Environment at University of Melbourne

Her final academic task was a minor thesis Assessing Accessibility using a Participatory Approach: Strengths and Challenges of the Universal Mobility Index. An academic journal article based on this work will follow soon. Mary Ann looks forward to embarking on her PhD in a few years time!!



Introducing Karol Molina, Latin America Projects

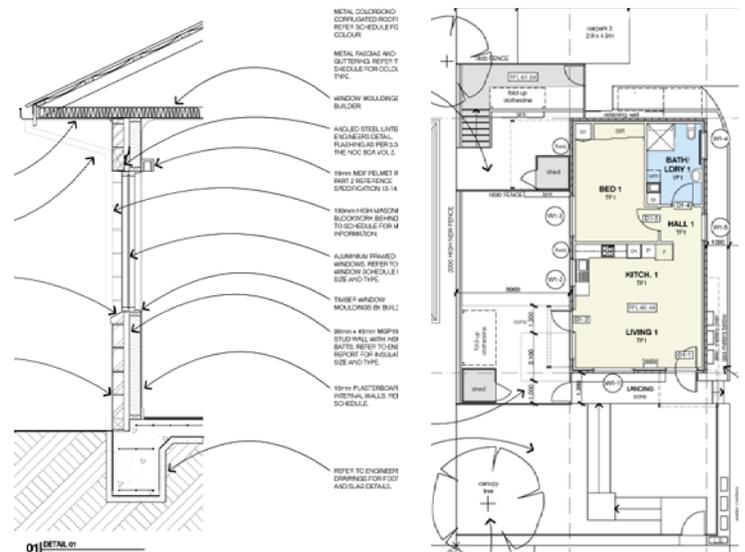
Karol, a Colombian national, with an undergraduate major in Communication and Conflict is currently completing a Masters in International Studies at the University of Santiago de Chile. Karol has extensive experience in the disability sector particularly through her work in the Vice President's Office of the Colombian government. We are very pleased to have Karol as part of the VDD team - karol@vdd.com.au Karol joins Daniel Fellhandler on our Latin America Projects Team.

Accessibility in the Built Environment Short Courses

VDD has been engaged by CBM/Nossal Institute of Global Health for a second time to provide built environment accessibility courses to members of visiting non-government organisations. The initial Timor Leste group, in 2009, was from the Water and Sanitation sector. This time the 2 day course will be attended by Indian Health Sector professionals and others and will have a health facilities focus. VDD recently provided a 2 hour introductory course on accessibility in the built environment for Museum Victoria. Attendees included exhibition designers, technicians and management from Melbourne Museum, Exhibition Buildings, Scienceworks and the Immigration Museum.

Social Housing out to Tender

Over the past few months, Nick and Tim have been busily working on five dwellings for the Victorian government's Office of Housing. Construction is anticipated to commence mid-late September 2011.



Throughout this year and beyond, Visionary Design Development Pty Ltd looks forward to working with you in accessibility, architecture, sustainability, planning, community development and research.