

Living Streets Aotearoa



www.livingstreets.org.nz

Presidents report Living Streets Aotearoa 2014-2015

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 what LSA volunteers have been involved with:

- participating in the resource consent hearing for the SkyPath, the shared path over the Auckland Harbour Bridge (it was granted but has been appealed by opponents)
- participating in the Board of Inquiry into NZTA's Basin Reserve road-building proposal in Wellington (it was declined and a subsequent appeal by NZTA was also declined)
- organising the 2WalkandCycle conference in Nelson
- organizing the next 2WalkandCycle conference to be held in Auckland in July 2016
- sponsoring Daniel Sauter, a Swiss walking expert specializing in pedestrian data, to visit several places in NZ
- organising or promoting Walk to Work day around the country
- organising Walk for Wellbeing events in Christchurch
- campaigning to change the law to favour pedestrians with meetings around the country
- supporting lower speed around schools
- creating our policies on footpaths, shared zones and shared paths
- updating the look and feel of the LSA website while keeping the power of CiviCRM as our contacts and subscription engine
- actively posting on Facebook
- tweeting on our Twitter account @NZLivingStreets, now with 200 followers
- producing the eBulletin
- engaging with NZTA over bus stop design
- giving the walker's view at a NZTA Safer Journeys workshop
- working with NZTA Safe Systems and Road Classification system
- meeting in Wellington with Craig Foss Associate Minister of Transport, Celia Wade-Brown Mayor of Wellington, Mike Noon CEO of the AA, Phil Twyford MP, Superintendent Steve Greally NZ Police, Geoff Dangerfield CEO of NZTA, Clive Nelson CEO of Health Promotion Agency, and Clare Wooding of Local Government NZ to discuss various concerns and goals
- participating in TraffinZ workshops and executive meetings (LSA now has a representative on the TraffinZ exec)
- holding a Face-toFace meeting of the LSA exec in Christchurch
- setting up a new branch in Tauranga

- auditing footpaths and helping create commuter walking maps
- submitting walking-focussed questions for possible inclusion in the next census
- working with the International Federation of Pedestrians

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

- getting vehicle speeds below 30kph in residential areas
- helping define what and who should use footpaths, as we see an increase in electric vehicles of various descriptions competing for that space
- getting an agreed code of use for shared paths and legislative change to set basic rules to help avoid the growing conflicts between various users
- promoting the adoption by councils of a code of practice for shared zones
- having a highly successful conference
- building local groups and re-establishing the Dunedin branch and supporting them to turn more roads into living streets.

Currently, LSA has 105 paid-up members including 17 organizations. Our Facebook group has 281 members and we have an email list of 1500 contacts that receives our eBulletin of walking-related news.

We join Living Streets Aotearoa to influence civic policy toward a pedestrian 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 2015.