



Living Streets Aotearoa

Welcome to the November 2023 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:

- How to signpost your local short-cut paths
- Tell us about your favourite walk
- Order some handy Yellow Feet leaflets, and more
- What is placemaking and why is it important?
- Walking is 'zero emissions transport'
- Holiday greetings from LSA President Tim Jones

How to signpost your local short-cut paths

Finding short-cut paths locally and ensuring they are sign-posted has become a successful project for Wellingtonian Frances Sutton.



From walking a lot in Karori, Frances discovered many short-cuts between streets. Often these were unmarked, so she decided to ask the Council for signage. As a result, in the space of one year, 15 short-cuts had new signage installed, showing their location for people walking.

Recently, Frances moved to Kilbirnie, and she's taken up the same task there, including four adjoining suburbs in her efforts.

Frances says she gets a great deal of pleasure from encouraging people to use the walking short-cuts. "A short-cut can reveal unexpected delights like bush, views over the harbour, interesting architecture and beautiful gardens. Signage on these paths encourages people to walk rather than use a car and they give you a quick way to your destination."

Here is her advice for getting your neighbourhood short-cuts signposted:

- Use a map which shows the streets clearly. (Frances uses the [Healthpoint](#) website. Enter the location of a nearby health provider and a map will load.)
- Take a snip/screenshot of the selected map.
- Annotate it using the MS Paint programme or similar, marking the short-cut's location.
- Take a photo at each end of the shortcut. Annotate to show the entry points.
- Write a note, then submit it with the images to your local council.

Different councils have different ways to submit suggestions, for example, Wellington City Council uses a Fixit form on its website, Porirua has the Antenno app.

Frances says – “If you only know a neighbourhood from what's easily accessible from the roads, you're missing out. Try walking it instead!”

The photo above shows how Frances annotated it to suggest the Council provide a short-cut sign to Weka Street in Miramar, Wellington.



Tell us about your favourite walk!



Do you have a favourite local walk? Maybe it's through a park, up a hill, by the water, or through your busy neighbourhood. We would love to hear about it!

During the summer holidays we will be featuring people's favourite walks on our Living Streets Aotearoa Facebook page.

Just tell us in a few words about your favourite place to walk (anywhere in New Zealand) and why you like it. Please include a photo. We will share it on Facebook.

Send your walks to us here – comms@livingstreets.org.nz Thanks!

Cars parked on your local footpath? Overhanging vegetation blocking your way? We have leaflets for that!



As pedestrians, we have to deal with far too many footpath obstructions. Drivers who think they have the right to park on the footpath are a major one. (Spoiler: They don't.)

If you're tired of thoughtless people blocking the footpath with their cars in your neighbourhood, our Yellow Feet leaflets can be placed under their windscreen wipers. These are free for LSA members. And we're willing to send a small number to non-members, though it would be great if you joined. We may need to charge for organisational orders.

We also have green leaflets available to pop in the letterboxes of houses where vegetation overhangs the footpath, asking them to fix this.

To request leaflets: please email accounts@livingstreets.org.nz with your name and postal address, and Sally Pearce, our admin person, will send them to you.

What is placemaking and why is it important?



The role of councils in placemaking was the focus of a presentation by Charlotte McKay, senior policy and advocacy advisor with Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) at this year's Walking Summit.

What is placemaking? Charlotte described it as people making the places they live in better for themselves and for those places. "It's about making our communities more resilient and more connected so people can access essential services and connect with others."

She said councils tell LGNZ that placemaking is a fundamental part of their role, the other key part being community wellbeing. Her presentation focused on how councils and communities can work together in placemaking to make our towns and cities more walkable and more resilient for the future.

"The effects of climate change mean we need to think about placemaking differently. A crucial part is making sure people can walk, cycle or use public transport rather than depending on private cars."

Charlotte talked, with examples, about the location of community facilities like libraries or gathering spaces and councils' role in locating these to allow for a changing climate. Councils can create cooler urban areas or mitigate the 'heat island' effect by bringing water back into cities. This can be done by daylighting streams or developing more green spaces. ['Daylighting streams' is removing obstructions to buried streams to restore their flow above the surface.]

She said councils are telling LGNZ they want to have a greater role in placemaking. One of the challenges is getting behaviour change and having advocates for placemaking.

To hear more of the examples Charlotte used, watch this 10-minute video - [Local Government's role in placemaking in a changing climate](#).

Walking is 'zero emissions transport'



In an interesting presentation at this year's Walking Summit, we heard about the work of the Climate Change Commission around walking.

Danny Eyre who, at the time, was principal analyst in the Commission's transport and urban systems team talked about their approach to walking. He explained how walking fits into the Commission's emissions budget and its policy advice work for Government. The Commission provides independent, evidenced-based advice to Government on climate issues. It's not a funder, regulator or decision maker.

Danny described walking as 'zero emissions transport'. He said that reducing transport emissions is not just about transport. "It depends on changes to how we design our urban areas, to open our streets to make it easier for people to access the things they need without driving everywhere."

In 2021, a Commission report to the Government recommended working with local authorities to set targets and implement plans to substantially increase walking to displace vehicle use. And it recommended substantially increasing the share of central government funding dedicated to active (walking and cycling) and public transport infrastructure. Danny said the Government agreed and committed to deliver a national plan to increase the safety and attractiveness of walking. This plan is currently under development.

He said: "The Commission wants to see an Aotearoa New Zealand where people walk more – literally millions more kilometres each year – and where our towns and cities are designed in a way that enables people to walk and access low emissions options more easily."

You can watch the 16-min video of Danny's presentation - [Walking and a thriving, climate-resilient and low emissions Aotearoa](#).

Holiday greetings to all our readers



As this is our final eBulletin of the year - the next issue will be in February 2024 - it's the right time to wish all our readers happy and healthy holidays, filled with good cheer and good walks!

Living Streets Aotearoa's work hasn't finished for the year. In particular, once the new Minister of Transport is in place we'll be letting them know what our key priorities are to make walking a better, safer and easier choice for everyone.

In 2023, we took a number of steps to improve our public profile and our services to members. In 2024, we're looking forward to seeing those efforts bear fruit.

Happy holidays! Tim Jones, President, Living Streets Aotearoa

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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.

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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