



DOUBLE THE FEET ON THE STREET

NZ Walking Conference 2008
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Phone number	03 325 2811	Fax Number	03 325 2811
Presentation topic	Urban Walking		
Presentation title	Getting there on foot (A study of inner city Christchurch)		
Presentation Style	Presentation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Workshop / Walkshop <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>		
Estimated Time Required	0-10 mins <input type="checkbox"/>	10-20 mins <input type="checkbox"/>	20-30 mins <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract Remit	<p>This research study is informed by a review of the relevant literature that applies to walking, mainly to be found in urban design and transportation based research. However, research in the area, has effectively relegated the needs of the urban walker to the periphery. As a result we have a limited understanding of how people, actually move through and interact with the urban environment. Secondly, this research project was borne out of earlier research that utilised qualitative methods, with a focus group study involving 10 people in each of the four cities listed here (Christchurch, New Zealand; Manchester, UK; Brisbane, Australia and Singapore). The focus group research elicited a number of interesting issues, which provided a useful platform on which to base this study. This study used in depth interviews with research participants from recreational walking clubs, pedestrian advocates and inner city planners, responsible for walking strategy in Christchurch.</p> <p>Although New Zealand and indeed Christchurch have a positive walking reputation, this study discovered that Christchurch has major difficulties in accommodating for the needs of walkers in the inner city. Although, Christchurch has the potential to be a very 'walkable' city, this is not supported by the appropriate pedestrian infrastructure. The study uncovered a range of problems for walkers in the inner city and a lack of understanding of their needs. This study will contribute to the continuing debate on urban walking and highlights the importance of planning and designing our cities with the needs of walkers at the forefront of their thinking. We need to move away from the car centric mentality of the past and move forward to take back ownership of public space and encourage people to experience the delights of the urban environment on foot.</p>		
Author Profile	<p>Dave Lamb is a Senior Lecturer in Sport and Leisure Management and holds an Honours degree in Environmental Studies and a Masters degree in Leisure Management. He lectures on a range of undergraduate and post-graduate papers in sport and recreation management areas and is involved with supervising student research at postgraduate level. Dave is a relative newcomer to NZ (5 years) and previously taught in the similar areas at a number of Universities in the UK. Prior to lecturing, Dave spent a number of years working in community recreation and development, landscape gardening, leisure management and undertook some consultancy work on sport/leisure projects. He is a keen and avid walker in urban areas and is a keen supporter of making our cities more walkable and sustainable.</p>		