



### ***Welcome to the November 2022 eBulletin from Living Streets Aotearoa***

This is 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, exploration, for leisure or for pleasure.

In this issue:

Introduction

News from the Living Streets Aotearoa Executive Council

A big year ahead for walking

Golden Foot Walking Awards Ceremony 2022

Two important legal developments

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to the November 2022 eBulletin of Living Streets Aotearoa. In this issue, we look at what will be a big year ahead for walking, highlight the 2022 Golden Foot Walking Awards, and consider two recent legal decisions with significant implications for walking.

From 2023, we've decided to change our approach to putting out regular communications with our members and supporters. It's been six months since our last eBulletin – apologies for that! – which reflects the fact that they are cumbersome to produce. Therefore, in 2023, we plan to switch to putting out 10 issues per year (February-November) of a short monthly newsletter.

Ngā mihi nui

Tim Jones

President, Living Streets Aotearoa

## News from the Living Streets Aotearoa Executive Council

Tim Jones was elected President of Living Streets Aotearoa at the 2022 AGM, having been Vice-President during the previous term. Tim is a writer and editor by profession and has been an environmental and climate change campaigner for many years, with an increasing focus on transport. Tim says:

“I’ve been a keen walker for as long as I’ve been able to walk, and it’s my main means of transport: in that regard, I’m fortunate to live in Wellington’s inner suburbs, which have relatively good walking access to the CBD. I think that walking has a vital, but under-appreciated, role to play in quickly reducing New Zealand’s outsized transport emissions.”

“I’d like to thank Gay Richards, who decided prior to the AGM to stand down as President. Following the untimely and abrupt death of our then-President Andy Smith not long before our 2021 AGM, Gay stepped up with the invaluable help of our Secretary, Paula Wilkinson, and Treasurer, Robin Rawson, under very difficult circumstances to ensure that LSA could keep operating. I’d also like to thank Jean-Paul Thull and Peter Bos for their service on the previous Executive, and congratulate Carina Duke on her election as Vice-President, and Craig Stansfield on his election as a new Exec member.”

LSA’s officeholders and Executive for 2022-2023 are: Tim Jones (President), Carina Duke (Vice-President), Paula Wilkinson (Secretary), Robin Rawson (Treasurer) and Executive members Ellen Blake, Gay Richards, Craig Stansfield and Chris Teo-Sherrell.



*The LSA Executive Council 2022-23*

## A big year ahead for walking advocacy

Transport policy is changing rapidly – but unevenly. While we await the release of the Accessible Streets package, we are continuing to submit, and encourage others to submit, or the wide range of policy proposals affecting walking, the most recent of which is the just-announced resource management reforms.

The Government's first Emissions Reduction Plan, which [LSA submitted on](#), contained a number of measures which will, if well implemented and properly funded, lead to more and better walking. At national level, officials at Waka Kotahi and the Ministry of Transport are working on a National Walking Plan.

[We argued for an Aotearoa New Zealand Walking Strategy](#) and are very pleased the Government has taken that on board – now we're working hard to ensure that the National Walking Plan, due for completion by June 2023, is capable of producing meaningful actions that make walking better. We've all seen too many plans that sound great but don't lead to any action.

The lion's share of transport funding still goes to infrastructure designed for cars, trucks and vans. If the Government is serious about its national and regional targets to reduce vehicle kilometres travelled by light vehicles, that has to change: walking, cycling and public transport need more of the pie. Currently, walking is further disadvantaged by being lumped into a Walking and Cycling Improvements class in transport funding. LSA is advocating for a separate, well-funded Walking Improvements class in the next Government Policy Statement on Land Transport.



The recent local body election results were, to put it mildly, mixed. At national level, LSA was an active part of the [Vote Climate](#) campaign, which called on local body election candidates to commit to better and more affordable public transport, safer and easier walking and cycling, and more inter-city and regional public transport. The site was heavily visited in the leadup to the local body elections. As well as the benefits of getting candidates to sign up for these pledges, this was also a useful opportunity to promote walking within the wider climate advocacy conversation.

The Wellington Branch of LSA [surveyed candidates](#) and got some very useful responses, which we will bear in mind as we deal with incoming Councillors.

Women in Urbanism Aotearoa's [recent open letter](#) to Wayne Brown and Auckland Transport raises a number of concerns about what Mayor Brown's election will mean for transport in Auckland. How have the elections affected the prospects for better walking where you live?

## **Golden Foot Walking Awards 2022**

Living Streets Aotearoa presented its biennial Golden Foot Walking Awards on 25 August 2022 at a formal video conference, MC'd by former LSA President Celia Wade-Brown.

This year nine winners were announced, receiving the Golden Foot Award made in recycled wood by Rowan Saker at Global Wood Rework (Wellington). The [list of winners](#) shows some outstanding projects with Age Concern Wellington Region's Companion Walking Service Programme receiving the judges' highest score and Waka Kotahi – NZTA's Wairarapa SH 2 Safety improvements of raised pedestrian platforms the second highest score.

Congratulations to all the winners, and to every project entered! Thanks also to Ellen Blake, Carina Duke and Robin Rawson for their mahi in organising the awards, and to Celia Wade-Brown for ensuring a successful and enjoyable ceremony.

Since the awards, we've held a series of presentations to the award winners – it's been great to see how much these awards are appreciated. Two of these awards presentations are highlighted below.

### **Golden Foot Walking Award Presentations**

#### **Age Concern Wellington - Companion Walking Service**

Age Concern Wellington received their Golden Foot Walking Award on Monday 10 October 2022 in recognition of a service that meets a significant community need. The Companion Walking Service matches trained volunteers with older people who are experiencing reduced mobility, mild cognitive impairment or a need for companionship, often after an operation or a fall. Over 60 Wellington people go out for a walk on a regular basis to improve mobility and gain confidence.

At the presentation, Ellen Blake from Living Streets Aotearoa said, "the Golden Foot Walking Awards celebrate New Zealand achievements that support walking. The Companion Walking Service reduces social isolation and helps get people back on their feet and out in the community. That's good for both mental and physical health and wellbeing. We hope this unique service is an inspiration for others to set up similar programmes to help people recover from health issues."

"We were really pleased to receive this Award," said Stephen Opie from Age Concern Wellington. "We knew it was a great programme but it is really special to us for others to recognise this too. The Walking Companion Service helps keep older people active, engaged and living independently. Age Concern



provides a range of services for older people, and here in Wellington we have contact with over 750 people each week through a wide range of services.”

The Award this year is made by Global Wood Rework (Wellington) from recycled wood and shaped like a foot that can be hung on the wall.

### **Meadowbank School – Walking Bus Competition**

Natalie Stewart of Meadowbank School was nominated by Delia Matthias (Auckland Transport) for her dedicated promotion of walking to and from school as the easiest, most fun, free and enviro-friendly active mode of travel.

“Natalie is constantly looking at new and innovative ways to improve the operational aspects of walking school buses as the easiest, most fun, free and enviro-friendly active mode of travel,” Delia Matthias said.

During the last four weeks of Term 2, Natalie initiated the **Golden Ticket** Walking School Bus promotion. Tamariki were encouraged to join a bus to win some cool prizes.

Every Walking School Bus child received a golden ticket in which a star could be clicked off for each walk achieved. When the ticket was complete (5 walks) they wrote their name & room # on the ticket to go into the prize draw which occurred on the 7th of July. (By collecting the room number, Natalie could see the age level of the children walking & the frequency across the year groups.)



Any child that gave a walking school bus a go was given a bonus ticket (green) which also went into the draw.

Prizes included mini golf, smiggle drink bottles, soccer balls, card games like Uno/monopoly deal, pen sets etc.

*Photo: Natalie Stewart and Delia Matthias at the award presentation*

Heed Natalie’s words, *“I believe that the Walking School Bus is a great vehicle for teaching children to eventually (when they are ready) make their own way to & from school independently. If all children at your local primary school could strive towards this, it sets up our kids to continually reap the many benefits that a walking school bus delivers, such as build community, improve classroom attention span, improve mental & physical health, environmental impact etc.”*

## Two important legal developments

**E-scooter case:** Living Streets Aotearoa recently took Waka Kotahi to court over its decision to classify e-scooters as wheeled recreational devices, which led to the proliferation of e-scooters scattered all over our footpaths and being ridden at high speed far too close to pedestrians. Unfortunately, as reported in [Newsroom](#) and on [Stuff](#), our legal challenge was not successful, despite the considerable merits of our case. Chris Teo-Sherrell did an amazing job of preparing for this case and dealing with the aftermath, with assistance from Gay Richards and Tim Jones.

With the Gazette notice allowing e-scooters to be ridden on the footpath expiring in September 2023, we will continue to campaign to get e-scooters off the footpath and where they belong: in a 'third lane' or [rori iti](#) with vehicles such as bikes and e-bikes that travel at a similar speed. In the meantime, we're working to tighten up rules around e-scooter parking, passing and speed.

**Riverlink resource consent decision:** Riverlink is a massive, car-dominated transport project in Hutt City. Wellington Living Streets Aotearoa as well as cycling advocates worked to get better conditions for walking and cycling. The [Environment Court decision of 3 November 2022](#) will marginally improve provision for walking without changing the fundamentally car-dominated nature of the project. A lack of separated footpaths in the project area remains of real concern (with existing footpath removed and replaced with narrow shared path only on some sides of the road).

The judgement offers what may be some helpful precedents, regarding both mode shift ("**undoubted benefit in moving travellers away from motorcar use and towards walking, cycling (or other small devices) and public transport**") and shared paths ("**cannot be any viable argument with the proposition that separated paths . . . with clear physical separation between the two - is the safest for everyone**"). Check the Environment Court website for the full text of the decision.

As an organisation advocating for mode shift towards walking and away from high-carbon forms of transport, and advocating for safe, separated infrastructure for pedestrians, we are pleased to see these paragraphs in the decision.

## In conclusion...

We wish everyone a safe, happy and healthy holiday season and a good start to 2023, with lots of great walks!

### **How you can help Living Streets Aotearoa get more people walking more often:**

1. Now is a great time to [join or renew](#) your membership - or encourage a friend to join!
2. Spread the walking word and support pedestrians with conversations in your networks
3. Look out for opportunities to provide feedback to your local council on projects that impact walking
4. Organise local walks that highlight issues in your area – ask your local councillor for a walk, be sure to send us some photos
5. Buy a T-shirt or bag from [our website shop](#)
6. [Donate to support our work](#)