



## **Welcome to the March 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.*

In this issue:

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- Get your new Walk2Work tee-shirt now
- Golden Foot Walking Awards 2024 – start thinking about nominations
- How are we doing as an organisation? Send us your feedback
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## **Win prizes with Walk2Work Day next week! – Wed 13 March 2024**



Have you planned your route for Walk2Work Day? Our theme is Move Your Mood with a walk in the fresh air. It's good for you and good for the environment.

Ideas for taking part include a combo walk and public

transport ride, walk at lunchtime, walk during a meeting, and many more.

You could win prizes by sharing a photo of your walk. Post it using #Walk2Work and tell us where you are, or send it to us at: [walk2workday@livingstreets.org.nz](mailto:walk2workday@livingstreets.org.nz).

Check out our webpage for suggestions and events – [www.walk2work.org.nz](http://www.walk2work.org.nz). Wellington Living Streets coordinator Ellen Blake says last year's event was very popular with walkers in

the city. “We had stands on the waterfront and in Midland Park with people stopping for food and a chat about walking.”

Walk2Work Day 2024 is supported by the Mental Health Foundation of New Zealand. The Foundation’s [Five Ways to Wellbeing](#) are actions to take in our daily lives for wellbeing.

Let’s get walking!

### Get your new Walk2Work tee-shirt now



We have tee-shirts available now with the fabulous new Walk2Work design. Perfect for everyday walking.

You can order them online from [Print Mighty](#).

They are available in black or white, in women’s or men’s styling.

Prices range from \$29 to \$31.50.

### Golden Foot Walking Awards 2024 – start thinking about nominations



We will be calling for nominations soon for our Golden Foot Walking Awards.

These biennial 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.

The awards are for private companies and public organisations, not-for-profit groups, community organisations and individuals. Past winners have included school projects, walking advocate champions, walking events and public spaces that support safe walking. Plus many more!

We will let you know more when nominations open in June. In the meantime, please consider who you would like to nominate.

*Photo: A 2018 Golden Foot Walking Award winner. This walking bus was a fabulous effort from Fernridge School, showing semi-rural schools can get active too.*

**How are we doing as an organisation? Send us your feedback**

“

HOW ARE WE DOING?  
WE REALLY WANT TO  
KNOW!

”

On 16-17 March, the Living Streets Aotearoa Executive Council is having a face-to-face meeting in Wellington. We get together once a year in person, in addition to our regular Zoom meetings.

Our topics for discussion include the priorities in our strategic plan, what's been achieved and what's still to be done, and how we support our members to be advocates for walking and sustainable

transport.

President Tim Jones says: “We are very keen to hear from our members. How do you think we are doing as an organisation? What could we do better? Are we missing any opportunities?”

Please send your thoughts and ideas to Tim Jones: [president@livingstreets.org.nz](mailto:president@livingstreets.org.nz)

## **Draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport is a backward step for everyone who walks**



The Government has released its [Draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport](#) (PDF, 2.3MB), known as the draft GPS, and it's a big disappointment for pedestrians, [as this Newsroom article](#) makes clear:

“Funding for walking and cycle paths is set to nearly half from next year, while a change to the funding source for roadside footpaths could stretch that bank account even thinner.

“In his newly-released draft government policy statement, Minister of Transport Simeon Brown simultaneously decreases funding for walking and cycling while restricting all footpath construction to this newly-limited part of the budget.”

As President, I'm deeply concerned that this is a further attack by the Government on pedestrians, and is likely to lead to more people making short journeys by car rather than on foot - worsening the environment for drivers and everyone else.

In Living Streets Aotearoa's [media release commenting on the draft GPS](#), we say:

“A GPS that was truly focused on economic efficiency and safety would include much more investment in walking. We're concerned that the Government is putting the lives of

pedestrians - especially children and elderly and disabled people - at greater risk to promote its car-focused transport agenda.

“For the sake of our communities, for the sake of our health, and for the sake of our climate, New Zealand needs pedestrian-friendly transport policies.”

[Submissions on the draft GPS](#) are now open. They close on 2 April 2024.

We encourage everyone to submit strongly in support of funding walking well and including walking as a central feature of all transport projects, not relegating it to the margins of a backward-looking, car-dominated transport policy.

## What are other walking organisations doing internationally?

***America Walks: Communities Over Highways Campaign.*** America Walks is calling on elected leaders to invest transportation funds in projects that put communities and people first, rather than highway expansions. [Read about the campaign.](#)

***“Walking and transport in Melbourne (2023)”***. This research by Victoria Walks (Australia) shows walking increased to nearly 23% of trips in 2020/21, surpassing vehicle passenger as the second most common way of getting around (after vehicle driver). That’s good news! [Read a summary of the research.](#)

**UK Walking Summit 2024.** The eighth UK Walking Summit is happening this week – 7 March 2024. It is organised by Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking. The Summit will ask how to demonstrate the value of streets designed for people. [Check out the interesting line-up of presenters.](#) Our next New Zealand Walking Summit will be held in 2025.

**‘Everybody Walks’ - Walk 21 Portugal conference.** This is the main annual international event. The call for abstracts closes 15 March for the conference in October. [Details are on the website.](#)

## Ways to connect with Living Streets Aotearoa

 [Facebook](#)

 [X \(Twitter\)](#)

 [Instagram](#)

 [LinkedIn](#)

 [YouTube](#)

## 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](http://www.livingstreets.org.nz).

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