

# Footprints

March 2011

Newsletter of Living Streets Aotearoa



7-9am  
16 March 2011

## WALK2WORK

*free breakfast, spot prizes,  
speakers, entertainment and more!*  
Check out: [www.walk2work.org.nz](http://www.walk2work.org.nz)

**W**alk2Work is a fun annual event that aims to promote walking to everyone, but especially those who incorporate walking into the daily commute to work. Research shows walking has many health benefits as well as economic benefits.

Walkers have less incidence of cancer, heart disease, stroke, diabetes and other obesity related disorders. Walking is the perfect weight bearing exercise and as such is essential in maintaining strong muscles and joints. Inactivity decreases joint stability and mobility and can contribute to the cartilage breakdown and subsequent pain and stiffness of osteoarthritis. Not only do habitual walkers live longer, walking is great for mental wellbeing and social connectiveness.

The annual event is free (who can say no to a free breakie?) and takes place before work for anyone who walked all or part of

their way to work.

W2W events are organised in: Auckland City - North Shore, Botany, Henderson - Hastings, New Plymouth, Wellington and Levin.

"At all locations there are free breakfast for those who come by foot, and people either grab their breakfast and keep walking or sit, relax and have a chat with other walker commuters. Some events will even have massage, blood pressure test and yoga sessions.

"Building walking into your daily routine is a great way to keep body and mind healthy" says President Andy Smith who walks to keep off the kilos since being Weight Watchers slimmer of the year in 1980. "Walking helps me manage my weight".

For more information on events and locations visit [www.walk2work.org.nz](http://www.walk2work.org.nz).



ZIERA

Ziera have generously donated vouchers for prizes for Walk2Work participants in the different locations. The vouchers include 10 full shoe purchases and a number of discount vouchers. Check out your local organisers to see what you need to do to win!

## in this issue:

**page 3:** a proposed combined Walking & Cycling Conference.

**page 4:** 'Greening the Rubble' - cantabrians are simultaneously addressing walkability and rebuilding after the earthquakes.

**page 5:** Mayor Celia Wade-Brown answers our questions!

**pages 6-7:** Regional updates - see what's going on in your area.



Above: photos from Auckland's walk 2 work day in 2010 and some of the goodies in store!



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# From the President

Well it's been fun so far. After becoming president in August 2010 I attended Walk21 in The Hague (Walk Auckland paid the conference fee) and presented a paper on the **Getacross.org.nz** campaign. This international walking conference is a great way to find people with similar views. After that I was shown around Copenhagen by the City Planner and had a meeting with Gehl Architects who planned the pedestrian improvements in Melbourne, New York and other cities. I was given a copy of the Public Life survey for Auckland and the reports on Wellington and Christchurch.

Our six year contract with NZ Transport Agency to build a network of walking interest groups ended in November last year. This contract gave us the opportunity to rent offices and employ Liz Thomas and others who did a great job running conferences, building groups and telling the world what Living Streets does. Thank you all those that helped with these tasks. We now start a different phase of our organisational life with project based funding.

I was sad to see everyone leave, as Mike, Gay and I met in Wellington on December 28 to close down the office and transfer its contents. We are now running the office from our living rooms with Gay looking after the membership, I the accounts and Walk

Wellington guided walk operation and Mike has all the archives in his. All emails and phone calls now go to secretary Gay Richards.

This is a lot of work for our volunteers and we appreciate even more the work done by our paid staff. I suggest we reassess this arrangement in six months.

Walk to Work is on March 16 around the country and in Auckland we will run four events, up by two on last year. We have great support from our current sponsors and are talking to a new national level sponsor.

The Make Shift project in Christchurch is going well under Vice President Rhys Taylor's care with vacant lots, caused by the earthquake, turned into art and recreation spaces.

In April the executive committee will meet to plan the following 12 months. We will also see the Make Shift work and meet with CAN about the combined Walking Cycling conference in 2012.

If you have a Transition Towns group in your area see if we can work together to create living streets. Have a read of David Engwicht's book, *Mental Speed Bumps*.

In one Auckland Council area we will stage a 'Beating the Bounds' ceremony. This ancient tradition is all about walking the borders of the territory to see their extent and become familiar with the area. This is relevant in Auckland, as the boundary has changed.

~ Andy Smith, President

## Would you like to see your business 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!

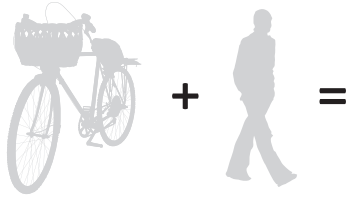
## Would you like to be an editor of Footprints?

With the departure of Lily Linton last year, we are looking for a new editor to help write and collect stories for footprints. Are you interested or do you know someone who would like to write and gather stories, then get in touch with us. Send an email to **footprints@livingstreets.org.nz**. Tell us about your interests in walking and your experiences in writing.

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**.





# Proposed joint NZ Walking & Cycling Conference, 2012

Just before Christmas the organising committee for the next NZ Cycling Conference agreed it was time to seriously consider holding a joint walking and cycling conference. This would replace the biennial cycling conference earmarked for late 2011. Discussions were held with CAN (Cycle Aware Network – also organisers of the NZ Biking Conference series) and agreement in principle was reached on the concept.

The proposed joint event would be called the NZ Walking & Cycling Conference, aimed to be held around February or March 2012. Representatives from both CAN and LSA have joined forces in a conference organising committee to help plan the event.

Those who have been involved in past NZ walking and cycling conferences will know that this joint concept has come up regularly over the years. The arguments for and against still hold. On the one hand, it provides a great opportunity to attract a higher number of delegates and speakers, while creating a wider audience and leverage for “active transport”. It also enables both walking and cycling sectors to address issues within a broader context of transport and mobility planning, creating opportunities to tackle shared barriers and opportunities.

However, committee members readily acknowledge that cycling and walking shouldn't be lumped together for convenience sake.

A downside of this includes the risk that issues unique to each sector could get lost or downplayed in a joint conference. It is therefore important to ensure the content and structure of the programme are designed well to alleviate this risk.

This decision does not necessarily signal the end of the separate conference series for walking and for cycling; any such reviews will be held at the end of the event.

A conference venue is currently being finalised. A call for presentations will then be put out for submissions. We look forward to your involvement in this exciting initiative!

If you have any feedback or questions about this proposal, please send comments to Glen Koorey: [conference@can.org.nz](mailto:conference@can.org.nz).

## Ex-Presidents' Canada Experience

Hello and Happy New Year from a very snowy Canadian Okanagan Valley, British Columbia. My family and I have been in Canada for 45 months now and have had a fantastic experience. I am managing to commute to work on my bicycle still, my record so far is -22 Celsius.

Canada has some fantastic pedestrian legislation, which New Zealand could learn from. The Pedestrian is king here and at all side roads the pedestrian has right of way

to cross the road, cars must stop. Yes – cars give way to all pedestrians! Even where there are no marked cross walks at side roads, cars stop on the main road to let pedestrians cross. If a vehicle has a collision with a pedestrian it is the vehicle's responsibility to prove their innocence. This does lead to compliancy and pedestrians are poor at wearing reflective clothing at night. All schools are fringed by 30km/h zones and cars obey this rule well. But regardless, the car is king. North America has a long way to go to be sustainable with single car use similar to New Zealand, running at 80% of all trips.

Work in the transportation field has been keeping me busy and I have found Canadian's to be welcoming warm people. I am skiing already on wonderful fields and have deer, coyotes and squirrels running through my garden.

I have been following recent events in the transportation leadership in New Zealand with disappointment and see the need for strong pedestrian advocacy as paramount. Living Streets has a great Executive and is in good hands. We need to defend the gains that have been made over the last 10 years and seek to support receptive communities and Councils to further liveable communities that are designed for people not cars. I wish you all a safe and healthy 2011.

*Pete Kortegast, December 2010*



Above: Pete braves a chilly commute!

### iPhone app for walkers: [Fixmystreet.co.nz](http://Fixmystreet.co.nz)

This app lets you take a photo of the problem and describe it, and then your location is sent to the local council. If you have an iPhone – give it a try!

### Plan your walk online

The New Zealand Walking Access Commission has just released a new online **Walking Access Mapping System**. This fantastic new tool helps to plan your walk (or bike) routes in out-of-the-way places. It has topographic maps, aerial photos, and public/private land layers. It will keep you happily entertained for hours! Discover previously hidden walks and rides and give it a try: [www.wams.org.nz](http://www.wams.org.nz)

### Recommended reading!

- Walk21 paper *Individual Competence and Environmental Demands Influencing Out-of-home Mobility and Old Age*, presented by Susanne Iwarsson, Professor of Gerontology at Lind University
- Jared Thomas of Opus Central Laboratories [www.livingstreets.org.nz/node/4684](http://www.livingstreets.org.nz/node/4684).
- David Engwicht's book, *Mental Speed Bumps*

# Greening the Rubble

by Rhys Taylor, Vice President of Living Street

Since spring 2010, Christchurch-based Executive members of Living Streets Aotearoa (LSA), Rhys Taylor and Meg Christie, have been contributing to an exciting project responding to earthquake damage in the city centre.

Rhys and Meg have been active among a multi-talented team which forms Make-SHIFT, a voluntary design and construction project that turns post-Quake demolition sites into temporary parks, walkways and public spaces.

"The process was nicknamed 'greening the rubble' by promoters and local landscape architects, who sought extra green space to plant native plants to celebrate 2010 being [the International] Year of Biodiversity. The name seems to have stuck," says Taylor, now contracted part-time as a coordinator, funded by a Christchurch City Council grant to LSA.

He explains, "it is a social and technical experiment, matching landowners with designers, sourcing sponsored materials and

coordinating willing labour to create and maintain these spaces. They include pocket parks, gardens, spaces to play, picnic and perform, new pedestrian lanes to connect city blocks and other features to humanise car parks."

Members of the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects have been involved from the start. Lincoln University staff and present and past students of the landscape design course have been particularly helpful in creating the first "Greening the Rubble" park, 'Victoria Green', due to open March 4th, 2011.

Victoria Green is in a retail area Salisbury and Victoria Streets Corner, near Christchurch casino, on two property titles. It's creation has the enthusiastic permission of the owners (LSA negotiated a \$1 short-term licence with each, to use the land). One of the landowners also generously donated towards construction costs and rolled up his sleeves to join the volunteers during working weekends.

The story in photos appears on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/greeningtherubble](http://www.facebook.com/greeningtherubble).

Team efforts continue on more sites, with more licences in discussion. Taylor is working on a partnership with an arts initiative called Gap Filler ([www.gapfiller.org.nz](http://www.gapfiller.org.nz)), to be covered in the next issue of Footprints.

## Addendum:

Since the recent earthquake in Christchurch, work on Greening the rubble has stopped, with large parts of the city unreachable. The central city is mostly sealed off due to the danger buildings collapsing. So there will be no work on the site for some time, but there will only be more work and more rubble to be greened as more sites need upgrading, so please follow the website and facebook page as the story continues.

*[see Greening the Rubble photos on the back page.]*

## Creative Ideas to get people walking

iWalk: virtual walking

Hawkes Bay is running a creative new challenge to get (to quote the website): "butts off couches, kids off playstations, dogs more walked, pathways more used and to get Hawkes Bay more active!"

The challenge put to Hawke's Bay residents is to virtually walk from Te Mata Peak in Hawke's Bay to Bluff at the bottom of the South Island, a total of 1,300km's in two months. iWay Project Manager Owen Mata says entries will be accepted from a team of five walkers or individuals, and the pedometers can be worn at work, home or to see friends; anywhere you go on foot. Check out the website to see how Hawkes Bay community walk from Te Mata peak to Bluff.

You can also log your daily kms at: [www.iwalk.co.nz](http://www.iwalk.co.nz) and watch your progress mapped, along with landmarks passed.

If you're interested in the idea and would like to set it up in your own community, contact Owen Mata: [owenm@hdc.govt.nz](mailto:owenm@hdc.govt.nz).

**Would you like to share your creative idea or project designed to get more people walking? Send your idea to: [footprints@livingstreets.org.nz](mailto:footprints@livingstreets.org.nz).**

## Neighbours Day, 26-27 March



26-27 March is Neighbours Day - turning streets into neighbourhoods ...

so start planning your neighbours day! You can knock on doors with home baking, bring out the backyard cricket, lean over the fence for a chat, put down a hangi or spark up the BBQ - do whatever suits your neighbourhood.

Neighbours Day is about encouraging New Zealanders to go one step further in getting to know our neighbours. Whether it's a first wave or smile, a chat over the fence, inviting someone in for a cuppa or holding

a street barbeque, every connection makes our neighbourhoods more friendly, fun and safe. Neighbours Day Aotearoa is also about celebrating the neighbourhoods we have. It's not about big events, but local activity in every street and neighbourhood.

Get involved! Talk about Neighbours Day Aotearoa with workmates, friends, family and neighbours! Visit the website: [www.neighboursday.org.nz](http://www.neighboursday.org.nz) for tips on getting folks in your community or region working together, and even for getting your business involved.

# Exec's Meeting 2011 - Have Your Say



The Executive Council will hold a face to face meeting in April, to make plans for this year, and to enable the executive to align and strategise. In light of recent funding changes, there is a lot to discuss in terms of long term planning, ways to sustain momentum, and how to most effectively support each region.

Please send any of your suggested topics and ideas to discuss at this meeting to: **gay.richards@livingstreets.org.nz**.

Although Living Streets Aotearoa funding has had cuts, we continue our quest to encourage more people to walk and to provide safer walkways for pedestrians.

Below are some ideas LSA President Andy Smith for walking-advocacy in 2011:

- Be informed through research and papers from recent conferences. For instance, evidence shows there is a need to focus on the Slips Tips and Falls on the road side and pathways.

Inadequately constructed footpaths can injure people and may shorten the life of older people (e.g. around retirement villages). ACC pays for the repairs on the people but we can reduce the accidents via community streets reviews. See the Walk21 paper *Individual Competence and Environmental Demands Influencing Out-of-home Mobility and Old Age*, presented by Susanne Iwarsson, Professor of Gerontology at Lind University.

Another useful paper was presented at the NZ Walking conference by Jared Thomas of Opus Central Laboratories [www.livingstreets.org.nz/node/4684](http://www.livingstreets.org.nz/node/4684).

- Continue to participate in and support the Walking Awards and national Walk2Work Day (W2W), try to institutionalise W2W in council's annual plans.
- Concentrate on the Yellow Feet (Don't park on the footpath) campaign and create a flyer about overhanging vegetation to put in letterboxes.

- Use our regional members to help create living streets (recommended read: **David Engwicht**). We should work with Transition Towns on community events. For example if there is a car park in what used to be a pedestrian space (e.g. Christchurch Square), then turn these into gardens or front rooms for a few hours to raise awareness.
- Continue to write submissions to influence policies. We don't wish to berate the person with the spade on the construction site, but make sure we plan to build pedestrian-focused environments in the first place.

For these campaigns we need all of you on board. If you have great ideas that are happening locally, please share it with us, and together we will ensure that pedestrians continue to become higher on the agenda.

## Does my mayor walk the talk?

Celia Wade-Brown, Wellington's Mayor - Interview Series

*How often do you walk to work or meetings nearby?*

I walk every day to nearby meetings.

*What is your favourite street in your city, and why?*

My favourite street is Cuba Street - for the diversity of people and shops.

*What footwear are you wearing at this exact moment?*

Black boots with two inch heels.

*Describe your favourite footwear:*

Bare feet - but I equally my gold wedgies that I bought in an op-shop in Taranaki Street!

*Do you, and what do you do to encourage your councillors to walk, bike or take public transport?*

I personally use public transport. To encourage the councillors, Wellington City removed travel allowance before central



Above: Celia Wade-Brown shows you don't have to sacrifice style to be active!

government did and we set up a Portfolio for Walking, Cycling and Motorcycling Safety, led by Councillor Pepperel. The Council is currently creating more shared spaces, like the one in Lower Cuba Street.

*What is your vision of Wellington in 2050 when you are leaning back in your rocking chair?*

I'll still be walking! We'll have tree-lined blocks with generous pavements, traffic-calmed, electric vehicles and lots of people walking and cycling along the Great Harbour Way.

*A lot of children in NZ are driven to school. What would you like to say to the children or parents to encourage them to walk?*

I am pleased to say that the Council is now monitoring the numbers of children walking to school. I would suggest choosing a local school, have children walk with friends and get parents involved with walking school buses.

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# News from the Regions

## Living Streets North Shore

We celebrated the end of our second year with a lively meeting in November.

Gay was confirmed as Convenor for 2011 and Margaret continues her sterling job as minutes Secretary. The new local government scene in Auckland has meant our main point of contact is now the council-controlled organisation, Auckland Transport. We are delighted to have many people we worked with previously, now in roles in the Community Transport Unit. Our meetings are now the 3rd Thursday of the month, with a flying start made at January's meeting.

Our Walk2Work event (Wednesday 16 March) will be held at Smales Farm Bus Station, where active and public transport modes meet.

## Walk Auckland

Andy Smith of Walk Auckland attended Walk 21 in Copenhagen (read From The Chairman's Desk for more information). Walk Auckland are beginning to work with the new Transport CCO (Council-controlled organisation) and are happy to see most of our friends re-employed in the new structure. Great to see Mike Lee, chairman of the Auckland Regional council, leading this as he brings a long background and wealth of knowledge to the job.

We're pleased to have just received a grant from Lotto to print flyers for Walk Auckland, Overhanging Vegetation and Don't Park on the Footpath. These will be used while the Transport CCO realise that they should be printing them.

Walk Auckland is running a Walk2Work event in Pigeon Park on K Rd. See last year's W2S video here: [vimeo.com/10083445](https://vimeo.com/10083445).

Walk Auckland's next meeting is on Tuesday March 8th at 5:30pm in Leys Institute Ponsonby.

## Living Streets Hamilton

In October and November 2010, we had a series of very successful Sunday afternoon strolls, investigating "Hidden Hamilton" – some of the various gully walks available in the city. These proved very popular, with some great maps drawn up by the guys at Hamilton City Council. Our minimum attendance was 21, while walking around Sandford Park in the rain, and our final stroll attracted over 60 participants. We received lots of enquiries as to when we were going to do the next series. Another set of walks will be held this spring, as we have plenty more bits of hidden Hamilton to explore yet!

On a more serious note, we have made a submission to Environment Waikato's Regional Land Transport Strategy with an oral presentation on Monday 14th February, supporting the commuter rail link to Auckland and asking, again, for better bus links between Hamilton and other Waikato towns to minimise the number of private commuter vehicles.

We are preparing a submission to the Alcohol Reform Bill, operating from the wider perspective of Living Streets' support for safer communities. There is a huge amount of interest in the Bill in Hamilton, due to the increasing numbers of liquor outlets and associated alcohol-related behaviour problems in the CBD.

A submission will also be made on Environment Waikato's Regional Policy Statement, due at the end of February. We'll then take a short rest until the Hamilton City Council's annual plan comes around again.

## Living Streets Lower Hutt

It's been a quiet time over the past 3 months for Lower Hutt members. We are all looking forward to the official opening of the Baring Head site to public access on Sunday February 13th. This iconic piece of coastal land was purchased last year, and is an exciting addition to Wellington region's public open space network. One of Living Streets Lower Hutt's members takes part in the Friends of Baring Head Trust.

## Living Streets Palmerston North

David Engwicht, world-renowned advocate for high quality public space and putting people on foot and bicycles ahead of those in cars, including through the use of mental speed bumps and other tactics that come from thinking without the constraints imposed by an education in road engineering, will be holding a workshop for City Council staff as well as giving a public lecture in Palmerston North on Friday and Saturday 18th - 19th March. David Engwicht will also give a public lecture at the Library on 17 March at the Friday evening lectures.

Palmerston North has finally realised that public space is an important contributor to resident and visitor perception of any city. Some are still of the view that unrestrained motor vehicle traffic is still compatible with good quality public space so hopefully David will help convince them otherwise.

## Living Streets Wellington

With the elections out of the way, we are now working with some new and many old councillors. We are very fortunate to have Celia Wade-Brown as our new Mayor who has been one of the founders of Living Streets Aotearoa. Also congratulations to Lisa Bridson who is now a Hutt City councillor.

We have decided to have a focus this year on providing useful information to people who influence decisions – our members, councillors and council staff in particular. Our first seminar on footpath design in January was very well attended. Paula Warren provided a short introduction to the importance of footpath design and the many things that can go wrong out there. Jared Thomas from Opus gave a presentation on the trips and falls study for ACC, followed by Tim Hughes talking about the pedestrian planning and design guide and their importance for pedestrian safety, and Mayor Celia finished up by talking about the main initiatives for Wellington. There was then a vigorous question and answer/debate session. Three other councillors attended, including those responsible for walking and other matters, urban design, and interaction with community groups. They received a strong message about the need for WCC to enforce compliance with the guidelines (which they have endorsed).

Our next seminar will be examining issues relating to the allocation of space between users – parking versus pedestrians in particular.

We have been quite active in chasing the council on individual issues, and it is having an effect. A senior council officer has contacted us asking for a meeting so he can find out "where Living Streets is coming from" because "you seem to be very active at the moment".

An interesting issue has been the change in Manners Street, with Manners Mall opened to buses and other parts of the area changed from one to two way traffic flow. We met with the council to talk about the pedestrian accidents that have arisen from the changes. There have been no incidents in the ex-Manners Mall, and the information available shows that it is pedestrians not looking the right way that is responsible. The council has tried hard to alert pedestrians to the need for changed behaviour, and it is working. But the newspaper reports and a lot of the debate have portrayed the problem as being because the buses are close to the

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# Meetings

kerb (which is probably an almost irrelevant factor) or the result of losing the mall (which is clearly not relevant). Interestingly, there were similar problems in the past when Willis St was changed, and no equivalent level of newspaper coverage. We have generally stayed quiet on the issue, as the only rational response would be “why can’t pedestrians learn to look where they are going”. Not what might be expected from Living Streets. The council reported on an incident in Willis St a few years ago where a pedestrian walked into a bus just behind the back door. Any pedestrian that fails to notice something as large as a bus is clearly not looking where they are going.

## BikeWalk Marlborough

We meet every 3 months at the council in Blenheim, where the Access & Mobility Forum is hosted, also addressing many walking and mobility issues. Bike Walk Marlborough meetings tend to be more-cycle focused, however the topics on discussion varies. Here are some extracts from our recent meeting.

We held a ‘Go by Bike Breakfast’ at the Raupo Cafe, Blenheim and Le Cafe, Picton on 16 Feb 2011, and also helped to organise the ‘Mayoral Challenge’ in Seymour Square, Blenheim and Picton Foreshore on 20 February.

Cycle Lanes: At the BikeWalk Marlborough meeting, we have been discussing draft cycle lane proposals for different sections in Blenheim. The sections were included in the Urban Design Study. Cycle lanes would increase cyclist safety within the CBD and raise the profile of cycling in Marlborough. The proposed sections of road were selected because they carry high traffic volumes in these specific areas, and the cycle lanes will provide a defined space for cyclists. Work on Stage 1 of the Rail Corridor Trail (Walking & Cycling) should begin by the end of March. Stage 2 of the project will be from Alabama Road to Cob Cottage, followed by a path from Cob Cottage to Riverlands Industrial Estate. We are also seeking more pedestrian crossings with central refuge in various locations.

Marlborough Roads/NZTA Updates: Signage to indicate to drivers that cyclists are present on the same roads is proposed, as already in use in other centres. These signs take two forms, with standard NZTA “Share the Road” signs going up as well as the larger billboards, also to be installed throughout the ‘top of the South’.

Road Safety Co-ordinator Update: ‘Go Marlborough’ has been contracted to canvas the community via an online survey to find out participation rates in cycling and walking, as well as those barriers to walking and cycling short distances. It is hoped to have results ready for the next meeting.

The ‘Clued-Up Kids’ programme later in the year will be focusing on Cycle Safety.

## Living Streets Dunedin

At the end of 2010, Living Streets Dunedin participated in Our City, Our Future, a visioning exercise hosted by the Dunedin City Council. People from the community were asked to look forward to plan the place we’d like to be in 25 years time. It was heartening to see huge support for walking and other active transport modes from all quarters, together with a refreshed council and newly-published report on preparing the city for the challenge of decreasing oil supplies ([www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/19569/peak-oil-drive-changes-dunedin](http://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/19569/peak-oil-drive-changes-dunedin)).

Our new council have proposed quite a few pedestrian initiatives, but there is still plenty of lobbying to do.

There is an excellent proposal currently being considered to add a much-needed pedestrian & cycle accessway over the railway line to connect the neglected harbour area to the city. The council are considering two possibilities are being indecisive, when they could well support both proposals: [www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/147037/second-harbour-link-questioned](http://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/147037/second-harbour-link-questioned).

The council also seem indecisive on a way forward for John Wilson Drive, which currently consists of a beautiful kilometre of wide road, overlooking the beach. Both pedestrians and cyclists are protected from vehicle traffic by lockable bollards – a haven for walkers, novice cyclists, wheelchairs and mobility scooters. Motorists can still drive halfway along to a carpark with magnificent views in both directions. A time-share arrangement could be a cost-effective solution. The latest proposal is to re-open the whole road to cars during daylight hours as a “trial”.

[www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/144698/trial-reopening-road-recommended](http://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/144698/trial-reopening-road-recommended).

The chance to have a say on this issue is at the annual plan hearings in a couple of months. Dunedin walkers are planning to keep walkers on the centre stage, if not quite in the middle of the road!

## Walk Auckland

2nd Tuesday of the month, 5:30pm  
Leys Institute Hall, 20 St Marys Rd, Ponsonby.  
Upstairs in the Supper Room. Meetings: 8 March, 5 April, 10 May. [www.walkauckland.org](http://www.walkauckland.org)

## Living Streets Manukau

Meets as required.  
Contact Donna Wynd: 09 378 0953.

## Living Streets North Shore

3rd Thursday of the month at The Coffee Club, cnr The Strand & Lake Rd, Takapuna.  
Contact: [gay.richards@livingstreets.org.nz](mailto:gay.richards@livingstreets.org.nz)  
Mob: 021 1747 066

## Living Streets Hamilton

Second Thursday of the month at 5:30pm,  
29 Claude St. Next meeting: 14th April.

## Living Streets New Plymouth

Meets at the Cancer Society Building, 71 Lorna Street, at the back of the Hospital main car-park. Contact: [Joelle@sporttaranaki.org.nz](mailto:Joelle@sporttaranaki.org.nz).

## Walk Taupo

Meets as required. [Taupo@livingstreets.org.nz](mailto:Taupo@livingstreets.org.nz)

## Living Streets Palmerston North

Meets as required  
[chris.teosherrell@livingstreets.org.nz](mailto: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](mailto:lowerhutt@livingstreets.org.nz)

## Living Streets Wellington

Meeting info: [www.livingstreets.org.nz/regions/wellington](http://www.livingstreets.org.nz/regions/wellington).  
[paula.warren@livingstreets.org.nz](mailto:paula.warren@livingstreets.org.nz)

## Walk Nelson Tasman

Meets bi-monthly, usually Friday 9.30am  
[walknelsonstasman@livingstreets.org.nz](mailto:walknelsonstasman@livingstreets.org.nz)

## Bike Walk Marlborough

Meeting info: [marlborough@livingstreets.org.nz](mailto:marlborough@livingstreets.org.nz).

## Living Streets Canterbury

Join us! Contact Cindy and Chrys for where to meet: [canterbury@livingstreets.org.nz](mailto: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](mailto:dunedin@livingstreets.org.nz)

## Living Streets West Coast

Meets as required  
[Rosie.McGrath@livingstreets.org.nz](mailto:Rosie.McGrath@livingstreets.org.nz)

# Greening the Rubble

by Rhys Taylor, Vice President of LSA

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Above: Photo series from Rhys Taylor showing the greening-the-rubble process!

Victoria Green provides the public with a new path between two streets, both flat and sloping turf lawn areas, simple seating made from volunteer-welded structures of steel mesh (gabions) filled with broken bricks, also beds for wildflowers and innovative hard fill surfaces whose materials include recycled bricks and ground glass. Some of the hard surfaces are ready for native trees to arrive, in planter boxes loaned by the Council.

Following construction, completed in just five days by a large team of volunteers, Rhys recruited an additional team including local residents, for watering and maintenance. Starting in late May this year (or as soon afterwards as re-development work is to begin), Victoria Green will be dismantled and many components such as soil, gabions, and tree planters, will be re-located to new park sites. "The concept is that we make ... and we shift!" See [www.make-shift.org.nz](http://www.make-shift.org.nz). Christchurch readers who would like to join in to help can contact: **Rhys on 021 462 260.**

*Pai te haare maa raro  
- walking is good!*