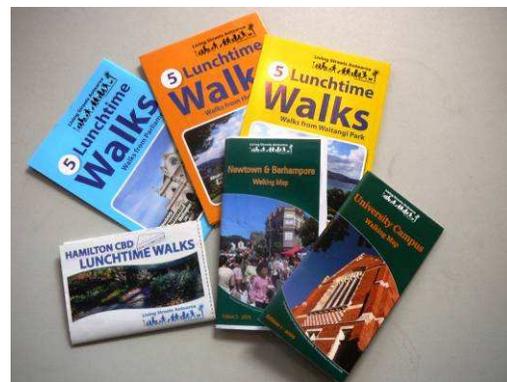
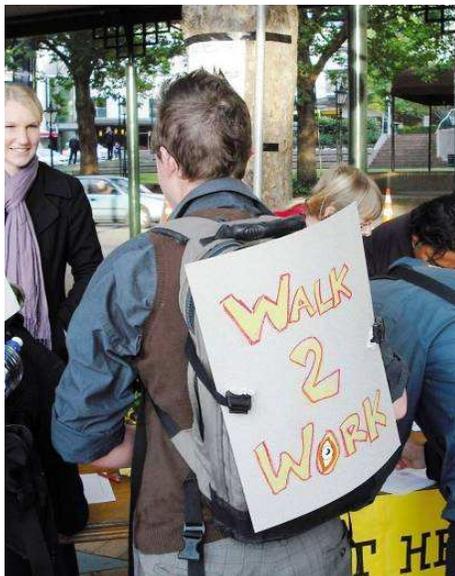


# ANNUAL REPORT 2008-09

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## Living Streets Aotearoa



[www.livingstreets.org.nz](http://www.livingstreets.org.nz)



We are an independent incorporated society and registered charity, established in 2002, that advocates for improved conditions for pedestrians and walkers and promotes walking-friendly communities.

## Our Vision

More people choosing to walk more often.

## Our Mission

We will energetically and creatively persuade decision-makers, officials and the public of the importance and desirability of walking and attractive public spaces.

## What we do

- promote walking as a healthy, accessible, cheap, sociable and environmentally-friendly means of transport and recreation.
- promote the economic and social benefits of walking-friendly communities.
- work for walking-friendly communities with improved access and conditions for walkers, pedestrians and runners.
- advocate for greater representation of walker and pedestrian concerns in land use, transport and urban design planning.
- raise the profile of walking through education, debate, campaigns, publications, seminars and conferences.
- Foster consideration for people with special mobility needs.

## Our people

### Executive Council 2008- 2009

Celia Wade-Brown (president)  
Mike Mellor (vice-president)  
Andy Smith (treasurer)  
Gay Richards (secretary)  
Daphne Bell  
Ralph Chapman  
Carina Duke  
Graeme Easte  
Peter Kortegast  
Rhys Taylor

### Staff 2008-2009

Liz Thomas	Director
Lily Linton	Project Administrator
Fiona Whero	South Island Networker
Kelvin Aris	Auckland Networker
Carol Comber	Project Officer (March - August 2008)
Janet Lawson	Project Officer (from December 2008)

### Living Streets Aotearoa Incorporated

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*Note: Living Streets uses 'walking' to mean "The act of self-propelling along a route, whether on foot or on small wheels, or with aids." as in the LTNZ Pedestrian Planning and Design Guide. We strive to include people with mobility and/or sensory impairments.*

# President's Report 2008-9

## Vocabulary and lessons

This is the seventh report I've written in this role and it's been a really exciting seven years. We have a special lexicon - kerb cut-out, travel demand management, latent demand, cognitively impaired pedestrian, woonerf and the whole series of "bird" crossings – pelican, puffin, toucan and kea! Some sayings are so memorable – taking the waewae express, taking Shanks's pony, shake a leg, put a toe in the water. I've also learnt much about governance, leadership, patience and the sense of good people working as a team. Lessons from this organisation have been used in my other work on smaller committees or larger Trusts and the Council. Learning has transferred the other way too. These seven years have been stressful at times, full with job interviews and funding applications as well as more exciting conferences and new projects. We are now credible and recognised so the 2002 question "Do we need a new organisation at a national level to advocate for walking?" has been answered with a resounding "Yes, we do!"



## Thanks

When I look back over previous reports I'm humbled by how many people have worked, voluntarily (or with a little pressure!) or paid to bring us to this point. Some have gone overseas, some have moved on to different roles in health or transport in the public, private or third sectors. Some stalwarts have remained – especial thanks to Mike Mellor, trusty vice-president, who has been there almost from the beginning, and Ina Smart who really was there at the beginning in 1998, well before national incorporation!

The Living Streets executive council meet by phone roughly six times a year and twice face-to-face. There is ongoing e-mail discussion and most members take on an area of interest or commitment too. This is quite a commitment and I'd like to extend thanks to Carina Duke, Gay Richards (our organised secretary!), Andy Smith (treasurer with a heart), Rhys Taylor, Peter Kortegast and Daphne Bell. If you form the core of the new executive council, this organisation will be well served.

Farewell to our Urban Protocol Champion, Ralph Chapman. I know your contribution to the Climate Change debate includes a strong emphasis on mode shift within the transport sector so you will continue to be a true friend of walking. Most executive members are locally very active in Living Streets and other organisations. Other members do excellent volunteer service such as Robert Davies, our web-master. Some contributors are paid an honorarium to enable their time to be recognised. I'd like to thank Walk Wellington team, including George Fairbairn and Heather Smith, for showing how pleasurable a walk in Wellington is, especially for new visitors.

One person that's made a huge difference to Living Streets Aotearoa is our reliable, commonsense and passionate director, Liz Thomas. She keeps everyone up to date with issues, funding and projects and supports our staff very warmly too. Thanks also to all our hard-working and amiable staff - Fiona Whero, Kelvin Aris, Lily Linton and Janet Lawson!

Some dreams are being realised – the inaugural Walking Awards are here in 2009 and showcase great examples round the country. I was sceptical initially about a day to celebrate walking to work since it's quite a distributed activity rather than a centralised activity but Walk2Work Day has shown its value in raising walking's profile and attracting considerable media attention. We've managed to keep the celebration distinct in its local walking flavour.

As an organisation we do pay attention to whether an activity or action furthers our Strategic Plan and we've done well keeping that plan actively up to date, not mouldering away on a shelf for years! So we walk the talk and talk the walk!

## **Communications- talking the walk**

"Footprints" has grown from a B&W Wellington rant to a professional and interesting magazine, thanks to Freda Wells and contributors. Our website is bulging at the seams with interesting data and is about to be revamped into a more structured set-up. Thanks to Fuzion for the analysis and re-design. Isn't it nice that our view is the "commonsense one" on mobile phone usage while driving, according to local radio?

We have ensured positive contact with a wide range of politicians, national and local, including Hekia Parata, Turiana Turia, the new Transport Minister, Steven Joyce, and our existing contacts such as Annette King and Russel Norman, and pursued specific matters such as the Wellington Great Harbour Way with Peter Dunne. Walking has advantages of efficiency, low-impact, increasing economic activity, social surveillance and reducing environmental impact that appeal across the political spectrum. We will lobby for the best outcomes for walking we can achieve with any administration at local, regional or national level.

Staff at various government ministries, agencies and departments have been a mixed bag to work with. Some have been remarkably dismissive of walking's role but most have readily accepted its importance, if not always willing to advocate its premier place. However, some we have dealt with have been working ahead of us and inspired us with ideas, examples and contacts.

We are also beginning to work with some embassies, high commissions and consulates so that we can learn from other countries, both in terms of technical knowledge and the culture of walking. The Dutch embassy may prove more appropriate for the cycling community but our contacts with the British High Commission have proved fruitful with a wonderful Welsh speech about getting rid of "the jag with the flag" in favour of more walking by High Commission staff from the Deputy High commissioner at Walk2Work Day 2009.

Consultancies have begun to treat walking with more weight – from the "heavies" of Opus to the new and nimble Via Strada and Abley Associates. We have remained involved in advising on research gaps and projects in the transport area.

## **Moving forwards – our next steps**

Although I am standing down from the Living Streets Aotearoa executive, I shall certainly continue to advocate for walking in as many places as I can – cities and towns, suburbs and centres, highways, alleyways and wild places, access to public transport and safe co-existence with bicycles.

I wish fellow Living Streets members and staff all the very best for continuing our worthwhile journey. Remember to wander off the beaten track occasionally, to challenge received wisdom that "this is the best we can do" and to jump right out of any boxes you get put in! I am currently a board member of the International Federation of Pedestrians and am happy to continue to make those connections.

Other Pacific Rim countries could really do with Living Streets organisations – should Living Streets Victoria be our next expansion or Living Streets Beijing?

We seek to diversify activities and funding into new areas that will promote walkability and mean "more people choosing to walk more often". I see particular opportunities in the mapping field, community reviews and the digital arena.

Finally, thanks to all the local Living Streeters that keep Councils on their toes, inspire new walking links or activities and work to connect health, urban design, transport, economic health and local communities!

I leave you with a call to physical, community and mental ACTION with this quote by Mary Richards, "*Let no one be deluded that a knowledge of the path can substitute for putting one foot in front of the other.*"



Celia Wade-Brown

## Summary of Key Achievements

This has been a busy and successful year for Living Streets, at both national and local levels. Living Streets has consolidated its place as the key walking and pedestrian organisation working co-operatively with central and local government and other organisations. Key achievements include:

- ✓ Successful third NZ Walking conference, opened by the Minister of Transport, and attended by 170 walking practitioners and decision makers
- ✓ Inaugural NZ Walking Awards, presented at a ceremony in July 2009
- ✓ Roll-out of Walk2Work to twelve centres around the country
- ✓ Increased to twelve the number of Walking Action Groups working with local councils and others to make their communities more walking-friendly
- ✓ Ran the Walking and Cycling Microfund grants process, with the number of applications doubling to over a hundred
- ✓ Responded to requests for comment on key national strategies including the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport Funding and the 2020 Road Safety Strategy
- ✓ Developed a portfolio of walking maps to encourage people to walk for short journeys

## Staff and funding

We received funding for the second year of our three-year contract with the New Zealand Transport Agency for the Networking Programme which aims to strengthen the capacity of the walking sector, both nationally and locally. We now employ a part-time networker for the programme in Auckland, as well as in Christchurch.

We continue to develop our consultancy services, which will enable us to generate funding from projects such as community street reviews and walking maps. Our project officer left during the year and was replaced in December.

We continue to have a close relationship with the Cycling Advocates' Network (CAN) with a Memorandum of Understanding to share office space and equipment in Wellington, Christchurch and Auckland. Sharing facilities and resources benefits both organisations, and enables us to share information easily and to work together on projects.

## **Raising the profile of walking**

We have had a busy year promoting walking at all levels to key walking stakeholders and decision makers, and developing our capacity to support our growing number of Walking Action Groups around the country.

Living Streets has raised the profile of walking as a contributing factor in the solution to the challenges facing New Zealand, including the global recession, climate change, fluctuating fuel prices, and increasing ill-health due to inactivity.

Our message is that more people walking is good for the economy, bringing economic benefits to both individuals and businesses. The government benefits from lower costs for health care, businesses benefit from healthier, more productive workers and less congestion on the roads, and local retailers benefit from increased footfall past their stores.

## **National Events**

### **Third NZ Walking Conference**

The third NZ Walking Conference organised by Living Streets was held in Auckland in August 2008. The conference was a valuable opportunity for the 170 walking practitioners and decision makers who attended to network and share ideas and best practice.

The Minister of Transport opened the conference, and keynote speaker Dan Burden was well received. The feedback was very positive; the results from participants' evaluations can be seen on our website. The Ministry of Transport publication Motivate Winter 08 carried an article and picture about the conference.

### **Inaugural Golden Foot awards**

Living Streets has established the Golden Foot walking awards to celebrate and recognise achievements for walkers by acknowledging innovative new facilities, highlighting national best practice and rewarding ongoing commitment to walking. There was good response to the awards, with many creative and inspiring nominations which were judged by an expert panel. The inaugural awards ceremony is being held in July.

### **Walk2Work day**

We had planned to roll the event out this year to six or seven areas where there are active Walking Action Groups operating. However, once word spread, there was a lot of interest, and in end there were twelve events around the country.

A national co-ordinator organised the publicity nationally and supported the local organisers with resources, information and advice on communication strategies. Prizes and promotional material were sent out to each participating event. There were many supporters and sponsors for the events, including the Sustainable Living Education Trust.

There was good media coverage, especially locally. Dunedin was featured on TV One Breakfast Show and the 6 o'clock news, and the Christchurch event was on CTV local television and TV One Breakfast Show. The Listener published an article in the week before Walk2Work day.

All the events were well attended, with the Minister of Transport speaking at the Wellington event. In Dunedin special commuter trains were put on to bring people into the city to walk up to the Octagon and on to work. The report and photos can be viewed on the Living Streets website.

## **Local Action**

Walking is a localised activity, so much of the work needed to make streets safe, pleasant and inviting needs to be done locally by people who know their community well. The Networking programme enables us to help people set up, maintain and develop a Walking Action Group so that they can participate effectively in planning for making their community walking-friendly.

### **Walking Action groups**

Living Streets now supports a network of twelve Walking Action Groups around the country, with training, resources, and advice.

Three new Walking Action Groups were set up in 2008-9 in Manukau, North Shore, and the South Island West Coast. These were in addition to the eight Walking Action Groups Living Streets was supporting last year, in Auckland City, Hamilton, Taupo, Wellington, Nelson/Tasman, Marlborough, Canterbury and Dunedin, and a small group in Palmerston North. We have been talking with key walking stakeholders in Waitakere, Lower Hutt and Queenstown, and hope to set up groups in these areas in the 2009-10 year.

It was a busy year for submissions, with Long Term Council Community Plans and Regional Land Transport Plans out for consultation. Most groups made written and often oral submissions on these documents. This was in addition to making submissions on the many other plans, proposals and strategies out for public consultation. It's very satisfying to hear Living Streets groups' submissions quoted in council reports, and mentioned in the media.

Group members also work with other local agencies and decision makers, and have been appointed onto local committees and working groups to provide a walking perspective. This gives an indication of the extent to which the local groups are respected and take part in planning for their communities.

Groups have also been promoting walking in a variety of ways including:

- organising Walk2Work events, mostly in collaboration with other local organisations such as the Council or District Health Board
- developing walking maps.
- running Car Free Day activities
- having a presence at local fairs, and events
- attending and presenting at seminars and workshops

## **Walking and Cycling Micro-fund**

This small programme, funded by NZTA and formerly called the Community Partnership Programme, gives grants of up to \$1000 for small walking and cycling projects. Living Streets administered the programme for both walking and cycling.

Thirty three organisations, including schools, health organisations, sports trusts, walking groups and community centres received funding for walking or joint walking/cycling initiatives. The funding enabled many local groups and organisations to access small amounts of money through a simple, accountable mechanism, resulting in many small, local walking initiatives taking place.

## **Supporting regional projects**

Through our local groups, Living Streets has been involved with two regional projects which aim to make the transport network more accessible to all modes, including walking and cycling. Our affiliated group Walk Auckland was one of several groups in the Get Across campaign, which is advocating for a cycle/walk way across the Auckland Harbour Bridge.

Living Streets Wellington has been working in a coalition promoting the Great Harbour Way, and in particular for closing the gap between Petone and Wellington, which at present is dangerous for cyclists and walkers. We see these as cornerstone projects for walking and cycling, of both practical and symbolic (awareness building) value.

## **Promoting best practice**

### **Working with key stakeholders and decision makers**

Living Streets has developed good working relationships with key government departments, government ministers, and spokespeople from other political parties

on transport, health and recreation. We meet regularly with Ministry of Transport and NZ Transport Agency staff.

We were one of about 16 key stakeholders who were specifically asked for comment on the proposed changes to the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport Funding. We also contributed to the discussion document which will go out for consultation on the 2020 Road Safety Strategy, and made a submission on Third Party Insurance.

We have been actively involved with Regional Active Transport Forums in Auckland, Nelson/Tasman and Canterbury, and with promoting and supporting the recently established Wellington Regional forum. We continue to work with organisations in other areas where there is interest in setting up similar forums.

Living Streets and CAN were working on the idea of a national cycling network in late 2008 with the Hikurangi Foundation, which was set up to stimulate practical solutions by New Zealanders to the challenges of climate change. We see the opportunities a national network would bring for walkers, based on the UK experience, where in 2007 half of the 354 million trips on the National Cycling Network were on foot. When the idea of a national cycleway emerged from the Jobs Summit, we were part of a group who met to discuss the opportunities. We sent copies of the book "Millennium Miles" about the Sustrans UK Network to the Ministers of Tourism, Infrastructure and Transport to illustrate the long-term economic benefits of a national network, which would be used around towns and cities by walkers as well as cyclists.

## **Sharing Information**

We continue to send out media releases, write articles for publication, and speak at conferences and seminars.

Our website has been upgraded, and the walking information formerly accessed through the WalkIT website has been incorporated into the Living Streets website and re-catalogued to make it more easily searchable using a more flexible system.

We have moved our contacts data to a new client relationship management system which allows us to keep better track of our contacts and members, and to target groups for sending specific information.

We are now sending out a monthly E-bulletin which is proving a very effective way of getting our information out to a wide range of people. Our quarterly Footprints newsletter is sent to members and put on the website, with our contacts notified through the E-bulletin.

## **International contacts**

We maintain our links with international walking organisations and professionals. Living Streets has helped to arrange and promote overseas speakers' itineraries such as Rodney Tolley's visit to South Island centres, and Dan Burden's visit to New Zealand for the walking conference and to run workshops in other centres.

### **International Walking Charter**

During the year the Wellington, Dunedin, Nelson and North Shore City Councils and the Marlborough District Council all signed the charter. The charter is a good tool for raising the awareness of walking among councillors and staff.

### **Walk 21 conference**

Two Living Streets Executive Council members were in Barcelona for the Walk21 International Walking conference, and brought their findings back to share with colleagues in New Zealand.

### **International Federation of Pedestrians**

Living Streets is a member of the International Federation of Pedestrians, and our representative attended their meeting held in Barcelona at the time of the Walk 21 conference. Living Street's handbook for Walking Action Groups and a history of the development of Living Streets Aotearoa is on their website, and our president Celia Wade-Brown is on their board.

### **International Car-Free Day**

We supported International Car-Free day with walking activities and media releases. Living Streets groups around the country ran events or supported other organisations' events, including the "Get Across the Bridge" rally in Auckland which attracted 500 walkers and cyclists, Living Streets Wellington's walk home from work, Canterbury DHB's Walking Work Buses, and support for a visual demonstration of the comparative amount of space taken up by 50 cars, 50 cyclists, a bus with 50 people, and 50 people on foot.

## **Consultancy services**

Living Streets has been investigating developing a consultancy arm to enable us to widen our funding base, returning net earnings back to the organisation. We have been working with CAN to investigate how we might be able to work in partnership with them. At present we are creating product development plans for

Community Street Reviews and Walking Maps, which are two of the services we could offer to Councils and others to improve access and way-finding for walkers. These projects will require experienced walking advocates on the ground who know their area and can offer assistance and advice, so we will offer further training opportunities to our local groups.

## **Walking maps**

This year we developed and published a map for Victoria University showing walking routes between the four campuses. We also published the second edition of the Newtown and Berhampore walking map, and three Lunchtime Walks brochures showing walks starting from different points in the Wellington CBD. The Lunchtime Walks maps were launched in June by the Associate Minister of Health Tariana Turia. Walking maps have also been produced in several areas by, or with the assistance of, our local groups, including Hamilton and Taupo. These maps are being used as examples of walking maps that we can assist councils and communities to produce to encourage walking.

## **Community street reviews**

We are developing our ability to assist Councils to do community street reviews, as part of Network Accessibility Plans and other projects. We have a proposal with the Manukau City Council for a review in the Flat Bush area, and have discussed doing reviews with the Christchurch and Dunedin City Councils. We will work in collaboration with NZTA and Abley Transportation Consultants for the collection of physical and operational data.

## **Walk Wellington**

Walk Wellington, which runs guided walks for visitors, became part of Living Streets in 2005. They now have over twenty five volunteer guides who receive on-going training, and who lead daily walks as well as personalised walks for school and corporate groups and cruise ship passengers.