



Press Release from **Living Streets Aotearoa**

26 August 2022

Living Streets Aotearoa is pleased to announce the winners of the Living Streets NZ Walking Awards. The Golden Foot awards were presented on August 25th 7:00 pm at a formal video conference.

At the biennial awards this year nine winners were announced, receiving the Golden Foot Award made in recycled wood by Rowan Saker at Global Wood Rework (Wellington). The winners listed below show some outstanding projects with Age Concern Wellington Region’s Companion Walking Service Programme receiving the judges highest score and Waka Kotahi – NZTA’s Wairarapa SH 2 Safety improvements of raised pedestrian platforms the second highest score.

Winning Projects	Category	Description.
Jim’s Track and Fladgate Nature Trail, Tapeka Point, Russell Tapeka Point Ratepayers Group	Community	Community led and crowd funded project to make a safer walk between Tapeka and Russell
Methven Walkway Methven Lions	Community	An eight km long walkway around the town that is designed and built so that all ages and capabilities can enjoy it. It crosses both public and private land that was previously inaccessible. The walkway incorporates an enchanted forest.
Central Hawke’s Bay All terrain wheelchair Central Hawke’s Bay Disability Network	Inclusive	Identified a need for an all terrain vehicle, researched and fundraised to buy one, purchased this winter for beach use. Available for borrowing at the local pool and provided without cost.

<p>Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor pedestrian footbridge project</p> <p>Christchurch City Council</p>	<p>Urban Connection</p>	<p>Three new pedestrian bridges in the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor reinstates valuable community connections that were lost in the 2010-2011 earthquake sequences and encourages exploration and connection with the former red zone corridor.</p>
<p>Meadowbank School Walking Bus Competition</p> <p>Auckland Transport</p>	<p>Walking to School</p>	<p>School principal Phil Toomer agreed to gamify walking to school through the Golden Ticket Competition with prize draws.</p> <p>In addition to encouraging walking to school, the project also produced highly detailed walking to school data.</p>
<p>Whitby Conclusion walkway</p> <p>Porirua City Council</p>	<p>Urban Connection</p>	<p>An upgrade to a 2.5km long service access track in a steep reserve so the track is now significantly more accessible</p> <p>Also provides improvements to connectivity between local communities and walkway amenity.</p>
<p>Cobham Drive Walkway and Cycleway</p> <p>Wellington City Council</p>	<p>Urban Connection</p>	<p>The Cobham Drive sidewalk was a narrow, shared footpath adjacent to a busy highway.</p> <p>It was transformed into a fully accessible, beautifully landscaped, separated footpath and cycleway, with seating to enjoy the scenery</p> <p>Many wind sculptures to look at along this coastal route.</p>
<p>Wairarapa SH 2 Safety improvements</p> <p>Waka Kotahi – NZ Transport Agency</p>	<p>Urban Connection</p>	<p>Raised pedestrian crossings have been built in a number of small towns in the Wairarapa along the State Highway 2 route and more are expected soon. These were selected in places that could help children walk to school and connect important walking routes in the community.</p> <p>This is a big departure from the car centred thinking that used to dominate state highway management and only prioritized car travel. Safer urban speeds an important improvement for all road users.</p>
<p>The Companion Walking Service programme</p> <p>Age Concern Wellington Region</p>	<p>Community</p>	<p>Our walking service matches fully trained and police checked volunteers with older people who may be experiencing reduced mobility, mild cognitive impairment, or a need for companionship.</p>

Background Living Streets Aotearoa is the New Zealand organisation for people on foot, promoting walking-friendly communities. We are a nationwide organisation with local branches and affiliates throughout New Zealand.

Walking helps children to develop independence and enhances their physical health and mental well-being.

Walking helps elderly people to maintain health, independence and social connection.

Walking helps everyone's mental and physical wellbeing. Walking is great medicine especially for depression, muscle mass, reducing obesity, increasing bone density and cardiovascular health. Walking is essential for retail success and public transport viability.

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