

# ANNUAL REPORT 2009-10

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## Living Streets Aotearoa



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

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**Living Streets Aotearoa** is an independent incorporated society and registered charity, established in 2002. It exists to ensure that the needs of people on foot are taken into account, and the many benefits of walking-friendly towns and cities are realised. It has established its place as the key walking and pedestrian organisation in New Zealand, working co-operatively with government and other organisations.

## Our Vision

More people choosing to walk more often.

## Our Mission

We 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 to create walking-friendly communities with improved access and conditions for walkers, pedestrians, wheeled 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, events, publications, seminars and conferences.
- Foster consideration for people with special mobility needs.

## Our people

### Executive Council 2009-10

Peter Kortegast	(president)
Mike Mellor	(vice-president)
Andy Smith	(treasurer)
Gay Richards	(secretary)
Daphne Bell	
Carina Duke	
Rhys Taylor	
Nina Arron	
Grant Schofield	

### Staff 2009-10

Liz Thomas	Director
Lily Linton	Project Administrator
Fiona Whero	South Island Networker
Kelvin Aris /	
Vincent Dickie	Auckland Networker
Janet Lawson	Project Officer

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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 2009-10

Taking on the role of president of Living Streets has been a rewarding experience and I have enjoyed working with my passionate and motivated colleagues on the Executive and those employed by our organisation. As a traffic engineer I have had a real insight into the reality of promotion of sustainable transport and believe Living Streets Aotearoa is a key organisation that all should strive hard to grow and nurture. This was brought home to me when visiting Adelaide in January this year, when our Aussie neighbours could not believe the strength and sophistication of our national walking organisation.



I am extremely grateful for the significant support I received from our organisation director Liz Thomas and my deputy president Mike Mellor, who is a founding member of Living Streets. Liz is a nationally recognised face and is equally at home talking to the Minister of Transport or mixing with passionate walking enthusiasts at walking promotion days. I will miss our weekly chats and her unstoppable "can do" attitude.

The last 12 months has seen many highlights for Living Streets including:

- Meeting with the Minister of Transport, the Hon. Steven Joyce
- Significant contribution to Safer Journeys Road Safety Strategy
- The 2009 inaugural Golden Foot Walking Awards
- The 2010 national Walk to Work Day
- Developing our forward 2 year plans
- Our Executive and advocates training day and Fundamentals of Pedestrian Planning course
- Regular meetings with NZTA and MOT

Perhaps a personal highlight for me is the national Golden Foot Walking Awards. I see recognising industry excellence and celebrating success as important. We often only see the problems, and feel frustration with not moving forward. But New Zealand does some great work and this occurs through action by people at all levels. We can all make a difference and that is the core founding principal of this organisation.

I was also like to acknowledge Living Streets Aotearoa colleagues who we are saying good bye to after many years of great service. This regrettably is needed to adjust to the reduced financial budget and government funding:

Kelvin Aris our Auckland networker who has working extremely hard in the Auckland region to advance sustainable walking communities.

Lily Linton our national administrator, who has put in four years of great enthusiastic service, contributing to many events and producing the wonderful Footprints newsletters. Lily has also done the very important jobs like managing memberships.

Janet Lawson our Projects Officer has also left us and become a new mother. Janet was instrumental in setting up the national Walking Awards and working on the Walk to Work events. She also represented us as one of only two New Zealanders at the International Walking Conference in New York USA.

These three staff will be greatly missed and I would like to thank them on behalf of our greater Living Streets community for their efforts.

Also I would like to acknowledge our long serving Executive member Carina Duke, who is leaving us after four years of effort, and Nina Arron who, although she has only served for one year, has contributed significantly to our Executive work load.

Looking forward, the walking community faces many challenges. The government has signalled a clear change of priorities and strong walking advocacy is needed.

Our organisation at a strategic funding level relationship with the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) has needed to adjust our work programme to better align with the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport Funding.

We are hopeful that we will be successful in obtaining a contract with NZTA through the community programmes funding category and will move forward over the next two years with a focus on working with communities at risk from high walking crashes, and the model communities of New Plymouth and Hastings.

Finally our organisation strength comes from the quality and passion of the people we have involved. As this will be my last president's address I would like to thank you all for your support, especially my close colleague and friend Liz Thomas. I want to empower you all to believe that you can make change, you do make a difference, and we can create a sustainable, liveable community where walking remains the best form of transport.

Thank you



Peter Kortegast  
President, Living Streets Aotearoa  
August 2010

## **April 2009 – March 2010**

### **Summary of Key Achievements**

This has been a busy and challenging year for Living Streets, both nationally and locally. We have consolidated our place as a credible voice in the transport sector alongside other user groups such as the Automobile Association, the Road Transport Forum and the Cycling Advocates' Network. Living Streets is recognised as the key walking and pedestrian organisation working co-operatively with central and local government and other organisations on transport planning at all levels.

Key achievements include:

- ✓ Input into key national strategies affecting walking, including the Safer Journeys Strategy, the Review of the SuperGold Free Off-peak Travel Scheme, the Farebox Recovery Policy, Subdivision Standard NZS4404, and the Vehicle Dimensions and Mass Rule Change
- ✓ The first Golden Foot New Zealand Walking Awards presented at a ceremony in July 2009
- ✓ Walk2Work day celebrated at twenty events in 2010, with the Summer Steps Challenge programme piloted in Wellington and Christchurch
- ✓ Activity at local level increased with four new Walking Action Groups set up in New Plymouth, Lower Hutt, Waitakere and Queenstown, bringing the total number of groups participating in transport planning around the country to fifteen
- ✓ 2009 training weekend *Street Cred* attended by thirty five walking advocates

### **Executive Council**

Organisations are often founded by people with incredible energy and enthusiasm for their cause. The transition when they step down from leadership positions can often be difficult. Living Streets faced this changeover in 2009 when Celia-Wade-Brown, who set up the first Living Streets group in 1998, stepped down from the presidency after seven years. However, we were fortunate in finding an excellent replacement in Peter Kortegast.

During the year the Treasurer, Andy Smith, gained a Graduate Diploma in Not-for-Profit Management – congratulations Andy. The Executive worked hard as a group, facing an uncertain funding future. A very successful planning meeting was held in March for staff and Executive in the president's home town of Nelson.

### **Staff and funding**

At the end of the March we had only three months left of our three-year contract with the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) for the Networking Programme. This programme has enabled us to build capacity both nationally and locally in communities around the country.



NZTA has reviewed the Demand Management and Community Programmes activity class in the National Land Transport Programme, which funded the Networking Programme. Living Streets submitted a funding bid to NZTA for a Safer Walking Programme to build on the previous three years work. The new programme takes account of the priority areas in the new Government Policy Statement on Land Transport, and the Safer Journeys strategy, and focuses on safety and congestion relief. We will know in September whether our funding bid has been successful.

Finding funding for organisations like Living Streets is an ongoing task. This year we made applications for funding to the Lotteries Grants Board and the Auckland Savings Bank for a Walking Communities Programme, and to the NZ Community Trust for a mapping project in six areas. We received a portion of the funding we requested from the Lotteries Grant Board for work covering the South Island and lower North Island.

In addition, funding was found by Walking Action Groups for local projects including Walk to Work activities and walking maps, and sponsors were found for the 2010 Walking Conference and Golden Foot Walking Awards.

We have continued to develop our consultancy services, however in the present economic climate, public and private sector budgets have been reduced, and potential contracts we were working on with Councils for Streets Reviews have been put on hold. We were contracted to update the Victoria University walking map which we developed last year.

Our team of dedicated staff continued with their excellent work throughout the 2009-10 year. A review of our activities in March has meant we have since had to shed three staff. Their experience and passion for walking will be missed.

## **Raising the profile of walking**

Living Streets has continued to raise the profile of walking as a contributing factor in the solution to the challenges facing New Zealand today. These include the global recession, transport congestion, road safety, carbon emissions, accessibility, and increasing ill-health due to inactivity. We have spread the message that more people walking is good for the economy, brings economic benefits to both individuals and businesses, and saves the government money in areas such as health and the social and economic impacts of road crashes.

## **Promoting best practice**

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

We have worked to promote walking at all levels to key walking stakeholders and decision makers. We had a meeting with the Minister of Transport at the beginning of 2010, and have met regularly with the Ministry of Transport and the New Zealand Transport Agency.

In late 2009 we made a presentation to NZTA about Living Streets and the value of our work and its alignment to NZTA's strategic direction. We made submissions on a wide number of strategies and proposals both locally and nationally.

We had meetings with Ministry of Health and SPARC, and updated the Living Streets Urban Design Protocol Action Plan for the Ministry for the Environment.

Members of Walking Action Groups regularly meet with local Council staff and Councillors and other organisations to promote the benefits of good walking environments. We continue to actively contribute to Regional Active Transport Forums.

### **Sharing Information**

Our website was upgraded in 2009, with the walking information on the WalkIT website transferred to the Living Streets website and re-catalogued to make it more easily accessible.

Our quarterly newsletter Footprints and monthly ebulletins are our main means of sharing good ideas and information about best practice for walking. Both are available on the website. The ebulletin is sent to the contacts on our database, which now number around three thousand.

## **National Events**

### **Fourth NZ Walking Conference**

Planning for the fourth NZ Walking Conference began in late 2009 and by the end of March 2010 was well advanced, with key speakers arranged and papers selected for presentation at the conference.

### **Golden Foot Walking Awards**

The Golden Foot walking awards were set up in 2009 by Living Streets to celebrate and recognise achievements for people on foot by acknowledging innovative new facilities, highlighting best practice and rewarding ongoing commitment to walking. There was a great response to the first awards, with over thirty entries which were assessed by a panel of five judges. The awards were presented by NZTA Board member, Alick Shaw, at a ceremony in the Wellington City Council Chambers in July 2009. Winners in the six categories were presented with distinctive trophies featuring gold jandals.

### **Walk2Work campaign**

The Summer Steps Challenge was set up as part of the Walk2Work campaign, with pilots being run in the run-up to Walk2Work day in Wellington (in partnership with Greater Wellington Regional Council) and Christchurch. These are both areas with high peak hour

congestion. 37 teams entered, involving around 140 people. They logged nearly 250 walking trips, with a saving of 1275 car trips.

Living Streets coordinated the Walk2Work campaign nationally, and supported local areas with resources. Most Walking Action Groups participated, some running their own event, while others ran events in partnership with other organisations, or participated in events run by others in their area. In Auckland in addition to events in North Shore and Auckland City, 8 businesses and organisations in South and West Auckland ran Walk2Work programmes or events for their staff.

## Local Action

Living Streets' work and activities would not be possible without a great number of volunteers at all levels. They include the Executive Council members, Living Streets members, Walking Action Groups, walking advocates and volunteers for events. This year we implemented our Volunteer Strategy and developed resources and induction packs for all types of volunteers.

### Walking Action groups

We now have fifteen Walking Action Groups around the country. Some of the groups are small and meet occasionally; others are larger and meet regularly. All groups have been involved in working with their local Councils on transport issues and putting in submissions on Annual Plans, strategies, and proposals. It's very satisfying to hear Living Streets groups' submissions quoted in council reports, and mentioned in the media.

In 2009-10 new groups were established in Waitakere, Queenstown, Lower Hutt, and New Plymouth, adding to the existing groups in Auckland City, Manukau, North Shore, Hamilton, Taupo, Wellington, Palmerston North, Nelson/Tasman, Marlborough, South Island West Coast, Canterbury and Dunedin. Auckland now has four groups which are looking at how they will operate with the new Supercity structure.

The groups have 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

Living Streets supported local groups with resources and information and ran a successful training weekend *Street Cred* which was attended by thirty five walking advocates from around the country. As part of the training the Fundamentals of Planning for Pedestrians was run.



## **Supporting regional projects**

Through our local groups, we continue to support regional projects including the Get Across campaign in Auckland and the Great Harbour Way in Wellington. Both these projects aim to make the transport network more accessible to all modes, including walking and cycling.

## **International contacts**

We maintain our links with international walking organisations and professionals. Janet Lawson, who attended the Walk21 International Conference in New York, was one of only two New Zealand representatives there. On her return she did a presentation about the conference for NZTA staff. While she was in New York Janet attended a meeting of the International Federation of Pedestrians on behalf of Living Streets member Celia Wade-Brown who is a Board member of the Federation.

Feedback we receive indicates that people working in the transport sector overseas consider New Zealand fortunate to have an organisation such as Living Streets to represent walking. They recognise the contribution such an organisation can make in transport planning, and we have received enquiries about how to set up similar organisations in other countries. Our handbook and a history of the development of Living Streets Aotearoa is on the website of the International Federation of Pedestrians.

## **Walk Wellington**

Walk Wellington, which became part of Living Streets in 2005, continues to run the popular guided walks for visitors. They have a group of dedicated 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.