

Living Streets Aotearoa



Presidents report Living Streets Aotearoa 2016-2017

It's been another busy year for Living Streets Aotearoa (LSA). The organisation is run by volunteers and not supported by any government money. Despite this, we have been effective in getting our collective concerns across to decisions makers and planners.

I thank the executive committee and all our volunteers for their work and professionalism in helping to advance the cause of walking and making our towns and cities accessible to all.

Here is a list of highlights that LSA volunteers have been involved with:

- Successfully organised the first NZ Walking Summit on 28 July 2017 in Wellington
- Collaborating with the Blind Foundation, Blind Citizens NZ, CCS Disability Action, Alzheimers NZ, Grey Power and others to protect footpaths from use by vehicles (either parking on them or moving along them) by meeting with, and writing to, the Minister of Transport Hon Simon Bridges and other decision makers (this is an on-going effort) and being part of the Road Controlling Authority 'shared footpath' working group
- Encouraged courier companies to ensure their employees don't park on footpaths (as part of Brake's Road Safety Week 2016)
- Organised and promoted Walk to Work day around the country
- Organised Walk for Wellbeing events in Christchurch
- Pursued the campaign to change the law so that turning vehicles give way to favour pedestrians, with meetings around the country
- Support for lower speeds around schools and communities
- Created our policies on footpaths, shared zones and shared paths
- Developing our communication channels on social media with Facebook and Twitter which now has over 650 followers – thanks to the Community Comms Collective for help with this
- Published the eBulletin, acclaimed as a great information source
- Worked with NZTA on Safe Systems and the One Network Road Classification system
- Participated in Trafanz executive meetings (LSA is a representative on the executive) and organised the Trafanz Pedestrian Safety workshop on 21 June
- auditing footpaths and helping create commuter walking maps
- actively working with the International Federation of Pedestrians
- submissions including on the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport, Setting of Speed Limits, and the VDAM rules
- our volunteers Andy Smith and Ellen Blake attended Walk21 conference in Hong Kong Sept 2016 and Andy the Australian Walking and Cycling Conference in Adelaide July 2017.

In the coming year, we will pay particular attention to:

- Golden Foot Awards 2018
- Getting vehicle speeds below 30kph in residential areas
- Helping define what and who should use footpaths, as we see an increase in vehicles of various descriptions competing for pedestrian space
- Promoting the adoption by central government and local councils of a code of practice for shared zones
- Building local groups and membership, including re-establishing the Dunedin branch and supporting them to turn more roads into living streets.
- Advocate for a fair share of central government transport funding for pedestrian services with whoever wins the election
- Improve our use of social media to get the walking message out

We join Living Streets Aotearoa to influence government and civic policy toward a pedestrian friendly focus. We do this by meeting each other, swapping ideas and educating others through words and deeds.

Thank you again for your support Andy Smith - President 2017.