



## Living Streets Aotearoa

### *Welcome to the July 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.*

This issue concentrates on the successful and uplifting 2023 Walking Summit which was held last week (24-25/7/2023) in Ōtautahi-Christchurch.

*But first...*

### **E-scooters - should they be allowed to be used on footpaths?**

In case you haven't heard, NZTA (Waka Kotahi) is currently wanting to hear from you about whether or not it should renew its E-scooters (Declaration not to be Motor Vehicles) Notice 2018 which expires on 30th September 2023. This is the Declaration that had the consequence of allowing e-scooters to be ridden on footpaths.

There is a very short survey that NZTA wants you to complete by **5pm, 7th August 2023**. The survey is available at [https://nzta.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9XjNKbpFLk1cJcW](https://nzta.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9XjNKbpFLk1cJcW) . You have the choice of keeping your details confidential.

Living Streets Aotearoa has suggested to NZTA many ways it could address the danger and discomfort caused to pedestrians as a result of its 2018 Declaration. These include declaring e-scooters to be cycles, declaring e-scooters to be in their own class of vehicle with associated rules, or extending the current Declaration for a 1-year period giving time to collaboratively sort out the problems created by, the much too common, irresponsible and inconsiderate e-scooter users. We encourage you to oppose renewal of the current Declaration in its existing form and to suggest alternatives.

And if you truly have only 60 seconds to spare, there is a petition organised by the Disabled Persons Assembly that you can sign and share at <https://our.actionstation.org.nz/petitions/give-us-back-our-footpaths>

*And now ....*

## **The 2023 Walking Summit**

This year, the Living Streets Aotearoa biennial Walking Summit was held at Tūranga, the new Christchurch Library in the very centre of the city. What a location and what a Summit! We heard from an array of speakers (see the full programme, available from <https://www.livingstreets.org.nz/node/4978>) covering many aspects relevant to being a pedestrian.

In future eBulletins we will provide links to videos taken of some sessions but in this one we will summarise a couple of presentations to whet your appetite to learn more.

The second session on Tuesday morning, titled “The Walking Future for Ōtautahi / Christchurch”, included presentations about the walk that circumambulates the city, the 2-week Christchurch Walking Festival, and a project in progress in South Brighton aimed at making local streets not just safe but vibrant and healthy spaces that encourage walking, cycling and community interaction. The first two of these projects have previously each won a Living Streets Aotearoa Golden Foot Walking Award.

Dr Colin Meurk highlighted the **Christchurch360Trail** that he has been instrumental in developing. It is a 140km walkway around Christchurch that links more than 20 distinct habitats and multiple landforms, from beaches and dunes, across hills and plains, besides estuaries, wetlands and rivers, into pine forest and native bush, across grassland and through urban gardens. The trail provides local connections to nature but also includes history and art. People have described the joy and exhilaration they have felt when walking the trail.

The Christchurch360Trail is part of a global move towards slow tourism whereby people venture beyond CBDs and commercialised attractions and get to experience locations more deeply. Long and short walks are a common feature of this. Every town and city and rural area has a unique combination of nature and history and art that could be linked in a similar way and the Christchurch360Trail may be an excellent model to consider.. For more information, see <http://christchurch360trail.org.nz/>

Jacqui Miller and Helen Miles shared lessons from the **Christchurch Walking Festival**. It started as a small collection of walks, in 2012, aimed at helping restore and maintain good mental health and build community connections in the wake of the 2011 Christchurch earthquake. Today, it is a 2-week long, 60-walk event. It involves many community groups which host guided walks while other walks are self-guided. Walks occur at different times (dawn to dusk and beyond) and in diverse landscapes. There is something for people of all abilities and ages. It even includes night walks in the hills, aimed particularly at engaging young people who might otherwise not be inspired by recreational walking.

For more information, see <https://ccc.govt.nz/news-and-events/running-an-event/community-programmes/walking-festival> and <https://www.facebook.com/chchwalkingfestival>.

Living Streets Aotearoa thanks the **sponsors** of the 2023 Walking Summit – Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, Abley, ViaStrada and Healthy Families Ōtautahi Christchurch – as well as Christchurch City Libraries, Meg and the team from Te Whatu Ora-Health NZ’s Community and Public Health team, and all the other people who helped make the Summit such a success.



## 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](http://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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