



Living Streets Aotearoa

Welcome to the April 2024 eBulletin 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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Walk2Work Day 2024 - it's a wrap!

Congratulations to everyone who took part in celebrating walking on Walk2Work Day, 13 March! We were delighted to be tagged in people's social media posts on the day and have delivered several spot prizes.

In Wellington, our stands, on the waterfront in the morning and then in Midland Park at lunchtime, attracted lots of people who stopped to chat about walking. They filled several large sheets of paper with comments about the joys of walking to work and other everyday activities. Plus they had suggestions to make walking better, which we will share with Wellington City Council, who supported the local event.

In Whangārei, we co-hosted with Northland Road Safety and Whangārei District Council greeting about 50 morning walkers in Pūtahi Park with food and refreshments. Consistent messages to Council were to please continue to improve footpaths and push back more on people parking cars and e-scooters on footpaths.

Living Streets member Kair hosted a footpath stand in Westport on a rainy morning, and in Hokitika some Westland District Council staff took a walk on a sunny beach. Go the West Coast.

Thanks to everyone who supported the event, in particular, the Mental Health Foundation of New Zealand. Our theme was 'Move Your Mood' and, from what we heard on the day, walking is the perfect tonic for that!



Photos from top left clockwise: Walkers in Wellington sharing comments and ideas; Wellington volunteers Carol, Chris and Ellen; Staff from GHD Ltd on a lunchtime walk; In Whangārei. More photos here: www.livingstreets.org.nz/walk2work

Living Streets Aotearoa responds to Government transport policy changes

The new Government has introduced a sharp change in transport policy direction, reducing spending on walking, cycling and public transport, and pouring money into a revival of the previous National-led Government's Roads of National Significance projects.

In response to the draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport, Living Streets Aotearoa has called for walking to get its own dedicated funding category in the National Land Transport Fund, for walking funding to be increased rather than decreased, and for pedestrian safety to be made a priority.



Living Streets Aotearoa called on our members and supporters to submit, and we made our own detailed submission.

Read:

[Draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport.](#)

[Our call to supporters to submit on the policy statement.](#)

[Our submission on the draft Policy Statement.](#)

On Tuesday 19 March, Living Streets Aotearoa President Tim Jones spoke at the [Transport for Life](#) rally at Parliament, at which walking, cycling, climate change and health groups called on the Government to increase people's transport choices, rather than inducing more people to drive by reducing funding for walking, cycling and public transport.

Photo: Rally for Life at Parliament, including Julie Anne Genter MP; Caroline Shaw, public health researcher Otago University; Celia Wade-Brown MP, and Tim Jones, President Living Streets Aotearoa. Photo: Ellen Blake.

Fast Track - but is it the right track? It's time to make a submission



Submissions are open until 19 April on the Government's [Fast-track Approvals Bill](#).

This legislation will severely limit the ability for the public, and community organisations, to comment on or be represented at the consenting process for projects favoured by Ministers, some of which are set to be listed in the final version of the Bill.

The Bill has gone to the Environment Select Committee without these projects being listed, and it is unclear whether there will be any opportunity for the Committee or the public to see and submit on these projects. It is likely that Roads of National Significance projects will be among those listed in the Bill.

The provisions of this Bill have caused great alarm among environmental groups, and organisations that support the ability of New Zealanders to have input into matters that affect them. Living Streets Aotearoa believes that members of the public should have the right to be involved in these decisions and we will be submitting on the Bill along these lines.

We encourage you to make a submission ([closes 19 April](#)) and ask to be heard at the Select Committee. These resources can help with your submission. Look out for more submission guides as they appear:

- [Environmental Defence Society webinar slides and their draft submission.](#)
- [Environmental Defence Society template submission \(Word document\)](#)
- [Forest and Bird detailed submission guidance \(PDF format\)](#)
- [Forest and Bird brief template submission \(doesn't include option to appear before the Select Committee\)](#)

A strong advocate for disabled people using footpaths



Paul Gruschow is a long-time advocate for better accessibility for pedestrians, both people walking and for users of mobility scooters. Having multiple sclerosis means he now uses a mobility scooter for his everyday travel around the Hutt Valley and Wellington.

Paul is a Living Streets Aotearoa member and regularly attends events such as the recent Walk2Work Day and Park(ing) Day in Wellington.

He says his presence reminds people that footpaths are not just for pure pedestrians but also for users like himself who don't walk.

He is very active in advocating for safer footpaths with his local Hutt City Council and is on the River Link Project Design Committee in the Hutt Valley, where the river's stopbanks are due to be raised, affecting pedestrian accessibility. Ellen Blake from Living Streets Aotearoa is also on this committee.

"I'm there to give pedestrians a voice and to remind others that pedestrians include people like me. I also think I'm a dampener for the cycling lobby who usually have a strong presence. The steeper paths that are suggested will be fine for cyclists but not for pedestrian users like myself."

He says shared paths generally aren't good for pedestrians, particularly with the rise of e-scooter use. He should know as most days he uses the new 'Beltway' which is a shared path stretching 7km through the Hutt Valley. He does like the fact that it has reduced the number of road crossings to seven, down from 20 previously, which makes it safer for pedestrians.

In addition to his work focussing on footpaths, he runs two groups at Laura Fergusson Trust, for people in their disability residential care facilities, to help improve wellbeing with activities like quizzes, talking in groups and *music*.

Paul is also involved with Te Whatu Ora on the Consumer Advisory Group for the Wellington region's three hospitals, and on the Serious Adverse Events Committee for the hospitals. His particular area of interest is people having falls.

His message for anyone who wants to make a difference is to look for something which uses your interests and your skills, then give it a go.

Photo: Paul Gruschow at Park(ing) Day 2024 in Wellington.

Nominations open for 2024 Golden Foot Walking Awards



Do you know a person, organisation or business who has made a difference to walking in their local area? We want to hear from you about them!

Our biennial Golden Foot Walking Awards celebrate innovative walking projects, facilities and initiatives, and the people who created them. They highlight best practice and reward ongoing commitment to walking for all ages and abilities. Past winners have included school projects, walking advocate champions, walking events and public spaces that support safe walking. Plus many more!

These awards are really important as they recognise people who are making walking better. Please take the time to consider who you could nominate.

[Details on how to nominate are on our website.](#) Nominations close on Monday 17 June 2024.

Photo: Golden Foot awarded to Age Concern Wellington in 2022 for their companion walking service programme. The award is made from recycled timber.

Walking New Zealand magazine publisher receives award



Congratulations to Frank Goldingham who recently received an Outdoor Access Champion Award at an award ceremony in Palmerston North. The award recognises his work as the owner, publisher, and editor of *Walking New Zealand* magazine, which he started in 1996.

Frank also played a leading role in establishing and running the Manawatū Walking Festival between 2015 and 2020, allowing many people to enjoy guided walks around the Manawatū.

We are delighted that Frank has received this award - it is so well deserved. Frank was nominated by Living Streets Aotearoa President Tim Jones, who attended and MCd the award ceremony. Tim says Goldingham's commitment to promoting walking has been long-lasting and formidable.

Read more:

- [News release from Herenga ā Nuku, Outdoor Access Commission](#)
- [Article in Manawatu Guardian, 3 April 2024](#)

Photo: At the award ceremony in Palmerston North, Frank Goldingham (centre), with his wife Beverley Goldingham, and Chief Executive of Herenga ā Nuku, Ric Cullinane. Photo credit: Herenga ā Nuku.

Have you got your new Walk2Work tee-shirt?



You can order a Walk2Work tee-shirt online from [Print Mighty](#).

The tee-shirt features the new Walk2Work design created for us by Anne Johnston.

Perfect for everyday walking!

Ways to connect with Living Streets Aotearoa



ABOUT LIVING STREETS AOTEAROA

Living Streets Aotearoa is the national organisation promoting walking-friendly communities. You can find out more about us at www.livingstreets.org.nz.

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