

## **Man with a plan Jamie First**

Cars, bicycles, trains and trams may not sound exciting, but they've just landed Hawthorn's Chris De Gruyter the top nod.

The Monash University PhD student has won the inaugural Australasian Waldron-Webb Award, presented by the ARRB Group and Roads Australia, for his research into travel plans.

"I was certainly surprised and very honoured to have received it," Mr De Gruyter said.

"It makes me feel very humble ... and recognises good transport research being done by students."

The 34-year-old said his research focused on how effective travel plans were in managing car use at new residential developments.

"A travel plan is a strategy that contains initiatives to support more sustainable travel.

"Initiatives that are normally in a travel plan might be things such as providing additional bicycle parking or a car sharing facility ... and other incentives to use public transport."

Mr De Gruyter said the impact of the award would affect others too.

"It provides an excellent way for the outcomes of the research to be promoted to the community and the wider industry as well."

He said he was excited to continue in the research field following the completion of his PhD in a month's time.

"I have a position lined up with the Institute of Transport Studies at Monash University as a research fellow."