



# *Town and Country Planning Association Incorporated*

Box 312, Collins Street West P.O., Melbourne 8007

Registration no. A0031095J

<http://www.tcpa.org.au/>

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## **MEDIA RELEASE – 19 November 2020**

### **Sir James Barrett Memorial Medal 2020 winner announced Distinguished Professor Billie Giles-Corti**

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*Distinguished Professor Billie Giles-Corti (L) accepting the  
2020 Sir James Barrett Memorial Medal from  
Marianne Richards, President, TCPA Inc.*

Each year the Town and Country Planning Association Inc. (TCPA) awards the Sir James Barrett Memorial Medal to recognise the best contribution annually to town planning in Victoria.

**Distinguished Professor Billie Giles-Corti** was awarded the TCPA's Sir James Barrett Memorial Medal for 2020 at our Annual General Meeting on 19 November 2020.

Professor Billie Giles-Corti is a Distinguished Professor at RMIT University and, until September 2020, was the Urban Futures Enabling Capability Platform director at RMIT. She is a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Senior Principal Research Fellow and directs the Centre for Urban Research's Healthy Liveable Cities Research Group at RMIT's Centre for Urban Research. Prior to joining RMIT in 2017, she was a Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor at The University of Melbourne and Director of the McCaughey VicHealth Community Wellbeing Unit.

For over two decades, Billie and a multi-disciplinary research team have been studying the impact of the built environment on health and wellbeing. Her team has mapped policy-relevant urban liveability indicators across all Australian capital cities and these are now disseminated through the Australian Urban Observatory.

Over that same period, the TCPA has focussed on the themes of walking and cycling to maintain health; and human health impacts in urban environments particularly with regard to green/blue spaces and transport corridors.

TCPA President, Marianne Richards, said Billie's work has been an inspiration to the TCPA as well as many others in land use and transport planning.



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She has published over 300 articles, book chapters and reports, and is ranked in the highest echelons of researchers in her field globally.

She is an Honorary Fellow of both the Planning Institute of Australia and the Public Health Association, a Fulbright Scholar and in 2016, was awarded an NHMRC Elizabeth Blackburn Fellowship as the top ranked female fellow in public health in 2015. She is a member of the Victorian Office of the Government Architect Design Review Panel.

***About the Town and Country Planning Association Inc.***

The TCPA is a politically independent, not-for-profit association incorporated in Victoria in 1994 and is independent of any party political organisation. Its members and supporters represent a wide cross-section of land use and transport planning expertise and interests.

TCPA began life in 1914 as the Victorian Town Planning and Parks Association (VTPPA). The name was later changed to the TCPA (1941). The TCPA advocates for integrated planning of land use and transport for ecological sustainability and a healthy living environment.

***About the Sir James Barrett Memorial Medal***

Sir James William Barrett KBE, CB, CMG (1862 –1945) was an Australian ophthalmologist and academic administrator. He was educated at the University of Melbourne and King's College, London. As well as being the inaugural president of the VTPPA, he was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne (1931 – 1934) and then Chancellor (1935 – 1939). He seems to have been a particularly colourful character in all phases of his medical career with a reputation as a tough and determined administrator. He was a frequent contributor to *The Age* and *Argus* newspapers.

Like many other concerned citizens of the time, Barrett was passionate about the preservation of open spaces in both the city and the country. He was strongly influenced by the Garden Cities (UK) and American playgrounds movements and their benefits for human health.

In 1950, the then TCPA President, Prof. Brian Lewis, proposed that a £100 bequest from Barrett's estate be used to fund a medal to recognise the best contribution annually to town planning in Victoria. The inaugural Sir James Barrett Memorial Medal was awarded in 1952 and has been made at an annual event in most years since then.

Recipients have included architects, planners, advocacy leaders, Ministers of Planning, community activists/advocates and public servants and administrators. The award was not always made to an individual. In 1976, the medal was awarded to the Australian Government 1972-75 (accepted by the Hon Gough Whitlam, by then leader of the Opposition). In 1988, the award was presented to both the Melbourne City Council and the Moe City Council.

For information on past winners visit: <https://tcpa.org.au/about-us/>

**Marianne Richards**

President, Town and Country Planning Association Inc.

19 November 2020

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