



Living Streets Aotearoa

Welcome to the August 2023 eBulletin from Living Streets Aotearoa

*This is a summary of events and stories of us striving to **get 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, exploration, for leisure or for pleasure.*

Two exciting paid positions available working for walking!

Living Streets Aotearoa is expanding. We are excited to offer two opportunities for paid part-time positions to support and extend the advocacy that Living Streets Aotearoa does. Are you interested in working for us or know someone who is? Please share this information.

It's been a long time since we have had paid staff and we expect with the creation of these two roles to be able to offer members a better deal and expand our advocacy work to put walking more in the spotlight and on the map.

The two roles are

Admin whizz

This role will manage the day to day support for our members and get our web systems working well.

[Download the Administration role description.](#)

Communications specialist

This role will develop and help us champion our cause through best practice communications.

[Download the Comms and Campaign Assistant role description.](#)

See the linked Job Descriptions for full information. Applications close on 10 September. Please send applications to jobs@livingstreets.org.nz

2023 Walking Summit: Selected videos and presentations now available

We've now posted a number of Walking Summit presentations, including video presentations, on our website, with more still to come. They're well worth a look - to whet your appetite, first take a look at the highlights video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCTEXKnLoD8>

Keynote address, Monday 23 July

John Minto, [Community connections through walking](#) (video presentation, 28:51)

Selected individual presentations:

Monday 23 July

Alan Meharry and Nick Potter, [The National Walking Plan](#) (PDF presentation, 2.1MB)
Alan Meharry is Principal Advisor, Urban Mobility Team, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency
Nick Potter is Principal Advisor, Placemaking and Urban Development Team, Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport

Hon Dr Duncan Webb, [A Government Minister and Christchurch MP perspective](#) (video presentation, 9:23)
Hon Dr Duncan Webb is Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and Minister for State Owned Enterprises, and MP Christchurch Central since 2017

Sarah Thorne, [Navigating Boundaries: Creating an Inclusive and Safe Public Transportation Network in Christchurch](#) (video presentation, 11:19)
Sarah Thorne is Principal Advisor Public Transport Infrastructure, Christchurch City Council

Tuesday 24 July

Cr Sara Templeton, [Walking the Talk - Rebuilding a City with People at its Heart](#) (PDF presentation, 18.3MB)
Cr Sara Templeton holds the Climate Change Portfolio on Christchurch City Council

Nicki Williams, [Walking While Female](#) (video presentation, 19:01)
Nicki Williams is in the Otago Population Health Department

Jeanette Ward, [Planning and designing with a gender lens](#) (video presentation, 10:05)
Jeanette Ward is Technical Director, Abley

Dr Colin Meurk ONZM, [First Urban Great Walk of Aotearoa – a Model for Your City](#) (video presentation, 12:32)
Dr Colin Meurk developed the Christchurch360Trail, which won an LSA Golden Foot Award in 2009.

[Living Streets Aotearoa's YouTube channel](#) is a great place to find Walking Summit and other videos - please check it out, subscribe, and like the videos.



Our work promoting walking: taking opportunities, confronting threats

From the President's Report to our recent AGM, these are some other highlights of our work.

We have made significant steps in terms of Government policy on and attention to walking as a low-carbon, health-enhancing, people-friendly mode of transport, though we continue to face the twin challenges of successfully advocating policy proposals for adoption, and getting good policies properly funded and properly implemented.

When the Government released its first Emissions Reduction Plan, we were very pleased to see the development of a [National Walking Plan](#) among the actions. We have been actively participating in the development of this Plan, which is led by Waka Kotahi. The key challenge now is to ensure that the many worthwhile actions in the Plan are approved, funded & put into practice.

Footpaths are for pedestrians, but businesses, Councils and the Government can't seem to resist the lure of cluttering them with tables, signs & vehicles. We continue to advocate for the rights of pedestrians to safe, well-maintained, unobstructed footpaths. To this end, we have:

- Campaigned for an end to e-scooter use on footpaths, both by means of a judicial review that was unfortunately unsuccessful, and in July-August 2023, via a social media and print media advertising campaign urging people to submit against the renewal of the 2018 e-scooter Gazette notice, which expires in September.
- Urged Waka Kotahi and Councils to follow Waka Kotahi's own guidance to build safe, separated infrastructure for pedestrians, and for cyclists. We see far too many proposals for second-rate shared paths! We've also submitted, often successfully, against various attempts to overturn proposals for separated infrastructure and force bikes onto the footpath.
- Continued our campaign against footpath parking – a highlight of which was getting Fair Go presenters to wave around our Yellow Feet at the end of their segment on the topic!

But pedestrian safety isn't just about unobstructed footpaths. We're also campaigning strongly in favour of safer road speeds. Alongside all this, we've posted on social media, made submissions, and talked to the media. We want to expand our role as the go-to organisation for the media to contact on issues that affect pedestrians, and increasing our comms capacity is one way to do this.

In the coming year, we want to encourage and support the establishment of more branches. Wellington Branch remains active, a Christchurch Branch is being established as a result of the Walking Summit, and we've recently heard of interest in setting up a Hawkes Bay branch. Walk Auckland is also working to promote walking and better pedestrian infrastructure in our biggest city. Please get in touch if you'd like to know more.

The theme of this year's Walking Summit was "Walking into the Future". As the lowest-carbon, most fundamental form of transport, walking's future is bright – but all the same, walking, and the rights of pedestrians, are all too often overlooked. We want to amplify walking's voice to the point it can no longer be ignored.

ABOUT LIVING STREETS AOTEAROA

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

We send these occasional e-bulletins to keep you informed because we understand you have an interest in walking. You can also opt out of this and ALL future emails from us: [Please don't mail me again](#)

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