



Welcome to the November 2024 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.

This is our final eBulletin for 2024 – our next eBulletin is due to appear in early February 2025. If we need your support and input on specific issues or consultations, we will send out action alerts for these.

In this issue:

- Introducing our two newest Executive Council members, Bill Frith and Jenni Wiggle
- Preventing pedestrian injuries on footpaths – what does the research show?
- Robot vehicles: heading for our footpaths?
- Walking festivals continue to prosper: highlighting the Wairarapa Walking Festival and Banks Peninsula Walking Festival

Introducing our two newest Executive Council members, Bill Frith and Jenni Wiggle

As we mentioned in our September eBulletin, Bill Frith was elected to our Executive Council at our 2024 AGM – and since then, as provided for in our Constitution, we have co-opted Dr Jenni Wiggle onto our Executive Council. Both Bill and Jenni bring significant experience and strength to our Executive Council team, so we want to let you know more about them!

Bill Frith



Bill works in Road Safety at WSP Research and Innovation Centre, and has academic qualifications in Mathematics, Statistics, and Transport Engineering. He is a recognised expert in transport safety and transport statistics, with skills developed through working in various engineering and research positions in WSP, the New Zealand Ministry of Transport and the former Land Transport Safety Authority (LTSA).

Bill has written and spoken extensively as an advocate and technical expert on road safety and other areas of land transport. He has a long-standing interest in walking reinforced by the experiences of his wheelchair bound sister and his mother-in-law, who was seriously injured due to uneven paving slabs in the Dunedin CBD.

Jenni Wiggle



Jenni Wiggle BEM lives on the Kāpiti Coast. Jenni worked for Living Streets in the UK for 8 years, firstly as Head of Projects, then Senior Director and Interim CEO in 2020. During that time she oversaw the organisation's outreach programmes in England, Scotland and Wales, held an interim responsibility for managing the Policy and Communications team and led the development of the Living Streets Strategy. She was awarded a BEM in the 2022 New Year Honours (UK) for her contribution to active transport.

Jenni is passionate about the environment, equity, health and social wellbeing. She believes that understanding the role of walking is critical for creating healthy, sustainable towns and cities.

Preventing pedestrian injuries on footpaths – what does the research show?

In our October eBulletin, we covered the threat to pedestrian safety represented by the new Setting of Speed Limits rule, which makes it harder to reduce dangerously high vehicle speeds on many categories of roads.

But badly-maintained footpaths lead to many serious pedestrian injuries. As his bio above discusses, LSA Executive Council member Bill Frith has both a personal and a professional interest in this area. However, the latter hasn't been easy to pursue. Bill says:

“I have had little opportunity to publish on the subject except for a study on pedestrian slips, trips and falls which I carried out with Jared Thomas, using ACC data, around 2010 (NZTA Research Report 431, [The mechanisms and types of non-motor vehicle injuries to pedestrians in the transport system and indicated infrastructure implications](#) (December 2010)).

It is an unpalatable fact that there is little interest in funding pedestrian safety research. I am very interested in getting better data on these incidents as they are not reported in the Waka Kotahi CAS system because they do not involve a motor vehicle. The ACC data is very hard to access and not very detailed except for the injuries suffered. I also think they should be included in road injury statistics, as footpaths are part of the road reserve and are as much the responsibility of Waka Kotahi and the other Road Authorities as the vehicle carriageways.”

New research by Living Streets Aotearoa member Dr Angela Curl on identifying pedestrian trip hazards has generated plenty of media interest. Over 60% of fall sites had at least one trip hazard due to poorly maintained footpaths.

Angela describes the research in this article: <https://theconversation.com/preventing-falls-google-street-view-offers-a-quick-way-to-assess-risks-for-older-new-zealanders-241343>

As Angela notes:

“The flow-on effect from falls extends further than just medical recovery. Older people who have fallen outside, or who fear falling due to perceived risks, may be less willing to go for walks. They then miss out on the physical, mental and social benefits of this sort of activity.”

If everyone with a commitment to pedestrian safety can find ways to build on these findings and put them into practical effect, we can make walking both be and feel safer, and contribute to Living Streets Aotearoa’s goal of getting more people walking more often.

Robot vehicles: heading for our footpaths?

As we mentioned in our October eBulletin, Living Streets Aotearoa is a member organisation of the [International Federation of Pedestrians](#), and they’re conducting a survey on a very important topic: the effect of automated vehicles on pedestrians. That survey closes on 1 December - please take 10-15 minutes to fill it in:

<https://tinyurl.com/PedMobilitySwissSurvey>

The latest potential threat to pedestrian safety is [newer and larger delivery robots](#). Rather than waiting till these arrive on our shores, and then saying it’s too late to act, we’d like to see transport authorities act now to protect footpaths for the use of people on foot, and using low-speed mobility devices such as wheelchairs.

Walking festivals continue to prosper: highlighting the Wairarapa Walking Festival and Banks Peninsula Walking Festival

Walking festivals are a great way to introduce people to the joys of walking, and help to build support for good walking infrastructure and measures that increase pedestrian safety. In this issue, we focus on two – the Wairarapa Walking Festival, which runs from 8–17 November 2024, and the Banks Peninsula Walking Festival, running from February 22 to March 14, 2025

Wairarapa Walking Festival

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wairarapawalkingfestival>

On EventFinda: <https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/tours-festivals/2024/wairarapa-walking-festival>



The Wairarapa Walking Festival, now in its fourth year, invites you to explore breathtaking coastal views, wetlands, working farms, and the region's rich history from November 8th to 17th. This annual event showcases the best of Wairarapa's diverse landscapes through walking, storytelling, and exploration. Ako, hōpara, and hono—learning, exploring, and connecting—form the essence of the Wairarapa Walking Festival, with each walk incorporating elements of these core values.

Participants can choose from over 20 guided walks that highlight local flora and fauna, cultural heritage, farmland, urban areas, and the vibrant food and wine industry. Thanks to the dedication of our volunteer team, most walks are free, though prior registration is required.

Among the highlights is a guided walk through Pūkaha National Wildlife Center, where you can engage with local conservation efforts, identify bird calls, observe pest-trapping methods, and discover ancient trees. The Mountains to Sea Trust will lead a tour through Wairio Wetlands, sharing mātauranga Māori and insights into local ecology while observing wading birds and native freshwater species.

Wine tasting, olive oils, and nibbles are on the menu again, with the popular Gladstone Wine & Olive walk featuring Leafyridge Olives, Urlar, Ngā Pari, and Johner vineyards.

The Wairarapa's rich farming heritage is also on display, with an opportunity to visit Hāpua Farm. Participants will see QEII native bush, enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding farmland, and learn about the workings of a modern farm. This area recently attracted research from GNS Science, which studied its unique topography of parallel ridges and ponds.

Although the festival is promoting walking, accessibility has been a key consideration. Walking and Cycling Coordinator Sandra Burles says, "Most of our walks in town are wheelchair and pushchair friendly. We are also pleased to host an accessible walk at Henley Lake in partnership with Wai Blind, a local blind and low vision support group. We hope that by showcasing what our region has to offer, we can inspire more people to give walking a go, discover something new, and connect with other community members."

Wairarapa Walking Festival Founder, Celia Wade-Brown MP says, "I'm delighted to be leading the big tramp of the 2024 Wairarapa Walking Festival, with a Tranzit-sponsored bus

dropping trampers to the Remutaka Summit, and about a six-hour tramp to Bucks Road, with stunning views. The Monday 11th walk fits in with the Wellington train timetable.”

The Wairarapa Walking Festival is run by keen volunteers, and sponsored by Masterton Foot Clinic, Tranzit Coachlines, ATH Consulting, Carterton District Council, South Wairarapa District Council, Living Streets Aotearoa, and ARC Assistance.

Banks Peninsula Walking Festival

On the web: <https://www.bankspeninsulawalks.co.nz/banks-peninsula-walking-festival/>



Running from February 22 to March 14, 2025, this festival will once again show off the beautiful landscapes of Banks Peninsula with a fantastic variety of walks for all ages and fitness levels. As an added bonus we will also run an event on the Little River Rail Trail, with the Rod Donald Trust now having taken over kaitiakitanga of this great cycling trail.

Whether you love a good hike or have a passion for history, there’s something for everyone. From challenging all-day treks to relaxing, family-friendly nature walks, you’ll be spoilt for choice. We are especially excited about celebrating the opening of a

new Nature Trail near the Rod Donald Hut which is sure to be popular with families and children alike.

This year, we will once again feature themed walks like geology tours, exploring Antarctic connections, and include heritage strolls through historic spots. We also look forward to working with dedicated landowners to feature the incredible conservation and restoration work they are doing on their land. With about 25-30 walks planned, it's the perfect chance to explore hidden gems and soak in the incredible biodiversity of the area.

Ways to connect with Living Streets Aotearoa



ABOUT LIVING STREETS AOTEAROA

Living Streets Aotearoa is the national organisation promoting walking-friendly communities. You can find out more about us at www.livingstreets.org.nz.

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