



Living Streets Aotearoa

## Welcome to the June 2025 e-Bulletin from Living Streets Aotearoa

*We want more people walking and enjoying public spaces be they young or old, fast or slow, whether walking, sitting, commuting, shopping, between appointments, or out on the streets for exercise, for leisure or for pleasure.*

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### Auckland speed limits increase

While LSA along with [All Aboard Aotearoa](#), [Bike Auckland](#), Walk Auckland, and [Brake NZ](#), school principals and local communities have advocated to keep safer speeds, AT has maintained their proposed approach to implement the [Setting of Speed Limits Rule 2024](#) by raising speeds in one fell swoop on approximately 1500 Auckland roads on 1 July 2025. On 1 July, the speed limit on streets nearby and at schools will go up to 50 km/h, except for short times in the day, where roads right outside a school will have a 30 km/h limit.



Already, AT has begun to roll out new speed limit signs outside schools, and as expected the [description of the speed limits is confusing](#). Below the 30 kph marker are a series of times that show when the variable speed limit is in place. Some like AA spokesperson Dylan Thomsen [have likened the design to an vision test](#) and are concerned drivers will be so distracted by reading the sign that they won't be aware of kids in the area. In other cases, the stated times on the signs don't line up with the start and end times of the school where the sign is posted.

But that is not the only problem with these signs. Some have also been poorly installed and seated, making them trip hazards for pedestrians. Walk Auckland, Living Streets Aotearoa and other groups have jointly written to Auckland Transport to protest this further hazard to pedestrians.

In summary, a series of poorly advised decisions by Auckland Transport have put Auckland pedestrians at greater risk of injury both on the footpath and when crossing the road. Whereas other Councils have interpreted the Setting of Speed Limits Rule 2024 in a way that leads speeds to be raised on a minimal number of streets, Auckland Transport have taken the opposite approach. [This post on the Greater Auckland website](#) summarises the liability issues that may result from this decision.

## **Thursday 6 November: Save the date for the Living Streets Aotearoa Walking Summit 2025!**

Our one-day, online Walking Summit will take place on Thursday 6 November, and there's a whole lot of planning currently underway to bring the Summit's theme, "Walkable Communities for Wellbeing", to life. We aim to have the draft programme and more information about registration in the July e-Bulletin, so please save the date of the Summit in your calendar and watch out for the next round of announcements!

## **Blind Low Vision New Zealand is calling for accessible footpaths**

A [recent article in the Manawātū Standard](#) highlighted the challenges people who are blind and who have low vision can face when walking on the footpath. Palmerston North resident Lisa Cooper shares her story about struggling to walk on uneven pavement that's been pushed up by tree roots and having to navigate obstacles on the path like e-scooters, overhanging branches, and parked cars. Blind Low Vision New Zealand wants the government "to regulate enforceable minimum standards for accessible footpaths" so that everyone can get where they need to go safely and comfortably.

LSA also supports making footpaths safe, clear, and accessible. We provide [yellow foot leaflets](#) you can use to inform drivers that parking on the footpath is illegal, and we have [green flyers](#) to mark vegetation that is overhanging the footpath and let people know to trim it back.



## **Christchurch Conversations: Steps to a walkable Ōtautahi**

LSA Executive Council member Carina Duke will be speaking at next month's [Christchurch Conversation](#) where the topic is "Steps to a walkable Ōtautahi". This Christchurch Conversation is presented by [Te Pūtahi Centre for Architecture and City-Making](#) and considers how a truly walkable city could make for a vibrant, sustainable and liveable Christchurch.

The simple act of walking has powerful benefits. This low-carbon, low-tech, low-pollution activity promotes health, wellbeing and sustainability – and it's free! It is also a great connector – as a form of transport and as a catalyst for social interaction.

How well does Ōtautahi cater to and encourage walking? What needs to change? If more people walked, what savings could be made in our health and transport budgets? What carbon emissions could we avoid?

The event is from 6:00-7:30 pm on Tuesday 15 July, and is held in the TSB Space, Level 1, Tūranga. [Register to attend here](#). If you can't join in person, you can [watch the livestream on YouTube](#).

## Steps to a walkable Ōtautahi

**Tuesday 15 July  
6 – 7.30pm**  
In person: Tūranga,  
Level 1: TSB Space  
Virtual option available  
Free event, registration required

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**Christchurch CONVERSATIONS**  
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### Walking books roundup

Looking for inspiration for your walks? Here are five international books about walking to get you excited to get out, even with the weather getting colder.

1. [The Walking Cure](#) by Annabel Streets. This book is about the benefits of walking in different landscapes. It was highlighted in [this article about the magic of city walking](#).
2. [Wanderlust: A history of walking](#) by Rebecca Solnit. An overview of the history of walking and profiles significant walkers in history and fiction.
3. [Writers on Walks: 30 reflections from exploring on foot](#) by many (BBC Studios). This audiobook is a collection of segments from the BBC Radio 3 segment *The Essay*, featuring writers talking about walking.
4. [The Salt Path](#) by Raynor Winn. A memoir about the author and her husband walking the South West Coast Path after they were evicted from their home. [The book was recently turned into a movie](#).
5. [A Walking Life](#) by Antonia Malchik. This book explores how walking is fundamental for humans, and how we can reclaim walking in our lives.

Briefly, some good news that involves a walk. [A woman in Whitby has won a \\$17.2 million powerball prize](#) that only happened because she spontaneously decided to go on a walk with her grandson.