

Living Streets Aotearoa



Collective Executive Committee Report for April 2020 – March 2021

Our walking tōtara has fallen.

The Executive Committee has come together to celebrate our past President Andy Smith. He was such a collaborative person who fully committed himself to the common good as well as having fun along the way. He always said we are here for the long haul, and so we will continue on our path.

COVID-19 had a significant impact on all our lives, but had the silver lining of making walking one of the fun things everyone was permitted to do during lockdowns, and we were even able to reclaim the road on the quiet streets for a time. Our meetings moved to Zoom, including the presentation of the **WSP Golden Foot Awards** in June where The Great Bear Hunt was the obvious winner of the Event category. The other winners were: Be Counted at PN City He Ara Kotahi Bridge, an important contribution to measuring walking, Brightwater Consultation - Tasman District Council, an interactive schools project, our very own Walking Champion, Chris Teo-Sherrell for his tireless efforts to bring together the Footpaths4Feet coalition, the Auckland Design Office for the High Street trial and Roger Boulter, with his book “Planning for Walking and Cycling in New Zealand.”

We maintain contact with our members through regular eBulletins, blog and our Facebook page and group and Twitter account, with thanks Ellen Blake for actively posting and tweeting. Highlights from the past year, many of them championed by Andy, follow:

LSA Face2Face November 2020 – Community Street Review Audit. Many of the newly elected Executive members met for the first time in Hamilton. It was a lively 2-day meeting to discuss all aspects of LSA’s mission, values, and goals, our range of ongoing campaigns and policies. Members welcomed the opportunity to undertake a Street Audit of the Intersection Claudelands Park, Boundary Road, and Heaphy Terrace. It was a great experience, with members able to collectively evaluate the state of the footpaths and road crossings en-route to and around the roundabout.

Walk2Work Day 10 March 2021 was a blast.

Walk2Work Day is our national day to celebrate walking, held in March the once-a-year chance to say ‘ka pai’ for choosing to look after body and mind, our community, and the planet. Wellington turned on one of its bracing mornings with a blast of wind to help turn the smiles on as people walked along. Even the Minister of Transport got in on the act but missed out on breakfast! [Ellen Blake’s Blog].

Walking is often overlooked in its value as a mode of transportation, its numerous health benefits, and its role in recreation. Walk2Work Day is New Zealand's national day to celebrate walking as a part of our daily life. We celebrate the benefits of walking by encouraging community members to walk to work. Led by Living Streets Aotearoa, the event focuses on leaving behind the car keys and hitting the pavement for your work commute instead.



Grand welcome from [Andy Smith](#) to the 2WalkandCycle conference this morning! 17 March 2021.



The conference was a great success with health, transport, local government, Ministries, and Agencies coming together to see and hear about each other's work in the active transport area. Living Streets Aotearoa and Cycling Action Network host this conference that was postponed from September 2020. [Andy Smith, eBulletin March 2021].

Campaigns report – Chris Teo-Sherrell

Accessible Streets Package

June 2020 Spoke to Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee along with other members of the Footpaths4Feet Coalition concerning our petition to keep footpaths safe for pedestrians

March 2021 Met with Minister of Transport concerning the Accessible Streets Package and other threats to pedestrians on footpaths. Encouraged him to implement the good bits of the Accessible Streets Package and replace the rest with a commitment to providing safe space for micromobility users on road.

E-scooter case

Continued development of a legal case against e-scooters being used on footpaths. This has finally reached the point of a claim having been filed in court, with a case management hearing being held on the morning of 29th September.

Footpath parking campaign

Launched this and wrote to major councils seeking their approach to education about, and enforcement of, rules concerning parking on footpaths. Also wrote to some businesses. Invited the public to provide photographic examples of illegal parking on footpaths as a way to highlight the issue. AA Directions magazine (reaches 900,000 people) also carried an article on it.

LSA Representation on projects in the Bay of Plenty – Jean-Paul Thull.

Cameron Road development	-	Tauranga city council
Totara Street share walk/cycle-path	-	TCC and ratepayers association +
Smart Growth BOP	-	BoP Regional council

Climate Change Commission – Engagement Workshop, Webinar attendance, and feedback.

LSA responded to the Climate Change Commission’s draft advice to the Government on reducing New Zealand’s greenhouse gas emissions. Paula Wilkinson and Tim Jones attended CCC engagement workshops and webinars. LSA put in a submission calling for more recognition of the role walking can play in providing choice and reducing emissions, and we were glad to see that there was some movement in this direction in the Commission’s final advice. Time Jones attended the ‘lockup’ where the final advice was released for LSA.

Living Streets Aotearoa Walking Awards – Golden Foot, June 2020



Sponsors WSP

Welcome from our elegant host Andy Smith to the many e-attendees across Aotearoa, who gathered to recognise and celebrate New Zealand’s achievements for walkers, acknowledging innovative new facilities, highlighting national best practice – and rewarding ongoing commitment to walking.

Ngā mihi. Thanks to the Executive committee - Gay Richards, Susan Hutchinson-Daniel, Tim Jones, Paula Wilkinson, Chris Teo-Sherell, Carina Duke, Peter Bos and Jean-Paul Thull for continuing the work of LSA. Thanks to Lyndal Johansson and Lloyd Morris who stepped down during the year. We thank our members for their ongoing support and commitment to promoting accessible walk-friendly communities, for all.