

Living Streets Aotearoa



Presidents report Living Streets Aotearoa 2015-2016

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:

- ! 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)
- ! encouraging courier companies to ensure their employees don't park on footpaths (as part of Brake's Road Safety Week 2016)
- ! organizing the next 2WalkandCycle conference to be held in Auckland in July 2016
- ! organising and 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 and communities
- ! creating our policies on footpaths, shared zones and shared paths
- ! presenting the Parliamentary Select Committee on Future Mobilities
- ! actively posting on Facebook
- ! tweeting on our Twitter account @NZLivingStreets, now with 374 followers
- ! producing the eBulletin
- ! making submissions including on future Census transport questions,
- ! working with NZTA Safe Systems and Road Classification system
- ! participating in TraffinZ workshops and executive meetings (LSA now has a representative on the TraffinZ exec)

- ! participating in the Road Controlling Authorities 'sharing the footpath' working group
- ! auditing footpaths and helping create commuter walking maps
- ! 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
- ! promoting the adoption by councils of a code of practice for shared zones
- ! having a highly successful conference
- ! building local groups and membership, including re-establishing the Dunedin branch and supporting them to turn more roads into living streets.
- ! considering what the election may bring
- ! to improve our use of social media to get the walking message out

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 2016.