



## Welcome to the December 2018 eBulletin of Living Streets Aotearoa.

We wish that you have a very Merry Christmas and a safe holiday season. Now a few stories of what we have been up to over the last few months.

Join us by [paying the subscription here](#), we need your voice. [Also donate here](#), we have approved donee status with Inland Revenue so all donations are tax deductible.

## Walk21 2018 in Bogotá



Andy Smith amongst happy feet in Bogota

President Andy Smith and Secretary Celia Wade-Brown both attended [this annual international conference on walking](#), sharing best practice, good examples and technical updates. Many people from Latin America attended as Mayor Penalosa made registration free. This meant we learnt a lot from non-Anglophone cities which was a great advantage – after all, America and Australia are not ideal for people on foot! Presentations and workshops included a strong emphasis on gender equity. Women's journeys are often more complex and they typically have less access to private transport. Consideration of children's point of view was also emphasised. Experts pointed out that instead of tall towers in large amounts of grass, with no street level surveillance, equal urban density and much

better neighbourliness and quality of life could be achieved with a mix of five-storey blocks and shared gardens.

## **MoT/NZTA Road Safety Workshops**

The New Zealand Government is working hard to create a safer road culture and has held multiple workshops as part of its preparation of the 2020-30 Road Safety Strategy. Living Streets Aotearoa is ensuring your viewpoint is included and we had representatives on the Speed, Road User, and Infrastructure, Design and Planning workshops. A draft of the Strategy is due for release in March 2019 and will be publicly consulted on. This is in addition to our regular meetings on rules, funding and practice with MoT and NZTA. We represent you on TRAFINZ, Cycling and Walking Australia New Zealand, Otago University's Active Living symposium and many other transport and urban design conferences and other fora.

## **Guangzhou Urban Innovation Award 2018**

Living Streets Aotearoa Secretary Celia Wade-Brown chaired the jury for the prestigious biennial awards. Several shortlisted projects improved life for pedestrians but the stand-out was Wuhan. This city had converted many square kilometres of toxic landfill and polluted waterways to an ecological park with many walkways for local people.



## **Madrid**

This city has banned e-scooters, joining a growing list of administrations that say e-scooters aren't compatible with people walking. [See details here](#)

## **Australia**

Walking isn't just good for you — it's good for the economy. [See details here](#)

## International Federation of Pedestrians

Living Streets Aotearoa is an active [member of this UN-accredited organisation](#). We met over twenty different pedestrian advocacy groups and shared common approaches, discussed the New Urban Agenda, the challenges and opportunities of new technology such as self-driving cars and the various encroachments on “foot space” around the world. Our President Andy has been asked to draft an international e-scooter policy piece.



Celia at the workshop of advocacy groups

## **Whinge or valid issue?**

When our advocates argue that the elderly and impaired are at considerable risk from e-scooters on the footpath, we often receive negative comments. Why don't we focus more on the dangers from cars and advocate for slower speeds? We do that too. Are we the fun police or is it that as advocates for the very diverse people who use their feet, we actually notice the most vulnerable. E-scooters are a modern innovative form of transport but they are not an active mode. Research is mixed whether e-scooter journeys are replacing walking trips or über trips but they are certainly quite popular. If they reduce car traffic that's great but if they reduce active modes by putting people off walking because they're perceived as dangerous for people on foot or that they are yet another annoyance on what should be a peaceful walk, that's tragic. Saying we shouldn't complain about footpath invasion from e-scooters because deaths and injuries from motor vehicles are higher is like saying we shouldn't complain about sexual harassment because nuclear war is worse!

Unfortunately several of the “fun police” comments have come from cyclists who themselves want to ride on the footpaths. It is an illusion that it's safer (think driveways, intersections) but that's another topic. Far fewer cyclists have impairments than pedestrians so let's educate them about our frail, our

isolated elderly, our low-vision and deaf people who have a right to safe transport on their own two feet. E-scooters are yet another good reason for all of us to advocate for decent separated infrastructure where people on bikes and e-scooters can travel much faster than walking speed but be safe from cars, trucks and buses. Walkers and cyclists have common cause in wanting lower road speeds and separate cycle lanes. There are some recreational situations where a shared path is fine but they are the exception in urban settings. Let's hear from our two-wheeled allies and refuse to accept second-rate shared paths where cycling is only to the detriment of walking.

## **Living Streets Aotearoa Executive Kanohi-a-kanohi**

Most of the executive met in Wellington's Mt Victoria to plan ahead for 2019 and beyond. Our **Footprint for the Future** includes \*Safer speeds \*Footpaths for feet \*Funding for walking \*Walk to School and \*Better standards and rules. We look forward to a number of events, campaigns and promotions including Walk to Work on 13 March 2019, our next Walking Summit in June 2019 and much more. [Your financial membership will help](#) promote our actions. We welcome your active involvement even more! [Get in touch with any exec member](#) to offer your skills and time.

## **Recent New Zealand conferences**

Conferences have revealed a plethora of new research in relevant areas for pedestrians, you may be interested in these:

[Understanding the pedestrian experience and encouraging better walking environments - Jane Goulding and Samantha Watson NZTA](#)

[Women on the Move What we know about womens travel and transport – Roselle Thoreau MoT](#)

[The TRAFINZ conference 2018 presentations](#)

With a great paper on [Raised Safety Platforms by Fabian Marsh \(NZTA\)](#)

[The Transport Knowledge Conference 2018 presentations](#)

[Otago BEATS symposium in November](#)

## **Christmas presents for walkers**

Yes, socks are always useful but here are a few more suggestions for your walking friends and family – vouchers for shoes, especially the lovely merino Allbirds, or a foot massage, foot lotion, a fold-up backpack or a Blunt umbrella. And Fairtrade chocolate can always be justified as fuel! [Walking magazine](#) is full of lively local walks or Geoff Chapple's Te Araroa is a perennial inspiration.

For the person who has enough already, make a donation on your friend's behalf to [KidsCan.org.nz](#) for a schoolchild to get shoes or a raincoat.

## Millions dead in road crashes

According to [the latest WHO report on road deaths](#) December 2018, 1.35 million die on the world's roads. 23% are pedestrians. Yet 600 (regrettable) deaths claim far more headlines. More and more cities are choosing safer speeds. There are often still naysayers so if your town or [city proposes 30kph, like Auckland](#), make your support heard loud and clear!

Figure 6: Distribution of deaths by road user type by WHO Region

