

President's report 2021/22

Thank you to the Executive team who have contributed so much to Living Streets Aotearoa this year.

The highlight of the 2021/22 year was the Walking Summit held in Wellington in June 2021. Huge thanks to Ellen for pivoting to a virtual summit at the very last moment. Andy was the technical whizz behind this event and we all enjoyed an evening out with participants, just a few short weeks before Andy's untimely passing.

Prior to the summit members of the Executive met with the Minister of Transport and various spokespeople in Wellington. This engagement with decision makers has been repeated this year. Meeting policymakers and leaders of NGOs face-to-face does help to emphasize our passion for walking and improving the environment for pedestrians and people using mobility aids on our streets.

Following the launch of the "not quite complete" Pedestrian Network Guidelines at the 2021 WalkanCycle Conference, Living Streets has provided Waka Kotahi with in-depth feedback on areas needing improvement – significant contributions made by Ellen, Carina and others. We are continuing to engage with Waka Kotahi on the PNG which is still a work in progress. We continue to highlight the need for robust walking infrastructure guidelines which should have standards status or at least be required for projects funded by Waka Kotahi.

Living Streets has made a number of submissions throughout the year, with Wellington branch being particularly active, a major focus being Let's Get Wellington moving, a mass transit proposal for the capital.

A number of submissions of national significance have been made since the end of March 2022, including relating to the Governments' emissions reduction plan and Auckland's parking strategy. Tim has made a considerable contribution in building alliances with other groups and networks working on climate change issues.

In Auckland we continued Andy's involvement in community consultation on the New North Road corridor upgrade. Auckland Transport has acknowledged Andy's personal contribution as well as Living Streets Aotearoa's ongoing participation in this project.

The court proceedings related to e-scooters was formally initiated during the year and is working its way through the justice system. Chris has put in many hours on this matter. We have also engaged in constructive discussions with Auckland Council, Auckland Transport and the three companies currently operating in Auckland. We have highlighted the importance of designated parking to keep the footpath clear of obstacles, lower speeds for pedestrian safety, consideration of passing distances and more effective monitoring.

According to our sources the Accessible Streets package is with the Minister, awaiting Cabinet's consideration. We are pleased that the safe speeds regulations are now in force. This will have a real impact around schools over the coming years. We have supported Auckland Transport's proactive approach to implementing these regulations across Auckland.

Due to the continued impact of COVID-19, low key Walk to Work events were held in March this year. We look forward to being more active in the community with coming of Spring.

It has been a privilege to be President this year but I will be stepping down so others can step up.

Gay Richards, President, Living Streets Aotearoa