

Living Streets Aotearoa



President's Report for April 2018 to March 2019

I thank the members of the executive committee for all the work they have done during this year. Our public profile is very big for a volunteer organization run by 7 people and a few others. There are a few people retiring from the exec this year and I would like to again thank them, especially Ellen Blake who has done sterling work on our policies, the Wellington meeting series, and created the Walking Summit bi-annual conference.

We have kept our email list up to date and now send out our eBulletins to more than 6,000 people. Our website has regular blogs and news alongside the Facebook page feed. We also have the Facebook group and a Twitter account that is very active.

Celia and Andy attended Walk21 in Bogota, Colombia in September 2018 to collect ideas and represent us at the International Pedestrian Federation meeting. Andy is now the treasurer of this Switzerland-based organisation.

The new government has adopted some of our policy suggestions and we see they want NZ to head Toward Zero road deaths and serious injuries. Wellington's **Great Harbour Way** /Te Aranui o Pōneke is about to go to formal consenting and Auckland's **SkyPath** has been given the go-ahead as a fully funded, free-to-use crossing.

We have had considerable media coverage including Andy appearing on TV promoting our **Yellow Feet** and **Overhanging Vegetation** flyers.

The **Golden Foot** awards (June 2018) were a great success held in Parliament, hosted by Julie Anne Genter, the Associate Minister of Transport. A real diversity of finalists and [winners can be seen here](#).

We have also seen over this time the increasing use of E-scooters on the footpath. These machines have been dubiously been made legal to use by a very loose interpretation of the rule that lets children's bikes, with small wheels, use the footpath. We find this strange and unacceptable. We want motorised wheeled vehicles, other than wheelchairs, off footpaths and in another space like cycle lanes or low-speed roads.

Footpaths for Feet is a campaign that has been developed with our friends in a coalition of other footpath-using groups including older people and people living with disabilities.

Turning The Tide, developed at the 2019 Active Living Symposium, has ongoing Living Streets contribution, raising our profile within academia. See [their website here](#).

We are again part owners of the **2WALKandCYCLE** conference series with Cycle Action Network and with the help of the volunteer committee will put this on in Dunedin in August 2020.

More recently and outside this reporting year we have created the 2nd Walking Summit in Auckland which was well attended. We have updated our logo with colour to put in t-shirts and bags that are for sale. We have [launched 24 recommendations for Hikoī ki a Mātauranga /Walking to School](#).

Andy Smith President of Living Streets Aotearoa
21 August 2019