



Footprints

July 2011

Newsletter of Living Streets Aotearoa

2 WALK AND CYCLE 2012 CONFERENCE

Join us in February 2012 at the *2 Walk and Cycle Conference*, injecting great new ideas, debate and momentum into the collective non-motorised transport community! The conference is to be held in the Opera House Theatre at the Hawke's Bay Opera House in Hastings.

Creating smarter connections is key to unlocking multiple gains and improvements for towns and cities throughout New Zealand, be it transport, tourism, health, the economy,

creating smarter connections

Hastings, 22-24 February 2012

the environment, sport and recreation or simply a better quality of life. The conference will bring together a wide range of people and ideas to demonstrate how walking and cycling are central to unlocking these gains.

Through a combination of plenary sessions, short presentations, workshops and networking, this conference will inform, challenge and connect participants about walking and cycling related actions. More info at: www.2walkandcycle.org.nz!



Notice of Annual General Meeting

You are invited to attend the AGM of Living Streets Aotearoa Incorporated to be held: Tuesday 23rd of August 2011 at 7.30pm. The AGM will be via teleconference. The AGM is open to both members and the public, however only members can vote.

Written expressions are now invited for interest in positions on the Executive Council and for general Executive Council positions. Please send a short profile and reasons for interest to: gay.richards@livingstreets.org.nz no later than **9 August**. (Apologies can be sent to this email also). Nominations can be accepted during the teleconference meeting.

~ Gay Richards, National Secretary

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Annual General
4. President's report
5. Financial report
6. Election of Executive Council (President & Vice, Secretary, Treasurer, and up to five other members)
7. Appointment of auditor
8. Any other business

Please RSVP to info@livingstreets.org.nz by 5pm Friday 19 August to get instructions for dialing into the conference call.

What's online?

www.streetfilms.org

Inspiring movies that showcase projects and ideas that are transform streets dominated by cars into Livable Streets. Get inspired and let's continue creating living streets in New Zealand.

www.walkingaccess.govt.nz

Do you want to know how to reach and find out which lakes, beaches, rivers, and mountains are accessible have a look at this website. It helps people to find access to publicly-owned land. It aims to enhance free, certain, enduring, and practical walking access to the New Zealand outdoors.

greenwaysproject.org.nz

The Greenways Project has a vision of people being able to cycle or walk through the heart of Auckland, through leafy quiet streets, parks and school grounds, around harbour edges.

Noteworthy Upcoming Events 2011

23 August: AGM Living Streets

See announcement page 1 and on website

16 September: Park(ing) day

www.parkingday.org

22 September: Car-free day

See if there is anything organised in -

your town or organise an event with your colleagues, school, family or friends

24 September: Moving Planet

A day to Move Beyond Fossil Fuels

www.moving-planet.org



Join Living Streets Aotearoa and our events on facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/4r3tsts>

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Disclaimer: views expressed in Footprints are not necessarily those of Living Streets Aotearoa



From the President



Walk to Work Day was well attended with 700 people sharing breakfast to celebrate everyday walking. Wellington was a bit wet but still lots of people walking, and 10 other events throughout

the country. Read the reports of the events. I would like to thank all the supporters: the companies, councils, organisations and individuals who made this into a great community event.

The Living Streets executive council usually meets in April. The plan was to meet in Christchurch this year to see the results of the 'Greening the Rubble' project. However, the February aftershock put a stop to those plans. Instead we met in New Plymouth in May to discuss the short and long term plans. Attend the annual general meeting to

hear more about the plans for coming year(s).

Personally, I have had fun the past few months using the iPhone application **FixmyStreet**. Take a photo showing a problem and send it away on the iPhone. At home you confirm the report and it gets sent to those responsible for fixing it. Brilliant feature and so effective!

Sport Waitakere and I are working on a walking awareness campaign to show how far people walk in the supermarket. So we equipped people with pedometers and let them do their shopping. Imagine a large supermarket building, 80m by 94m. Each time you shop you walk on average 700 metres. The project tries to show people how easy it is to walk a short distance. The more short trips we can make by walking the better it is for your pocket and our health.

Join us for the AGM in August and join Living Streets. We need you to create living streets!

~ Andy Smith

Advertise in Footprints

Footprints is looking for people or businesses who are interested in advertising to help cover production costs.

If you have a corporate event or walking related product to promote get in touch: **info@livingstreets.org.nz** or phone us on 04 385 8280.

We are interested in advertising for urban design, community, health, transport, consultants, products, events ... we'd love to hear from you!

Previous editions of Footprints are online: **www.livingstreets.org.nz/newsletter**

Contributions, articles and feedback are welcome. Please send your contribution to the editor at: **footprints@livingstreets.org.nz**.

"Walking is good for solving problems - it's like the feet are little psychiatrists."

~ Pepper Giardino



Have your say!

Don't forget to keep an eye out for consultation on Regional Public Transport Plans - these need to pay strong attention to walking (and cycling) to get more (and enable more) people to use all these modes. So when the chance comes, do make a submission. Even better, see if you can be included as an identified stakeholder and take part in any early discussion and consultation on the new plans.

Northland: due in June for identified stakeholders, public consultation in August.

Auckland: is in state of reorganisation so unknown

Waikato: consultation 8 July - 8 August

Manawatu Whanganui: due out in July.

Wellington: also due out in July.

Gisborne: completed last year.

Hawkes Bay: consultation in July or August

West Coast: consultation recently concluded along with RLTS so awaiting outcome

Otago: public consultation in September

To find out more, go to your Regional Council's website and look at what it's consulting on or do a search using the phrase Regional Public Transport Plan.

An Oasis Amidst the Rubble

In Christchurch the Living Streets-coordinated project that is 'greening the rubble' has nearly completed a second public garden, a people-friendly frontage to a temporary car park on the site of a quake-demolished building. The neighbouring reinforced brick building is being renovated to create shops and offices. Being located near Christchurch Polytechnic and offices will hopefully see it being used as a lunchtime sitting area – a refreshing change to the badly damaged inner city. The 'Red Zone' central city cordon starts just across the road.

The roadside garden includes recycled brick and limechip ground surfaces, triangular steel and timber seats, native plantings and trees in specially made metal planter boxes. Landscape design is by Kevin Dwyer and Jody Tuuta. Construction was by a team of seven including Meg and Rhys from Living Streets and also some generous out-of-town visitors,

organised by 'Muck in for Christchurch', which was sponsored by Genesis Energy and the Red Cross.

Our first site in Victoria Street, where work was led by members of the Institute of Landscape Architects, is now a mass of wildflower blooms, and remains accessible to the public until September's de-construction. Elements of the site will then be shifted to new locations, to minimise waste.

Three more sites have been offered from interested landowners and many volunteers. Companies continue to donate construction materials. The Council has confirmed financial support towards a part-time project coordination role for a year.

To read more and see photos visit: www.greeningtherubble.org.nz and find us on Facebook.

Rhys Taylor can be contacted at: 03 960 2656 or: Rhys.taylor@livingstreets.org.nz.



Photo: Greener Rubble

Death to pedestrians: government policy?

Judy McDonald, Coordinator of Living Streets Hamilton, wrote an opinion piece for the Waikato Times, on Friday 1 June. Be inspired by her writing and compelling arguments, summarised below. For the full article, have a look at the website.

In the last month, Hamilton, a city of around 140,000 people, has had two elderly pedestrians killed on its main street, a cyclist killed on a main road, and another seriously injured in a collision.

My perfectly able-bodied adult son, who cycles regularly, says he had never been so frightened in his life as when he tried to bike the length of Hamilton's main street, with five people seriously endangering his life in the space of 1.5km, by opening doors on him, pulling out in front of him and cutting him off at corners.

Over the next year, our national government will be pouring over \$1 billion into the construction of major roads in the Waikato region. In contrast, almost all government subsidies for walking and cycling facilities have been removed. It would seem that the wellbeing of pedestrians and cyclists is not worth even a fraction of one percent

of the government's transport funding. Remember that all of us are pedestrians at some point, almost every day. Even if we take our car almost everywhere, eventually we get out of it and cross the road, walk to the shop or the office, and walk back. Do we really want a culture created where everyday movements are rendered so dangerous?

Should walkers and cyclists be at the bottom of the safety heap, or would it be more sensible to put them, as the most vulnerable road users, right up there at the top? Making life safe for walkers and cyclists takes a bit of imagination, but the investment of much less money than required by roading construction. A highway like the 6.5km Te Rapa bypass near Hamilton works out at near \$20,000 per metre to build. That's a lot of cycle paths and pedestrian crossings.

We need to look ahead. It is not an unrealistic dream. It happens already in other places. We shouldn't keep ignoring the options that already exist in cities as diverse as Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Perth, Melbourne, Bogota, Davis in California, Austin in Texas, Schaffhausen in Switzerland, Cambridge in Massachusetts, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Singapore, Seoul, and Havana.

We deserve better.

So - take action!

Write to the NZTA, go to public meetings, and make sure the pedestrian's voice is heard.

Write to the Minister
Steve Joyce:
steven.joyce@national.org.nz.



WALK2WORK

Local reports 2011

New Plymouth: Over 90 walkers stopped for coffee and hot muffins on their way into work in two city locations, great effort!

Wellington: Due to the rain Wellington had to cancel the main event in Frank Kitts Park. Volunteers at eight 'snack stations' located at key pedestrian commuter routes distributed hot cross buns, apples, Fairtrade bananas and coffee vouchers, still getting the message out there despite the rain!



Auckland: Over 100 walkers stopped for the event at Smales Farm, some walking from as far

as Stanmore Bay and Albany. Others hopped off the Northern Express bus on their way to work in Smales Farm office park or North Shore hospital. Everybody received a healthy breakfast thanks to Columbus Cafe. In Pigeon Park, over 350 walkers were also rewarded with a breakfast ~ which gave one class of teenagers so much energy they burst into spontaneous star jumps. Big thanks to Ziera for sponsoring the event with shoe voucher giveaways, and to the volunteers, cafes and bakeries for supplying tasty muffins and coffee!

Why Not Walk?

"Why not walk?" asks Nathaniel Benefield, New Plymouth District Council's Sustainable Transport Coordinator

The chaos caused by dropping kids off by car at school is a major concern for schools nationwide. Time pressures, weather and road safety all encourage school gate drop-offs; however, the associated safety issues present a major barrier to those on foot. "Why not walk?" is the message to parents of Welbourn School in New Plymouth.

Welbourn School and New Plymouth District Council's Lets' Go team have successfully pioneered the first Let's Go school walking map, with five more schools preparing theirs.

Creating the maps involved first gathering information from parents about footpath routes to school. The maps show these routes with frog-feet prints at one minute walking intervals, off-road recreational routes (recommending to take a grown-up), street to street shortcuts, suggested road crossing points, pedestrian crossings, steps, and sections of road to avoid crossing.

To get a map, students must first prove their commitment by making 10 walking trips to school, either from home or from a car parked a distance away.

Students also get a walking ticket to keep

track of their journeys and encourage them to continue. On reaching a new walking target (e.g. 25 trips), the ticket colour, giving bragging rights to those who walk, skate, scoot or scuttle to school the most.

The results are good too: A mid-winter survey to parents shows 79% of respondents are making more active trips to school, 57% now park away and walk, and 44% have noticed less car congestion near the school. Also, 80% of Welbourn School's students use the maps, and a larger bike storage is being planned for the additional bikes at school.

Getting nearby residents on board is also important. An information leaflet and letter-box sticker were sent out, and by placing the Let's Go sticker on their letterboxes residents agree to keep the paths clean and free of obstacles and litter, and to not reverse cars out of their driveways.

What we've seen is that working with a school can generate a culture change in road safety in the wider community.

For more information contact Nathaniel at: benefieldn@npdc.govt.nz.

Getacross Campaign Shifts Gear.

by Kirsten Shouler

GetAcross is a campaign that has been lobbying and advocating for cyclists and walkers to get across the Auckland Harbour Bridge. LSA have been supporting Getacross since its beginning. This great project hopes to transform the way people use the bridge, connect our communities and give a transport choice.

Getacross Campaign organisers are pleased with the news that NZTA is fast tracking a new collaborative approach on a design feasibility study for the Auckland Harbour Bridge Pathway. AHB Pathway Project Director Bevan Woodward says the project goal is to get the Pathway open to the public by next year.

A public launch is planned to let Aucklanders find out more about the proposal, and the Pathway group is asking for contributions to help fund the engineering reports and public launch.

Woodward says, "We want to let people see what we've been doing to make the Pathway a beautiful, transformational and effective walking and cycling facility for all to enjoy. Our work on the Pathway project has been almost entirely voluntary and we welcome support to help us meet the costs of the engineering work required by NZTA and to enable us to show our design to the public."

The campaign has the support of The Hikurangi Foundation, which helps a wide range of grassroots projects that are responding to climate change.



Photo credit: Kirsten Shouler



To read more and make a tax-deductible donation towards this important project visit: www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/Getacross

Further links:
www.getacross.org.nz
www.hikurangi.org.nz