



Living Streets Aotearoa

June 2023 eBulletin

**Register Now For Our 2023 Walking Summit**

An illustration on a green background showing two people walking away from the viewer on a path marked with a white dashed line. The person on the left is wearing an orange shirt and teal pants, using a cane. The person on the right is wearing a teal shirt and patterned pants, carrying a black bag. The text 'Engage with experts and leaders at the 2023 Walking Summit.' is written in white above the large white text 'WALK TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE.' at the bottom of the illustration.

Engage with experts and leaders  
at the 2023 Walking Summit.

**WALK TOWARDS  
A BETTER FUTURE.**

There's less than a month to go to our 2023 Walking Summit! It's in Ōtautahi/Christchurch on Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 July. Attendance is only \$90 for two days for Living Streets Aotearoa members, and if you can't attend in person, you can join online.

[Register now](#) for the 2023 Aotearoa New Zealand Walking Summit!

**Check out the Walking Summit's great speakers, panels and workshops in our provisional programme – now available to download:**

- [Walking Summit 2023 - provisional programme \(PDF\)](#)
- [Walking Summit 2023 - provisional programme \(MS Word\)](#)

*Please note: programme and presentation details may still change. The full programme, with full speaker and chair details and presentation descriptions, will be published in July 2023.*

Please contact [WalkingSummit@livingstreets.org.nz](mailto:WalkingSummit@livingstreets.org.nz) if you have any difficulty accessing or reading the draft programme.

### **All about the Walking Summit**

This year's Walking Summit brings together people from across Aotearoa to discuss how we can make the places we live more walkable, liveable, and sustainable.

As well as exploring ways to reduce emissions, increase resilience in the face of climate change and create more inclusive streets, the Summit will celebrate those who are removing barriers to walking in their communities.

There will be an impressive programme of speakers, workshops, and discussions. A series of experts, leaders, and change-makers will share their insights on how to create walking-friendly spaces, including:

- A presentation on the new Waka Kotahi National Walking Plan, designed to bring about a step change in walking;
- Councillor Sara Templeton will speak about "Walking the Talk - Rebuilding a City with People at its Heart";
- Professor Simon Kingham, Dr Shanthi Ameratunga and others will share research on creating inclusive streets;
- Waka Kotahi and local government representatives will provide their insights on what's coming up in the policy space.

There are three exciting workshops to choose from, and we'll get inspired by the amazing mahi undertaken by Living Streets Aotearoa Golden Foot winners Colin

Meurk and Walking Festival director Jacqui Miller, plus all the other great work that's being done!

We'd love you to join us in Christchurch for what will be the walking event of the year. But if you can't join in person, there is a virtual attendance option.

[Register now!](#)

Please contact [WalkingSummit@livingstreets.org.nz](mailto:WalkingSummit@livingstreets.org.nz) if you have any questions.

## Yellow Feet in high demand



Since TVNZ's Fair Go programme [covered the issue](#) of dangerous and illegal footpath parking in its 29 May 2023 edition, our Yellow Feet have been in high demand! But we still have some in stock, so if you haven't already, please order now by emailing [Accounts@livingstreets.org.nz](mailto:Accounts@livingstreets.org.nz) with your name and postal address. We normally send you a batch of 20.

Let's get vehicles out of pedestrian spaces, and encourage Government and Councils to take this threat to pedestrians seriously, by:

- accepting photo evidence submitted by pedestrians (which is already permissible under the law)
- imposing meaningful penalties
- actually enforcing the law

We are actively lobbying Government and Councils on this issue, and your support is vital. Make sure your local Council and your local MP know that you want them to take action instead of ignoring the problem.

Please contact [Parking@livingstreets.org.nz](mailto:Parking@livingstreets.org.nz) if you want to be more actively involved.

## **Shared paths: the whack-a-mole of transport planning**

Especially in urban areas, shared paths - paths which are designated as infrastructure to be used by both pedestrians and cyclists - are a bad idea. They're bad for pedestrians, who are forced to share the space with fast-moving bikes and risk injury from collisions, and they're bad for cyclists too, who can't safely go at the speed they'd like. Living Streets Aotearoa supports safe, separated infrastructure for pedestrians, and safe, separated infrastructure for cyclists.

### **National guidance is inadequate**

[Waka Kotahi's own guidance](#) says that shared paths are warranted only in very specific circumstances, and that "In all cases, options to provide a fully separated path should be considered first". But because it is only guidance, and because Waka Kotahi (NZTA) has been willing to fund shared path projects that do not follow the guidance, Councils often turn to shared paths as an option of lower cost and least resistance - they'd rather upset pedestrians and cyclists than private car users.

At the national level, Living Streets Aotearoa is pushing for a standards-based approach to pedestrian infrastructure development, and for a change in funding decision-making so that shared paths that don't follow the guidance don't get funded by central government. At local level, we've had some success recently in pushing back against opposition to separated infrastructure.

### **Local successes and ongoing struggles**

- In Auckland, Walk Auckland and Bike Auckland, among other groups, worked together to support safe, separated pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure being built as part of the Great North Road project: a decision

that has [just been upheld by the Auckland Transport Board](#), despite political pressure from Mayor Wayne Brown to put cyclists on the footpath.

- In Christchurch, Living Streets Aotearoa was among the groups that successfully lobbied Council to [continue the Park Terrace cycleway trial](#), which removed bikes from the footpath, rather than create a shared path.
- In Palmerston North two Transport Choices projects opted this week for one-way cycleways on each side of the streets in question after earlier considering shared paths. NZTA should not have been willing to fund shared paths in either case.

But these shared path proposals keep popping up. In Wellington, Let's Get Wellington Moving unexpectedly introduced sections of shared path to its pedestrianisation plan for the Golden Mile - making the plan worse for both pedestrians & cyclists. The plan, which also has a number of positive features, has just been approved by Wellington City & Regional Councils. We're keen to see pedestrian improvements go ahead, but they must actually work for pedestrians and public transport users.

Living Streets Aotearoa says no to shared paths in urban areas. We say yes to safe, separated, well-lit, unobstructed, complete footpath networks for pedestrians - and to cyclists also getting the safe, separated infrastructure they deserve. And we say yes to safer speeds for everyone.

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## 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](#)

**Living  
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