

Mike Mellor
Honorary life membership of Living Streets Aotearoa
4 November 2015

Today we confer on Mike Mellor honorary membership of Living Streets Aotearoa – New Zealand’s primary advocacy organisation for people on foot – for his continuous support to make walking better over many years.

Mike was one of the first members of Living Streets Aotearoa and served on the executive committee for more than 10 years.

Mike also has an extensive knowledge of public transport that has always been very valuable to complement its natural cousin, walking.

He supported and was instrumental in getting the Great Harbour Way on the city agenda – a walkway and cycleway around the entire coast of Wellington harbour started in 2008.

In 2009 he almost single-handedly fought a long battle to improve resource consent conditions for the \$49.5 million Wellington Indoor Sports Centre on Cobham Drive. It was only built when the consent conditions he fought for were granted – these required considerable improvements to the pedestrian and public transport links to the Centre.

Mike appeared on television talking about the ‘road of national significance’ at Transmission Gully, as the environmental representative for Greater Wellington’s Transport Committee. Living Streets had raised concerns about the lack of pedestrian amenity being created by these new and expensive road environments.

Mike was a Wellington city council candidate in the 2008 local body elections. This included fielding a team to be part of a walk and public transport race around Wellington. Created by local games designer Donna Scott, it tested the ability of the assembled teams to find their way around the city by solving a set of ten cryptic clues, the best teamwork award went to Mike Mellor. Mike won the Wellington Lions rugby signed-jersey, which he then promptly donated to Mary Potter Hospice for fundraising – typical of his generosity.

Mike has been a member of the Wellington Civic Trust board. He has been Executive officer of Rail Heritage Trust of NZ until very recently, as part of his 35 years working in the transport sector. Mike was also a volunteer driver for meals on wheels for many years.

Mike’s big contribution to the New Zealand and Wellington walking scene has been his great knowledge of the transport sector, and, a firm adherence to an integrated approach that serves everyone’s needs – not just cars.

He has been, and still is, a person who really walks the talk. We thank you Mike for all the hard work, and hope this honorary life membership shows how much we have appreciated your efforts.