

GOLDEN FOOT AWARDS – FINALISTS

Best practice walking facility

Te Arawai, (Waikanae footbridge), Kapiti Coast Kapiti Coast district council

“Te Arawai” means “‘pathway’ or ‘journey over water’”. It is an attractive steel rod stayed 1.2m wide pedestrian bridge which has a main span of 39m and crosses the Waikanae River at Waikanae on the Kapiti Coast. Te Arawai has fully accessible approach ramps constructed from quarry hardfill and is located close to the urban ‘garden area’ of Waikanae being roughly mid-way between the two existing bridge crossings available to pedestrians. These are the State Highway One road bridge and the Otaihanga footbridge (upgraded by the Council in 2007). Te Arawai is also 380m upstream of Jim Cooke Memorial Park – Waikanae’s premier soccer venue.

The bridge allows all weather crossing of the river for pedestrians and cyclists and has allowed higher usage of the more rural south bank of the river by creating two 4km loop options via the other bridges. The bridge is also dog friendly, as this was a key feature highlighted during the design investigation phase, as dog walking is a major activity in the area. The project was championed by a local environmental restoration group called Friends of the Waikanae River.

Council had no budget for the works so sought further funding; securing sixty percent of the project cost from external parties and the remainder from a Community Board Loan – truly a team effort. Consultation was undertaken with the community on the preferred form and site (choice of two) for the bridge. Onsite construction was completed in a six week period early in 2009 with the bridge fully erected within two days and open for use on 20th February 2009. An opening ceremony was held to celebrate and thank those involved with this very successful initiative

Turanganui Riverside Walkway, Gisborne Gisborne City Council

The Turanganui Riverside Walkway is located in the heart of the Gisborne City, providing a key link between the beachfront and the central business district. The need for the project centred on the compelling health and safety benefits, and unlocking the high amenity and recreational potential of the area. This triggered Gisborne District Council’s desire to seek funding and work alongside New Zealand Transport Agency and other interested parties like the Maori Advisory Group and Rongowhakaata Trust to ensure delivery of this high profile project. The end product represents a good example of a walking facility that embodies high quality urban design and accessibility principles, whilst illustrating innovative ways of overcoming barriers to walking.

Twin streams walk and cycle way, Waitakere Waitakere City Council

Project Twin Streams is an urban sustainability project based in Waitakere. The project weaves together integrated storm water management, the restoration of 56 kilometres of stream banks and the development of shared path walk and cycleways all within a community development model that aims to connect local people with each other, their environment and with key town centres and social infrastructure.

Walk and cycleways have been completed to follow alongside the Opanuku, Oratia and Waikumete Streams. They serve as a major backbone for the wider active mode transport network in their areas and will form the basis for future additional walk and cycleways in the area. They facilitate community access to the Henderson central business district and Glen Eden town centre by non-vehicular means.

Prior to the implementation of the project, short stretches of gravel and dirt paths existed in some locations, but were not widely used by pedestrians as they had limited connectivity to the wider transport network, were not well maintained and did not provide access for persons of all mobility levels.

The community identified that walk and cycleways, as an outcome of the project, were highly desirable. The pathways were promoted on the concept of access through native ecosystems, connecting numerous local communities to town centres, schools, employment areas, parks and key local infrastructure by active transport modes. The nearly 10 kilometres of walk and cycleways that make up the Project Twin Streams walk and cycleways have been constructed to exceptionally high standards enabling universal access for people of all mobility levels for the vast majority of the route. Further development of the walk and cycleways is planned so that the pathways are continually being improved.

The Project Twin Streams walk and cycleways were designed and constructed to provide highly accessible connections to key local infrastructure, town centres and schools via the natural environment.

Top commitment by organisation

Mangawhai Walking Weekend 10th anniversary, Mangawhai Mangawhai Weekend Committee

In summary 10 years ago Mangawhai was a quiet seaside Magical resort. With the vision of one person, an extremely successful annual walking weekend was established.

When it came to the 10th anniversary, it was decided something special was needed.

Plans were prepared, potential tracks, walks and entertainment were checked out and a programme prepared. Brochures were printed and distributed.

Highlights included

- 1 A mystery walk – the missing link on the Te Araroa walkway, where it was officially opened.
- 2 The Troubadour Trail with various professional artists positioned around the beach to entertain the walkers.
- 3 Many special social activities;
 - A meet and greet at the brand new Bennetts of Mangawhai Chocolate factory
 - B Gourmet Breakfast, 'A Taste of Spain' celebrity lunch with Ray McVinnie,
 - C Wine and Food Festival featuring The Suzanne Lynch Trio
 - D Art trail
- 4 The choice of 33 walks over two days several of which had two or three departures. (Plus the Thursday and Friday walks)

From small beginnings a vision of one person has become a reality. The 10th Anniversary was a huge success and the achievement went beyond expectations. It showed what a dedicated group of volunteers can achieve.

The objectives and aims of the 10th Anniversary have been achieved. With an award, the success of 2009 will ensure increased patronage in the years to come.

A kiwi dream has become a kiwi reality, one which will be around for years to come.

Should there be a list in the future of the top 101 walking week ends in New Zealand, the small resort of Mangawhai will rank among the best.

The Great Perimeter Walkway, Christchurch Urban Landscape Group, a sub-committee of Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch

Nearly 20 years ago, world-renowned Christchurch ecologist Colin Meurk proposed a city-circling walkway that would show people their varied natural surroundings, encourage walking close to home and attract visitors to stay more than a day.

He and supporters have worked hard on the *Great Perimeter Walkway*, a 120-kilometre route that links in seacoast, volcanic hills, city streams, native bush, wetlands and the mighty braided Waimakariri River, along with suburban lifestyles.

He has led a series of Forest and Bird-sponsored Saturday Meurky Walks over 12 years _ open to all _ and through his efforts developed the concept of shared physical effort and knowledge exchange about natural and cultural history.

He has spread the word to many people. Part of his role while seconded from his job at Landcare Research to the Christchurch City Council was to develop the concept.

From this work with Eric Banks at the council, a detailed narrative and a set of aerial photographs was produced with the proposed route (mostly on public land) and superimposed facilities such as cafes, bus stops, accommodation places and public toilets.

The Meurky Walks continue, with more coming through the year (a schedule is attached). So far, Colin has led hundreds of people through four complete circuits of the route over the past 12 years, with no let-up in his commitment.

Travel Smart, Tauranga Tauranga City Council

Tauranga City Council's Travel Smart project was born from the need to reduce the increasing congestion at school gates and the resulting safety issues for the children, pedestrians and drivers that arose from it.

Travel Smart sees Council's Travel Smart Coordinators working with the school and their communities to develop school travel plans which aim to encourage children and their parents to walk more frequently.

Travel Smart's school travel plans incorporate several different walking-based programmes. Each programme is delivered through schools all over Tauranga.

Kids on Feet, Feet First and most recently Caterpillar Feet are innovative, exciting Travel Smart programmes that have been developed with each school and its community to encourage and enable walking as a viable and valid mode of transport.

Travel Smart is based on the community development model and takes a unique proactive and integrated approach to encouraging walking. Coordinators work in partnership alongside schools and their communities. The Travel Smart Coordinator roles are based inside the City Transportation Group at Tauranga City Council which enables a holistic and strategic approach to the delivery of the project and its programmes.

Established in 2007, Travel Smart has seen 20 schools, 150 volunteers, and 1500 children join walking programmes over the last two years. Most are still actively participating in walking programmes over the last two years.

Demand is so great that the two Travel Smart Coordinators cannot keep up and Tauranga City Council will shortly begin the process to recruit additional staff to support the Travel

Consultancy Award

Taking a walk in Cambridge Park, Cambridge Cambridge Park Ltd

Cambridge Park is a neighbourhood of places where people will live, play and even work. It is designed to intimately link how people live and the architecture of the houses to the pattern of subdivision. The design rationale of Cambridge Park is motivated by

the desire to reclaim streets for people rather continue to have them dominated by the motor vehicle.

Cambridge Park will ultimately accommodate some 300 households. Located abutting the Cambridge Town Belt, it has frontage to the Cambridge / Te Awamutu Road and also takes access from Thompson Street, a residential street connecting to the Leamington shopping centre about 12 minutes walking away.

The centre of gravity of Cambridge Park is a social hub comprising higher density housing (potentially accommodating 'home occupation' scale commercial activities) and neighbourhood facilities (with provision for a café-cum-convenience store) cloistering an oval shaped village green (The Oval). In design and layout Cambridge Park is a response to the highly connected, safe and accessible network of streets, open space and walking opportunities that characterise Cambridge. Distinctive landscaping and street tree planting will further enhance neighbourhood legibility.

The Oval and other public open spaces within Cambridge Park provide for people to feel comfortable outside their homes and private spaces. These common areas also act as a play and meeting place for people and for social events and recreation.

With the required land use and subdivision consents from Waipa District Council currently in place Cambridge Park will hopefully soon be a neighbourhood to be walked and enjoyed

Accessibility innovation

First NZ Puffin, Lower Hutt Hutt City council

PUFFIN's testing the water in Lower Hutt

Hutt City Council has installed New Zealand's first ever near-side display PUFFIN Pedestrian Crossing in Railway Avenue. Through their school travel plan, developed in partnership with Hutt City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council, Hutt Central School identified a need for a safer way to cross Railway Avenue, an arterial route (Estimated a >12,000 vpd) outside their school. With a major new interchange recently opened in the vicinity, traffic flows on the Avenue increased 30% overnight.

PUFFIN crossings offer a direct pedestrian benefit to the students of Hutt Central School, their families, the residents and the businesses of the Hutt Central and Belmont area.

Near-side displays offer an improved level of service to pedestrians in several ways, including:

- More effective placement of visual display
- Removal of confusion of flashing red man signal
- No signal distraction once on crossing

PUFFIN's can also benefit pedestrians by providing

- Smart pedestrian tiles which trigger the request to cross and also activate a cancellation
- More rapid interruption of traffic

Through a close working relationship with the school, Hutt City Council was able to effectively educate students at Hutt Central how to use the new crossing. Jack the region's school travel plan mascot demonstrated the technique at a school assembly. Preliminary results show a 60% improvement in legal pedestrian behaviour, well exceeding expectations.

This NZTA approved trial in Lower Hutt is primarily focussed upon measuring compliance with the near-side displays and OPUS Central Laboratories behavioural scientists are evaluating the change in pedestrian behaviour. The outcome is expected to be improved pedestrian experience with the traffic signals. Given the positive result, HCC will be requesting that the PUFFIN near-side displays become a permitted Traffic Control Device.

Best walking promotion

10,000 steps Northland, Northland Sport Northland

The key stakeholders of the Northland sport and recreation sector together wanted to develop, implement and evaluate an innovative community-based, multi-strategy health promotion programme focusing on increasing the physical activity levels of Northlanders and the social determinants of health.

In November 2004, the 10,000 Steps Northland campaign was launched as a three year project. The success of the campaign has seen the continuation of the programme.

The initial outcomes of the project (2004-2007) included:

1. Increase participation in physical activity through the creation of the following sustainable strategies for promoting physical activity at the local level:
 - Raising community awareness of the health benefits of moderate physical activity.
 - Strengthening the Green Prescription programme by increasing the capacity of GP's and other health professionals to write scripts.
 - Strengthening the capacity of the community to provide improved opportunities, social support, policies and environments for physical activity.
 - Targeting Maori and youth as priority groups requiring specific strategies.
 2. Develop a regional model that can be adapted for implementation in other regions throughout New Zealand.
- And in addition to the above outcomes:
3. Raise community awareness of the benefits and opportunities of Active Transport and increase the numbers of people commuting actively.
- Innovative ideas for promotion / awareness:
- Branding walks including creation of maps, implementation of signage and stenciled footpaths
 - Set up of pedometer loan schemes

- Set up of 3 x Workplace Challenges involving virtual journeys

Since 2007:

- Development of the Active Workplaces programme
- Bimonthly virtual challenges
- Walking promotions for adults and schools
- Expansion of the website and resources

Results from 6 month post registrations surveys to date:

People more active since joining the programme - 69%

People who feel more confident doing physical activity since joining the programme - 85%

People either very satisfied or satisfied with the programme Overall - 88%

City on its Feet, Tauranga Sport Bay of Plenty

The City on its Feet project was introduced in 2005 to put in place community interventions to increase physical activity through walking.

Collaborative project partners SPARC, Bay of Plenty District Health Board, ACC, Tauranga City Council and Sport Bay of Plenty funded City on its Feet for three years, from September 2005 to September 2008.

As a result of its popularity, effectiveness and the positive contributions City on its Feet made to the community, four of the partners agreed to provide support for a one year extension of the programme, taking it through to September 2009.

The focus for the extension year is to put in place strategies which will establish City on its Feet as a sustainable programme that can continue to serve the community.

City on its Feet has been innovative and successful in establishing a well recognized walking culture in Tauranga. It has met a need for a supported community walking programme and has become the focal point for all enquiries around walking.

Happy Feet, Hamilton Kids Club 2

Kids Club 2, a private kindergarten in Flagstaff, Hamilton is currently piloting a fun, new active transport programme designed for 3 -5 year olds - aptly named Happy Feet.

Happy Feet inspires and supports pre-school children to walk, bike, scooter or trike safely with their families all or part of the way to kindy. The children each have a ticket attached to their bag, and are encouraged to 'Get their click, for their active trip'. They are proud when they reach set targets, collecting stickers and certificates along the way towards the ultimate reward - having their footprint placed on the Walk of Fame.

Kids Club 2 has fully embraced Happy Feet; there has been an uptake of more than **70%** of children and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Teachers Karen,

Simon and Talia say, "We love the programme! As teachers we enjoy seeing the children arriving at kindy refreshed and ready to start their day. We get a real buzz from the children's excitement about how they are walking, biking and scootering to and from kindy - with their friends". The teachers themselves now also park and walk - every day, what fantastic role modelling!

Neighbours have expressed their support for the programme; many have even placed Happy Feet stickers on their mailboxes. Teachers Karen, Simon and Talia recently commented that Happy Feet is building stronger relationships between Kids Club 2 families and the community, "People are less hurried and are enjoying spending this time together - and this benefits everyone".

Best small project

Bill Wilkes Reserve improvements, Richmond Tasman District Council

Bill Wilkes Reserve is a major reserve in Richmond linking two areas of the town. While the reserve has a well formed path with an even gradient, it has until recently had two steps in the middle of the reserve. These steps have meant that people with limited mobility have not been able to walk through the reserve even though it is accessible for nearly the whole length of the reserve.

In late April 2009 one of Walk Nelson Tasman's members, Judy Cox, approached Glenn Thorn, reserves Facilities Supervisor at Tasman District council. In less than a month Glenn had arranged for the steps to be replaced by a concrete path of a similar standard to the rest of the path in the reserve.

Walk Nelson Tasman believes Tasman District council showed outstanding customer service skills and responsiveness in making these improvements to the reserve and is a worthy nominee for the Golden Foot awards.

Buggy Walks, Wellington Sport Wellington

Increasingly becoming more popular, the Buggy Walks are a New Zealand first for a long term sustainable partnership between Sport Wellington and Greater Wellington Regional Council, and is now in its third successful year. The Buggy Walks are a free event, which is focused on targeting at home caregivers with children under the age of five years, which are planned at a time of day that suits participants and families.

The Buggy walks are held every month to ensure this becomes a sustainable event in parents' calendar. The walks fall on the first Thursday of every month, starting at 10.30am, and concluding around 12 noon. Participants are encouraged to bring their lunch and stay around afterwards to enjoy the atmosphere and socialize with other families. During Push Play month (in October), is the annual Buggy Walk, where the event is held in central Wellington, and is a more prominent event surrounding the

monthly walks. Sport Wellington obtains sponsors to help make this event as big as it can be, last year seeing 800 participants attend the Buggy Walk event in October. Some of the key sponsors remain throughout the year as part of their ongoing support for the event.

Greater Wellington Regional Council has been a key partner in these Buggy Walks over the last four years, by providing the Parks and Forests as venues which are Buggy Friendly. The Buggy Walks are family orientated, and reduce many barriers associated to this target group. The tracks are accessible and manageable for buggies, with parking close by and toilet facilities to accompany it. The monthly walks are spread across the Greater Wellington Region to allow participants to visit different parks and forests that are Buggy friendly, and to help reduce social isolation and increase positive physical activity in a group with considerable influence over their family habits.

Walk this Way, Timaru Bronte Davenport (aged 11), for Craighead Diocesan School

My school project "Walk This Way" was entered in the Sanford Science and Technology Fair - Central South Island in Timaru, in September of 2008.

The project had the aim of making Walking School Bus routes more recognisable.

It was the result of asking my mother "how do kids and parents know where to get on, or meet the walking school bus?"

I then started thinking that it would be a good idea to indicate places where children could catch the bus.

By doing that, I thought that it would also show the general public where school kids would be walking.

The other thing that I hoped it might do is encourage more kids to walk to school instead of being dropped to school in cars, by their parents.

My project went on to identifying a need to design a street sign for installation on walking school bus routes - a 'walking school bus stop' sign.

I based my project on my wee brother Will's walking school bus.