



Footprints

May 2010

May 2010

Newsletter of Living Streets Aotearoa

Walk2Work Day a Huge Success

Walk2Work day on March 10 this year saw thousands of New Zealanders leave their cars at home and take to the streets to walk to work with friends, family and colleagues.



Council of cool, harking back to Abbey Road. From left: Mike Tasman-Jones (TDC Recreation Advisor), Mayor Richard Kempthorne, David Hill (Richmond Mall Manager) and Judene Edgar (TDC Councillor and Walk2Work organiser).

Each event had its own local flair, with locally sponsored breakfast snacks and coffee, as well as speakers and spot prizes. W2W Day is part of a Living Streets campaign to get people walking more in their daily lives.

Living Streets coordinated over 20 events nationwide from Auckland down to Dunedin.

In Dunedin a commuter train even came to the party, bringing coastal suburbanites part of the way. The amazing turnout included many incorporating walking into their daily

commute for the first time.

In 2009, a survey of participants found that 1 in 6 were first time walkers, showing the event helps many Kiwis 'take the first step' to improve lifestyle and commuting habits.

The Director of Nelson Marlborough

DHB's Nutrition & Physical Activity programme, Helen Steenbergen, says that walking, as part of a balanced lifestyle, helps people enjoy a long and healthy life. "Research shows that fit employees are more productive and happier", Mrs Steenbergen said. *continued on back page...*

Summer Steps

Summer Steps began in March as a one month pilot. This workplace challenge gets teams of 2-6 to log walks, aiming for the most walks, and most car trips saved.

Teams can register and log walks online, and get points for every 5 minutes walked (no pedometer required) with bonus points for car journeys saved.

Wellington and Christchurch pilot programmes in February had a great uptake – 37 teams registered in the first two weeks.

Congratulations to the Wellington winners, The Power Rangers from Transpower on the Terrace (photo #2 on back page), who logged nearly 250 walks in February, saving 142 car journeys! At Wellington's Walk2Work day event, Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon awarded them with free night tour passes kindly donated by Zealandia, the Karori Wildlife Experience. The winning Christchurch team were the Dialysis Dawdlers of Canterbury DHB. Together the teams saved 1,275 car journeys!

Our survey found that half of the participants never or seldom walked to work before starting Summer Steps. Whilst taking part 75% walked more often than before, and since the pilot over 75% are maybe or definitely more likely to walk more often.

The Summer Steps programme itself adopted a team approach, working in Wellington with a Regional Council initiative called Active a2b, which aims to support individuals to develop walking habits, secure mentors, set targets and keep at it. The Summer Steps team challenge was recommended to all those registered for Active a2b, and many commented on the effectiveness of Summer Step's team approach with respect to motivation.

The Summer Steps online programme is still available for current and new teams. Look out for updates, as we stride into autumn and want you to keep the pace up.

Jenny-Kaye Potaka
~ Living Streets' Acting Project Officer.



Golden Foot Walking Awards

When we ran the inaugural Golden Foot Awards last year, they were to be biennial. However, in recent planning sessions it was decided to run the awards annually. Information about the 2010 Awards has been sent out, with a closing date for nominations of 30th June. The Awards will be presented at a ceremony at the Walking Conference. We were thrilled with the high standard of entries submitted last year, and we look forward to some exciting entries this year. See www.livingstreets.org.nz/walking_awards2010.

Membership Renewals...

...were sent out to all our members with the March newsletter. This is a gentle reminder to please ensure that this is paid promptly to avoid us having to use valuable resources to follow up on non-payment. If you have any queries about fee payment or membership please contact Lily Linton on 04 385 8280 or lily.linton@livingstreets.org.nz. If for any reason you do not wish to renew your membership please let us know.

Look out for Living Streets Aotearoa and our events on Facebook: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=94215686932

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From the Director's Desk



Liz Thomas, Director

As part of its funding for walking and cycling facilities, the government has allocated seven million dollars over the next two years for the Model Communities programme. This was one of the strategic initiatives in the 2006 implementation plan for the national walking and cycling strategy 'Getting There—on foot, by cycle'. It's encouraging that the present government has now picked this up, and we can expect to see some action.

From the 22 applications received for the Model Communities funding, the NZTA has shortlisted four councils and invited them to submit stage 2 proposals. These are Nelson, New Plymouth, Taupo and Hastings. The programme aims to invest the money in two or three communities to give them a boost to improve walking and cycling facilities, so that walking and cycling are the easiest transport choices for the community. The expectation is that by demonstrating the positive changes resulting from more investment in walking and cycling, planning will change so that walking and cycling are used as the focus of integrated planning in the future.

The communities selected as Model Communities will get an injection of money to improve walking and cycling. But what about all the other communities?

What can they do to make things better for people on foot?

The first step is to encourage more people to go out walking in their community. The more people out on footpaths and streets, the more awareness there will be that people need safe and attractive places to walk.

Parents can encourage their children and their friends to walk to school, and can walk with them or set up walking school buses. People can arrange to meet their friends and walk together to church, to pre-school, and to events in their community. Groups of workers can walk together to work, to meetings during their work day, or during their lunch break. This all requires talking to people and getting to know them better – a great way of strengthening community spirit and breaking down the social isolation caused by travelling everywhere by car.

The next step is for people out walking to collect information about what could improve conditions for people on foot, and to lobby local councils to invest money on good footpaths, safe crossings and attractive street design. Councils around the country are consulting on their draft Annual Plans at present, so now is the time to make the voice of pedestrians heard loud and clear. Parents talking about how their child's trip to school could be made safer, or an elderly person recounting their experience of uneven footpaths are what bring the realities of walking to the council table. There is money available to all councils for roading, it's where they put their priorities that makes the difference.

This edition of Footprints is looking at making the most of our walking communities, and what we can do to make walking the first choice for short trips. If enough passionate walkers are out on the streets enjoying themselves, socialising with friends and neighbours, and reaping the benefits of better health and a more vibrant community, others will follow.

~ Liz Thomas



Would you like to see your business in Footprints?

The Footprints team is looking for people who are interested in advertising in our quarterly newsletter to help cover production costs.

If you have a corporate event or walk-related product to promote get in touch: info@livingstreets.org.nz or ph 04 385 8280.

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

Contributions, articles and feedback can be sent to the editor at: footprints@livingstreets.org.nz. Read past editions of Footprints online: www.livingstreets.org.nz/newsletter.

The content deadline for the August edition of Footprints is: 18th July 2010.



Dollars & Sense of Walking

Creating Liveable Communities
Living Streets Aotearoa
Conference 2 - 3 August 2010

Things are shaping up for an exciting and challenging Walking Conference in Wellington on the 2nd & 3rd August 2010. An array of interesting papers is being slotted into the programme, and workshops are being planned which will bring the reality of the streets to the deliberations.

Planning the Year Ahead ...

In March our Executive Team and staff held a planning meeting in Nelson. We prepared a business plan for the coming year and reviewed successes of the last 12 months. The highlights planned for the coming 12 months are the NZ Walking Conference in August, the 2010 national Golden Foot Walking Awards, Walk2Work day and of course the Living Streets AGM to be held at our conference.

We face a challenging future with the Government focus very much on Roads of National Significance and congestion relief rather than sustainable transport and walking. However through the Safer Journeys Strategy and Model Communities, Living Streets has a positive role to play at all levels.

I can assure all members that you have a highly motivated and passionate Executive team and staff who are confident we can forward the advocacy of walking in the coming 12 months.

The weekend was sponsored by Opus Consultants who made its office available, and we managed to include some walking in the agenda! Peter Kortegast, President

Seeking Passionate Walkers!

Our AGM is to be held at Conference in August. With several Executive Council members standing down, there will be an opportunity to join the band of dedicated walking enthusiasts on the Executive.

We are looking for strategic thinkers with a passion for the cause, and with skills in one or more of these areas: change management, financial management, employment relations, networking, media and communications.

If you're interested and think you might fit the bill, please contact Living Streets' President peter.kortegast@livingstreets.org.nz or Director liz.thomas@livingstreets.org.nz to find out more.

The conference registration form will be on our website by the time you receive this newsletter, giving you plenty of time to be an early bird. There will be some reduced price registrations available for volunteer walking advocates, on application to the Living Streets office, for more information see: www.livingstreets.org.nz/conference2010.

The 'Walk to Church' project

Gendy Thomson is a walking champion helping to promote walking, with all of its positive community and family aspects, through *Walk to Church*. The Anglican Diocese of Wellington started Walk to Church in 2008, citing her inspiration as a UNICEF forum looking at safer communities, "a point that really stood out was that the more people we have out walking, the safer a community feels - and is."

Gendy's walks with her 18 month-old son also reinforced her idea of Walk to Church, making her "very aware of how I was getting to know people in my community". She adds "I was also aware of how much he learned out walking such as road safety, general 'boundaries' (not wandering into people's gardens or through gates) and creation in general - his wonder at the bugs and plants, and pleasure in lying down in long grass and rolling around!"

Feet First walk to school week, and National Children's Day gave Gendy something to link Walk to Church to. Children and church-goers were given a walking 'bingo' sheet, designed to encourage awareness of the environment and other people, often enhanced by travelling on foot. Bingo squares include appreciation of weather, the natural world, others in the community, and taking time to share these good things with family.

Gendy recently contacted Living Streets to share Walk2Work day ideas. This is a great example of community groups supporting each other with shared goals. Walking is a great common denominator for encouraging strong families, communities, and cities, it's a simple yet pervasive activity that touches on many of the good things in life, and a subtle cure for many of the bad.

Lily Linton.



Our bank account for donations and subscriptions has changed since last year. For online payments please use **Kiwibank 38-9009-0745640-00**.

Government News

Safer Journeys

In March Transport Minister Steven Joyce announced the release of Safer Journeys, New Zealand's road safety strategy for the next ten years. Living Streets president, Peter Kortegast, attended the launch at Parliament.

Safer Journeys takes a Safe System approach to improving road safety and looks at all elements of the road system - vehicles, roads, speeds and road users - recognising that everybody has a responsibility for road safety. The strategy lists some of the actions the government will work towards to improve road safety. The top priorities for action are young drivers, alcohol and drug impaired drivers, motorcycling, roads and roadsides, and safe speeds. Changing the give way rules for turning traffic is one of the actions that will improve safety for pedestrians.

Last year's road toll was 385 deaths. Research shows if we continue our current road safety efforts we can expect a similar level of road death in 2020 - though if the appalling road toll over Easter is anything to go by, we could see an increase in road deaths. You can read the strategy at: www.transport.govt.nz.

Auckland Supercity

The transition to the Auckland Council (super city) is rolling on like a juggernaut. The Auckland Council will have 20 members elected from 13 wards plus a Mayor elected at large. There will be 21 local boards which, according to information released, will, "sit alongside the governing body of the council rather than in a hierarchical relationship". The purpose of the local boards is stated as "enabling democratic decision making by, and on behalf of, communities within the local board area." At present it is unclear exactly what powers the local boards will have. There will also be one regional transport authority, Auckland Transport, which will be a council-controlled organisation (CCO) of the new Council, which is not dissimilar to the present situation with ARTA which is a subsidiary organisation of the Auckland Regional Council. The Auckland Council and its associated organisations will come into being on 1 November 2010.

More info at: www.ata.govt.nz.

Dunedin Traffic Health Impact Assessment

Dunedin City Council, in conjunction with Public Health South, is conducting a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) into reducing the central city speed limit to 30kph. HIAs are endorsed by the WHO, used widely in Europe and are common practice in the UK. There are clear links between transport practices and health determinants, and HIAs help identify these, enabling a closer look at the effect of transport planner's decisions on community health.

HIA is a set of tools that help predict the impacts and consequences of a draft proposal, determine if positive impacts can be increased and negative impacts reduced, and help identify whether possible effects of the policy affect one group more than another.

The collaborative and cross-disciplinary nature of the HIA has facilitated a valuable exchange of information for all participants in Dunedin's Traffic HIA. Participants come from varied disciplines such as public health, city planning, urban design, transportation planning and highway engineering. This meeting of minds and inclusive, community-centred approach to planning has been an



1. Bustling George Street (Dunedin's central thoroughfare) 2. Pedestrians cross a busy intersection at Community House. 3. Part of the Octagon, hub of the city.

illuminating learning experience for all.

Phase Three - The Appraisal Phase

Phase 1 (screening) outlined the project's potential, and phase 2 (scoping) identified groups most likely to experience the effects (both positive and negative) of a reduced speed limit, and included a draft community profile and literature review. The Appraisal phase invites key stakeholder groups to provide evidence of any effects that the proposed speed limit change will have on them. The final report will include an analysis of this evidence. Each HIA includes an Evaluation Phase which identifies and evaluates the assessment process and lessons learned.

The HIA report will inform projects within council, directly (improving projects in the area) and indirectly (helping to build and strengthen the councils HIA knowledge base). The literature review shows that the HIA should result in tangible benefits for Dunedin residents if the proposal goes ahead.

~ Charlotte Flaherty, Transportation Operations, Dunedin City Council.

Interview with Vincent Dickie

BY LILY LINTON

Vincent Dickie, Living Street's Auckland Networker, has been working closely with a number of communities in the multicultural city of Auckland, supporting their walking champions and getting people out walking. I asked him about his experiences in making the most of our diverse walking communities.

Q: Tell us some of the ways communities are taking on the walking challenge and getting involved in healthy active transport

A: *Auckland communities are becoming more aware of the need to support local activity such as shopping and celebrations. It helps that we have events that highlight walking such as farmers' markets and Walk2Work. There is increased understanding by some local councils who have been re-designing more pedestrian-friendly shopping areas such as Mangere Town Centre.*

Q: Community leaders can be key in getting walking happening in their neighbourhood, is there anyone you'd like to give special mention?

A: *There are so many dedicated people and*

organisations working toward making Auckland communities increasingly walking-friendly.

Some that come to mind are; Dot Dalziel from Project Twestreams, Emma from Ranui Action Project, Jim Sinclair from Otara, Botany Town Centre Management, North Shore City Councils dedicated travel behaviour change team Debby

Lang and Hannah Jemmett, Andy Smith from Walk Auckland, Gay Richards from Living Streets North Shore.

Q: We are all involved in various groups as part of our daily activities. What do you think is the first step to sharing enthusiasm for everyday walking with your colleagues, team mates, coffee group, Friday night buddies, play group, and kids?

A: *The biggest inspiration I believe is simply 'walking the talk'. People often tell me that Dot Dalziel rides her bike to work at Waitakere City Council in hail or shine and that inspires them. There are powerful ways we can influence behaviour change through events and advertising campaigns, but the best way most of us individuals can make a difference is to practice what we preach.*

There is a common misconception in New Zealand that Auckland is one cohesive 'supercity'. Those who live here understand the reality that Auckland is a sprawling area with a massive diversity of 'villages', each having a strong sense of identity and representing vastly differing demographics.

On one hand, the Supercity is a centralised structure which seeks to oversee many important strategic challenges for Auckland such as public transport development. On the other hand, people are highly concerned that this large structure will give them less voice in decisions affecting their community.

My prediction is that as they feel threatened, a positive outcome will be for communities to organise themselves far more effectively than in the past. There are rapidly growing movements like Grey Lynn 2030 and Manukau 2060 and our own Walking Action Groups who share a sustainable vision for their community. These are local and grassroots based. It is my hope that these communities continue to take a growing role by actively feeding Local Government with their vision of what they feel is appropriate for them and their local environment.

Walking-friendly Adelaide

BY PETER KORTEGAST

Earlier this year I had the pleasure of spending six days in the beautiful City of Adelaide, attending the Australian Bicycle Conference at Adelaide University. The paper I presented, on electronic cycle warning signs, was well received.

Networking internationally is an extremely valuable professional development opportunity and widens ones approach to conventional engineering, social and urban form.

The Australians were particularly surprised and somewhat envious of NZ's well established communication system and strong advocate networks for walking and cycling. They had no similar or equivalent direct contact to senior officials in national or state government.

Our NZ conferences are larger and better attended due to this networking set up by the previous "Getting There - on foot, by cycle" national walking and cycling strategy.

Conference highlights

- Research on maintenance modelling of off-road paths and mountain bike trails
- Talk on urban form and mixing of walkers and cyclists in slow zones as in Asia
- Global warming certainty, get over it and change
- Are off-road shared paths places to remove cyclists from traffic mix to the detriment of safety and social normality?
- Roundabout safety and a conclusion there is no silver bullet.

- Cycle based communities are possible, a Dutch example, but it has taken 40 years so do not panic, be patient.
- A Queensland State guideline to cycle signage, the best I have seen.
- Research paper on what makes off-road paths attractive
- Research on urban cycle crash hazards identified by videos on cyclists recording regular urban commutes and who is commonly at fault.

The conference committee hope to produce a conference DVD, but I am happy to provide more info to interested people, please contact me on: Peter.kortegast@opus.co.nz, ph (03) 546-3666 extn 4166.



1. Peter outside Adelaide Uni Campus.

2. The off-road shared paths were beautifully landscaped and well used. They are linked to all major parks and Council facilities. Their paths are landscaped and are quite stunning.

3. They have introduced Copenhagen cycle lanes. These are separate lanes for cyclists between the footpath and parked cars. They do require very wide road spaces but create great separation between pedestrians and cyclists. However they do create complex side road intersections.

4. The detailed, high quality urban design and landscaping was everywhere. The bronze pigs made me laugh, you actively stroll the city discovering visual highlights in unexpected locations. Their budgets are massive, the five bronze pigs cost \$100,000NZ. This caused bit of stir locally and I guess sometimes you can

push the limits. I liked the pigs and their inherent message about the missing connection between rural and urban.

5. In school neighbourhoods they had an innovative sign asking motorists to reduce speed when children are present. A great concept which transfers some judgement and responsibility to the drivers to react appropriately to their environment. I see this good safety innovation being transferable to NZ.

6. Adelaide has preserved many historic buildings making it a delight to stroll around. Historic buildings are fully protected and operational. They add significantly to the human scale and pleasure of the city streetscape. The historic buildings were preserved all over the city and provide wonderful contrasts to the new high rises. Preservation was not just the

façade as we do in NZ, but the entire building was preserved in a fully functional condition. We could learn from this, as it is not always just the visual, but also the functional aspects that are important. These are living buildings and we gain much from walking through these buildings which are at a much more appropriate human scale.

7. There were many shared zones and lanes with a reduced speed of 10km/h, with cars and pedestrians sharing the space. I liked this concept, they work and are safe to use.

8. An interesting innovation was the raised speed table zebra crossings (called wombat crossings in Oz). This reduces vehicle approach speeds, they have a far lower crash rate than NZ. They won't even install a wombat without the raised slowing device.

News from the Regions

Living Streets North Shore

The weather has been kind to us, allowing for outdoor summer meetings with a beach view and just a sea breeze to ruffle our papers. Walk2Work Day was a great success thanks to the planning and hard work put in by North Shore City staff and a keen band of volunteers. 800 people participated by registering their walk2work online or enjoying a breakfast snack at Akoranga, Smales Farm and Sunnynook bus stations and at Takapuna. The Nordic Walkers and a speech from the Mayor were some highlights. We met for a debrief and already have some ideas for W2W Day 2011. Work on mapping a walking route highlighting the many and varied coastal views of the North Shore, not just Rangitoto, continues. We will return to an indoor venue for meetings now that the evenings are darker and cooler. We plan to have some interesting guest speakers. All welcome. *Gay*

Living Streets Manukau

We held a workshop late last year entitled 'Healthy streams and living streets' in Otara. The workshop was presented by Auckland networker, Vincent Dickie and Dot Dalziel of Project Twin Streams in Waitakere. The workshop was attended by a wide variety of cultures and the group discussed issues around walking in their community.

Living Streets are looking to work with Manukau City Council and community members such as local Otara patron, Jim Sinclair, on a project to create community walking maps and increase walking and cycling numbers in Otara and Botany Downs.

Walk Auckland

A glorious and calm morning and a breakfast buffet welcomed over 1,500 walking and public transport commuters in Auckland's second Walk2Work event on March 10th. The annual event took place at 13 locations around Auckland, from malls to bus stations and beaches.

Some events, like those on Auckland's North Shore offered registered participants the chance to enjoy a French café style breakfast whilst listening to live music. Other events were more casual, offering city commuters a breakfast along their way.

Walk2Work in Takapuna and Botany electorate Centre welcomed notable walkers including North Shore City Mayor, Andrew Williams, and Botany Electoral MP, Patsy Wong.

The event is a way of celebrating walking as a contribution to healthy lifestyles, cleaner

cities and stronger communities. Vincent Dickie, Living Streets Auckland Networker said "It's always pleasing to hear the stories of people who walk to work and how it prepares them for their day. We are seeing an increasing number of people who choose to leave the car at home and embrace the walk to work as an opportunity to incorporate fitness into their daily routine".

"The day was a huge success thanks to the contributions of many organisations and individuals. We are always pleased to hear walkers comment that they arrive at work feeling refreshed in body and mind". The organisers, Living Streets, wish to especially thank the following: All Living Streets volunteers, Walk Auckland, All Good Fairtrade Bananas, One Square Meal snack bars, Cyclops yoghurt, Sanitarium Up & Go, Nescafe Coffee, Sport Waitakere, North Shore, Auckland and Manukau City Councils, Auckland City Council Transport and Events teams, Roadsafe Auckland and Auckland Regional Transport Authority.

Waitakere Waewae Walking

The group were fortunate to enjoy a brilliant presentation late last year by WWW member Robert Lipka called 'Daring to Put Your Best Foot Forward'. Robert is a senior urban designer at Waitakere Council. Robert's illuminating talk on pedestrian safety issues contrasted international (mainly North American) pedestrian rules and regulations against New Zealand's, leaving the group acutely aware of the need for changes to our road code - particularly the 'sweeping left turn'.

We also recently made a submission on the Auckland Regional Council's (pro public transport) 30 year 'Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS)'.

Living Streets Hamilton

We are currently in consultations with NZTA on a number of urban state highway issues, including pedestrian access to the Hamilton Gardens on Cobham Drive, pedestrian and cycle facilities on Ohaupo Road, and proposed alterations to two major roundabouts on Cambridge Road in an area containing schools, shops, homes, and Waikato University. This makes for some interesting discussions and submission-writing.

We have also been involved in consultations organised by Hamilton City Council, using Beca consultants, looking at pedestrian issues at some of Hamilton's nastiest inter-

sections. Part of the consultation involved site visits and walkthroughs, with representatives from CCS Disability Action. We saw some terrifying intersections where pedestrians literally take their lives into their hands, such as Five Cross Roads and the Heaphy Terrace roundabout. Being driven at by an absent-minded driver while halfway across a busy roundabout, in the company of an engineer in a high-vis vest and a very brave Gerri Pomeroy in a manual wheelchair is not an experience any of us want to repeat in a hurry! It did serve to highlight the problem though. The consultation has been very worthwhile and there seems a genuine desire from all concerned to improve the situation.

On a lighter note we are collaborating with Sport Waikato, who have funding (yay!) to stage some evening walks and hopefully CBD lunchtime strolls, the latter using our CBD map produced last year. Judy McDonald

Living Streets Lower Hutt

In March, the Lower Hutt Living Streets group put in a submission to the Hutt City Council regarding their "Vision Seaview Gracefield" District Plan review document.

Public consultation on Hutt City's Annual Plan commences on 20th April, so the group will also put together a submission on this.

Living Streets Wellington

The recent highlight was, of course, Walk to Work day. We were blessed with lovely weather (as always in Wellington), and had a good turnout. Our outposts (volunteers) stood along key walking routes from the suburbs, handing out flyers, apples and free give-aways. The committee is thinking about what could be done better next year, to create more impact from our highest profile event.

We have started holding committee meetings on the street - looking at a key part of our city's pedestrian infrastructure and then finding a cafe to cover the business part of the meeting. We started with upper Boulcott Street, followed by the railway station area. Findings will be presented to the council. And of course, the submissions process continues.

Walk Nelson Tasman

Walk2Work day in February saw a big increase in people attending the breakfasts in Nelson and Richmond. Attendance at the W2W breakfast was up 50 from last year to 200.

Meetings

The event received good coverage in local papers. An enthusiastic group of 10 young ladies even walked from Brightwater to Richmond – 8-10km in fancy dress!

Walk Nelson Tasman (WNT) members presented a submission on the Tasman District draft Regional Land Transport Strategy and Walking Strategy. Overall, our members are supportive of the proposed strategy. WNT also presented Nelson city council with a certificate of appreciation for the introduction of new engineering standards that greatly increase the city's level of service for walking. The new engineering standards mean flatter, wider footpaths, and on both sides, not just one as in the previous standards!

WNT members are also excited that Nelson has been shortlisted for the model communities funding and next week will hold a workshop with other advocates and Nelson city council staff to further develop the local proposal.

Living Streets Canterbury

The last few months have flown by, with many good neighbourhood walks to enjoy the long summer evenings. Cindy, Chrys and Fiona have learnt how to—and intend to regularly update—our webpage: www.livingstreets.org.nz/regions/canterbury, as well as send out monthly updates to local members and interested people.

We successfully secured funding from the Canterbury Community Trust to develop a walking map centred around Philipstown, and to encourage more development of the Great Perimeter Walkway (one of last year's Living Streets Golden Foot award winners).

We're thinking about the possibilities for marketing walking. It is early days but watch this space as ideas develop.

We have been finding ourselves in the local news, an interesting example of which was in findings of an Environment Canterbury-funded market survey into what Cantabrians think about transport and future transport needs, background work to their Regional Land Transport Strategy. www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/news/3332278/Cars-top-the-list-in-transport-survey. Living Streets was mentioned here but, oddly, in a quote from a submission that Chrys wrote before she joined Living Streets. The report makes interesting reading – it is clear that Canterbury people are very wedded to their cars and see them as likely to remain the primary form of transport for the next 30 years.

The job of writing submissions continues.

Chrys recently presented the LS Canterbury submission to the Christchurch City Council (CCC) in relation to their Open Space Strategy. She was followed by Dr Christine Dann speaking for the Diamond Harbour Transition Group and our very own Rhys Taylor speaking to his personal submission which supported and extended the message of our submission. The three submissions happened before lunch, whereupon a councillor leaving the meeting with us all said we were the only three voices that morning speaking from the perspective of the public good. All of the other speakers were people speaking and arguing for their own individual (mostly commercial) gain. To Chrys, this was a bit shocking but it has also provided some ongoing motivation for what often seems like a thankless task!

We have also put in submissions related to the redevelopment of the Christchurch Northern Motorway, Environment Canterbury's Metro (public transport) Strategy Review, and most recently the CCC Annual plan. Two others currently in the pipeline include the CCC Draft Climate Change Strategy and the Environment Canterbury draft Annual Plan.

Last but not least, CCC released a report by Jan Gehl Architects (Denmark) which strongly points to the importance of making Christchurch more pedestrian friendly. You can find this report by searching '*Jan Gehl*' at www.ccc.govt.nz. It is worth a read, and provides some great reasons for, and ways of, making cities more pedestrian friendly. Happy walking!

~ Chrys Horn, Living Street Canterbury convenor

Living Streets Dunedin

The Walk to work breakfast in the Octagon was a great success, with over 500 walkers filing in their forms for a free breakfast in one of the Octagon bars. One of our most dedicated participants set off from Mosgiel, 12 km away, at 5:30am! The "walk to work" train from Waitati was hugely successful, stopping at Purakanui to pick up the entire primary school, and at Port Chalmers for another eager group of walkers. Big thanks to Charlotte Flaherty from Dunedin City Council for masterminding the whole morning, and to all our sponsors, volunteers, entertainers and speakers for their invaluable help.

In May or June we will host an introduction to Living Streets Dunedin for all those Walk to Workers who expressed a desire to keep in touch. More details will be posted on our page on the website.

Walk Auckland

2nd Tuesday of the month, 5:30pm
Leys Institute Hall, 20 St Marys Rd, Ponsonby.
Upstairs in the Supper Room.

Living Streets Manukau

4th Wednesday of the month
The Tui room at the Otara Town Centre.
Next meeting: 26th of May 6pm, all welcome.
Contact Donna Wynd: 09 378 0953.

Living Streets North Shore

Last Thursday of the month, 5.30pm.
Mary Thomas Centre, 3 Gibbons Rd, Takapuna (behind Library). Next meetings 27 May, 24 June, 29 July. gyrichards@xtra.co.nz

Living Streets Hamilton

Second Thursday of the month at 5:30pm,
29 Claude St. Next meeting: 13th May.

Walk Taupo

Meets as required. Taupo@livingstreets.org.nz

Living Streets Palmerston North

Meets as required
chris.teosherrell@livingstreets.org.nz

Living Streets Lower Hutt

Meets last Monday of the month, 5:30pm
50 Udy Street, Petone
lowerhutt@livingstreets.org.nz

Living Streets Wellington

Meeting info: www.livingstreets.org.nz/regions/wellington.
paula.warren@livingstreets.org.nz

Walk Nelson Tasman

Meets bi-monthly, usually Friday 9.30am
walknelsonstasman@livingstreets.org.nz

Bike Walk Marlborough

Meeting info: marlborough@livingstreets.org.nz.

Living Streets Canterbury

Join us! Contact Cindy and Chrys for where to meet: canterbury@livingstreets.org.nz

Living Streets Dunedin

Meets every second Wednesday of the month, 5:30pm. Meet at the Terrace outside Crocodile Cafe, Botanic Gardens. Contact Judy Martin: dunedin@livingstreets.org.nz

Living Streets West Coast

Meets as required
Rosie.McGrath@livingstreets.org.nz

Walk2Work day continued... BY CAROLINE BARNES



Richmond's W2W day organiser Judene Edgar says walking can improve our whole community. "Society has moved away from our roots – we were made to walk, it's fun, it's free and it's easy."

In Auckland, walking human advertising helped draw in over 200 walkers to complete a walking survey in Pigeon Park. In North

"Society has moved away from our roots – we were made to walk, it's fun, it's free and it's easy"

Shore, over 800 walkers supported 4 events. North Shore Mayor Andrew Williams, was impressed by some residents commitment, who walked over 90 minutes to attend!

Wellington W2W day enjoyed fabulous weather and gathered walkers from all over the city at Frank Kitts Park. Guest speakers included mayor Kerry Prendergast, council-

lors Celia Wade-Brown and Ian MacKinnon, Green Party MP Gareth Hughes and Associate Transport Minister Nathan Guy. Entertainment was supplied by local musical talent Tessa Rain, health and fitness support from Mish

McCormack of City Fitness, and walkers could even try out Zumba! Signatures were collected on a giant foot and presented on Parliament Steps to Associate Transport Minister Nathan Guy.

Walking to work is a great way for people to get outside and enjoy their journey, reaping the benefits of fresh air and gentle exercise. ~ Caroline Barnes, W2W national coordinator. www.walk2work.org.nz.

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1. This group walked from Brightwater to Richmond–8-10km–in fancy dress!
2. The Summer Steps winning Team
3. Aucklanders put their best feet forward
4. Walkers get some light morning reading
5. Our lovely Living Streets coordinator Lily Linton steps out for summer
6. A sight for sore eyes (or feet!) - Palmerston North's Living Streets volunteer ready with free breakfast treats
7. Wellington's W2W HQ.

Pumpkin Power

BY SARAH MOYES

If you drive down Auckland's Meadowbank Road, you may be in for a surprise. Children at Meadowbank Kindergarten are growing pumpkins on the grass verge as part of their road safety project.

A few close calls with children and cars early last year spurred the kindergarten to take action.

The kindy hopes the unusual sight of pumpkins growing by the road will get drivers attention, reminding them there are young children around, and therefore to slow down.

Last year the children also staged a mini protest by the road asking drivers to slow

down and be aware of the kindy.

Mrs Hancock, head teacher at the kindy says the children are also learning about sustainability through growing pumpkins, and maintaining a connection to nature within the urban setting.

The kindy sent fliers to close neighbours, and a packet of pumpkin seeds so they could join in the fun. Meadowbank Road is now home to a few pumpkin growers – Mrs Hancock hopes a competition will eventually be held to judge the biggest pumpkin.

The pumpkin growing is a joint project with the Auckland City Council, who support

the kindergarten's road safety project by painting road side carparks for parents during drop off and pick up times.

The teachers feel community involvement is important. "It's the first community involved project – people forget that we are down here because of the long driveway," Mrs Hancock says.

They also believe that through this project they are educating children who then go home and educate their parents.