

Presidents Report 2011 – Living Streets Aotearoa

The twelve months from August 2010 have brought many changes to Living Streets Aotearoa. When our funding from NZTA stopped in September we decided to close down the office and release our staff back into the wild. Volunteers now run the office and we accept paying projects; saving what money we had to keep us going during lean times. In the future funding may be available for a full time director and we can afford to make a big comeback.

This years AGM is carbon free and unique. Running the meeting via telephone conference is both legal and smart. We can save money and carbon by not flying around to meetings in other parts of the country.

Our paid project this year is Make Shift, funded by the Christchurch City Council. Rhys Taylor has been employed by us to coordinate the *Greening the Rubble* after the Christchurch quakes. Rhys and his team have made parks and performance spaces from the vacant land left by collapsed buildings. With the permission of the land owners and support of the community these areas have been turned into gardens.

Working with this year's executive committee has been an enjoyable experience. Our meetings by telephone each month have been dynamic and satisfying. I especially enjoyed meeting everyone (less Mike Mellor) at the New Plymouth (NP) face to face in May 2011. We chose NP as it has a great coastal walkway and have received Model Community funding from NZTA. We are interested how they would spend this money in the walking environment.

Decisions were made about what we could achieve in the long and short terms, we also planned where we were heading.

Everyone has worked hard on getting those submissions written, maintaining our website, updating Facebook and pushing higher the profile of Living Streets Aotearoa.

Walk to Work on March 16 attracted Ziera as a national sponsor with events in their retail outlets around the country. Councils around the country also ran events with and without our support.

Living Streets is a part of the campaign to walk and cycle across the Auckland Harbour Bridge, getacross.org.nz. Mayor Len Brown has included in his top 100 projects so Getacross is now working with Auckland Council, Auckland Transport and NZTA to get a tolled solution up and running.

On February 21 to 25 2012 we bring you the combined Walking and cycling conference 2walkandcycle.co.nz. Cycle Advocate Network and ourselves decided to join forces as times are lean and one combined conference rather than two years of separate conferences. Hastings (another Model Community) Opera House will be the venue with plenty of opportunities to walk, cycle and talk.

I attended the Walk 21 (2010) conference at The Hague while I was holidaying in Europe and Gay Richards will attend in Vancouver Sept 2011. Walk21 is a valuable forum for walking advocacy groups around the world.

Over the next year I hope we will concentrate on gaining more members, having fun to make streets living and influence urban design toward child safe walking environments.

I would like to thank all those who have worked with us over the year (both paid and volunteer), our sponsors and especially the executive council.

The executive council this year was

Andy Smith

Rhys Taylor

Mike Mellor

Gay Richards

Daphne Bell

Meg Christie

Chris Teo-Sherrell

Willemijn Vermaat

Peter Kortegast