



Welcome to the July 2019 eBulletin from Living Streets Aotearoa.

A summary of events and stories of us striving to get **more people walking** and enjoying public spaces be they young or old, fast or slow, whether walking, sitting, commuting, shopping, between appointments, or out on the streets for exercise, for leisure or for pleasure.

Annual General Meeting of Living Streets Aotearoa Wednesday 21st August 2019, 7.00pm

You are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of Living Streets Aotearoa which will be held:

- on Wednesday 21st August 2019, 7.00pm

- by Zoom internet conference – Please ask us at accounts@livingstreets.org.nz to join in.

Would you like to join us on the Executive committee? Use the email above to send in your nomination. This is [who we are now](#)



The [NZ Walking Summit held recently in Auckland](#) highlighted some of the great work happening in New Zealand to support the healthy walk to school or play for our kids, and how to improve the walk connections to public transport.

Living Streets UK senior director Jenni Wiggle set the scene for the first day sharing some of the many programmes to encourage the walk to school in the UK. The UK has a target of 55% of children walk to school by 2025 and are well motivated to achieve it and a reduction in air pollution around schools. School route audits are used to identify improvements and children take part in the process.

Auckland Transport is busy on many fronts with work on Safe School Streets piloting with 6 schools to develop a toolbox of actions to improve safety. One action was to provide raised pedestrian platform and zebra crossings around all the pilot schools. Te Ara Haepapa is active with whanau at all levels supporting safer ways to get around, and have produced some wonderful videos to get the message across.

The Auckland Walking School Bus programme is helping the littlies on their walk to school and reducing some of the congestion at the school gate. There are currently 256,800 students in Auckland and of these 50% are driven to school. Roughly half of those, are purely school pick-up or drop-off, that is, the drive is not part of an ongoing journey. There is a real need to make some changes to everyday travel for kids. The Walking School bus has over 1,000 volunteers in Auckland and keeping volunteers engaged is a key part of the programme.

This is [a link to a tweet](#) with image of the Auckland Walking School bus mascots, very popular at the Summit with many selfies taken.

And the walk to school is only one part of what kids do out on the street, KidsCam recorded images of what they saw in a novel study in Wellington. This is a fascinating view into what our kids are exposed to on their everyday journeys, like junk food and alcohol advertising.

Our second day focused on the walk connections with public transport, a life-line for some and important for all pedestrians to extend their daily travel. We heard from a number of people on the importance of this link for disabled people, who often have no choice in how they travel. Inclusive design is a key but even the best designs may not be followed through into the build, as we saw on our walkshop around Viaduct Harbour.

We heard from Auckland Transport PT network designers on how walk connections are central to the developments in Auckland. But there are always compromises between building patronage on a network and providing coverage. Coverage is important for inclusive use. Perhaps some of the work on valuing PT to provide travel options for all might help with the political decisions around coverage and patronage.

I heard a new sociology term describing severance of a community in Mangere as infrastructural violence. The community no longer being able to easily access their shops and cultural sites and so becoming isolated. And one of the main barriers to PT use for disabled people was the attitude of the bus driver. Lots of food for thought.

The presentations from the Walking Summit are available online at our website www.livingstreets.org.nz.

Thank you to our sponsors Abley, Auckland Transport, NZ Transport Agency, Community Comms Collective, Walk Auckland and Becky Bliss – designer

Two dozen of the best! Walk to School

Living Streets Aotearoa - Recommendations to Government

To ensure over 50% of children and adolescents usually walk all or part of their journey to school by 2025.

Walking advocates, activists, practitioners, planners and academics have been working together on the important issue of walking to school. At our recent Walking Summit we shared 24 recommendations that we've sent to the Associate Minister of Transport, Ms Julie Anne Genter and Ministers of related portfolios such as health, education, sport and recreation.

Walking to school has positive impacts on children's and adolescents' mental and physical health and alertness now and into the future, increases social connectedness, reduces congestion and air

pollution but it has declined from 43% 1989/90 to 29% in 2014 (MoT Household Travel Survey). The current New Zealand Government has expressed a strong commitment to improving wellbeing (particularly for children), road safety, equity and reducing carbon. Walking to school covers all these bases but is not sufficiently funded nor prioritised. While some schools are already easy for most students to walk to, others need infrastructure improvements, lower speed limits, plus support of volunteers for Walking School Buses (for 5 to 8 year-olds), Kea crossing points and keeping school drop-off areas well managed.

Support for “active transport” often translates into cycling-only initiatives such as Bike-Ready and Bikes in Schools. Such worthy programmes do nothing for walking. Walking has additional benefits in that students can socialise more easily or spend quality time with parents or care-givers. Walking through or alongside parks, gardens and reserves gives a “daily dose of nature” with specific mental health benefits. Walking is an easy step for the very inactive.

Our top recommendation is

1. Central Government, through its relevant ministries and agencies, actively and consistently supports students walking to school and legislates for targets to be set and monitored at regional, city and district levels.

[Read them all here! LINK](#)



The Ministry of Transport and the New Zealand Road Safety Strategy - Road to Zero.

Submissions on the Road to Zero consultation document are now open and are due with the Ministry by 5:00pm on Wednesday 14 August 2019.

Living Streets members Ellen, Chris and Mike have contributed the pedestrian perspective to a number of workshops integral to creating the draft.

Road to Zero outlines proposes a new approach to road safety for the next 10 years, and some priority actions for the first action plan. The strategy will replace *Safer Journeys*, and the final strategy and first action plan will be published before the end of this year.

Road safety is a really important issue in New Zealand; too many people are being killed and injured on our roads every day. We're keen to hear New Zealanders' views on the proposed approach to improve safety for everyone who uses our roads, streets and footpaths.

The strategy on the Ministry's website can be found here: <https://www.transport.govt.nz/zero>



Tshirts and cloth Bags

Want to show your support for walking - how about grabbing one of these cool new tee shirts designed especially for us by Emily Bulkley based on our fabulous logo (original design by Becky Bliss). And if that doesn't suit your look maybe our reusable bag will work. Check them [out here](#)

A bus map movie for Wynyard Quarter- because sometimes a route map isn't enough!

(Written by Louise Baker, edited by Gay Richards)

In one of Friday's Soapbox sessions, we were shown a natty 'bus map movie' for the Wynyard Quarter, an rapidly developing area of Auckland's downtown waterfront. Louise Baker, WQTMA board member, explained that the movie was developed for the Wynyard Quarter Transport Management Association (WQTMA). The Wynyard Quarter (WQ) area is well served by buses - many routes serve stops nearby, although not all routes come right into WQ, and buses running similar routes serve different stops. The WQTMA decided to get a bus map movie developed to make it easier for people visiting, working or living in the area to understand which buses called where. The movie also shows the main walking route that connects WQ with Britomart- the city centre's main transport hub – at the bottom of Queen Street, Auckland's main street.

The WQTMA is a business-led organisation that represents businesses, employees, residents and visitors to the WQ area (which is where the 2019 Walking Summit took place). The TMA launched their bus map movie to coincide with last year's royal visit to WQ to encourage the use of sustainable transport on that day. It's used by WQ employers as part of travel plans and the ASB Theatre Company sends it out to patrons.

The movie only cost a few thousand dollars, it has been viewed over 1,000 times and has received some really good feedback from people including: "Aha, now I know I need to get the NX2 [not the NX1] if I want the stop nearest our office!" and "I never knew there was a bus up to Ponsonby, [I'll] use it at lunchtime now."

Bus map movies have been used for over twenty years in the UK to explain an area's public transport and walking routes but the WQTMA bus map movie is the first of its kind in New Zealand. Since the bus map movie was launched, Auckland Transport have reported a 90% increase in ridership on the #20. The TMA hopes that their bus map movie is the reason for this impressive increase!

You can view the bus map movie on the WQTMA's website, here:

<https://www.wqtma.co.nz/getting-to-wynyard-quarter>