

Walking around the world: Where are we now? Where are we going?



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Context

- Lack of data and understanding on progress in walking throughout the world
- Kinect Australia/Walk21 snapshot of 2006
- Email-based survey of expert opinion
- A tool to:
 - benchmark progress now and in future
 - facilitate dialogue with governments
 - encourage pro-walking policy and practice

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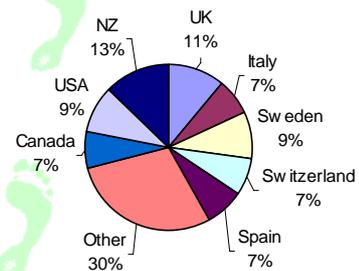
Methodological issues

Survey respondents

- Carefully selected experts, from our databases of contacts
- Assembled into a representative 'expert panel'
- Two geographical sub-samples

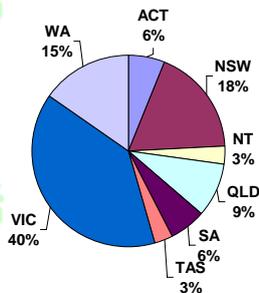
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Experts: International sub-sample



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Experts: Australian sub-sample



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Selection of the expert panel

Experts sought from different professional groupings:

- Research/Planning
- Programme development/Marketing
- Policy
- Engineering/Infrastructure provision
- Advocacy
- Other

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Selection of the expert panel

Experts sought with different walking interests:

- Everyday / Utilitarian transport
- Recreation / Leisure / Tourism
- Health / Exercise
- Community
- Safety
- Urban design
- Environmental sustainability
- Economy
- Other

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Caveats

- Research collates OPINIONS and PERCEPTIONS of experts, NOT hard walking information
- NZ comparative data based on a very small sample: indicative directions only
- Today a generalised overview
 - Forthcoming analysis by country, interest and professional group
 - Interpretation of comments: rich, thick data

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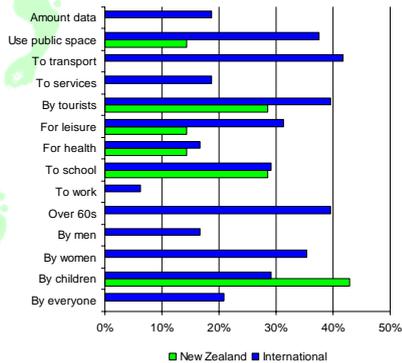
"A lot" or "a great deal" of walking

% International experts

- Tourists
- To public transport
- Over 60s
- Use of public space

% New Zealand experts

- By children
- To school
- Tourists
- Use of public space



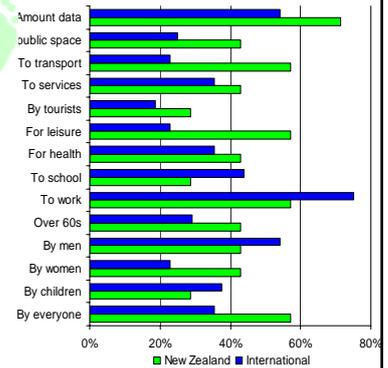
"Some" or "very little" walking

% International experts

- For work
- Amount of data
- By men

% New Zealand experts

- Amount of data
- For work
- Leisure
- To transport
- By everyone



Current levels of walking: conclusions

In general

- 'Optional' walking dominant:
 - tourism, leisure, use of public space
- 'Necessary' walking less so:
 - walking to work and by men
- Lack of data

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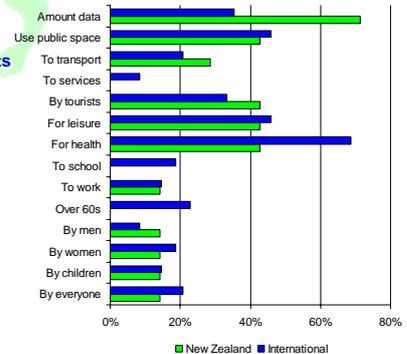
Increases in walking in the last 10 years

% International experts

- Health
- Use of public space
- Amount of data
- Leisure

% NZ experts

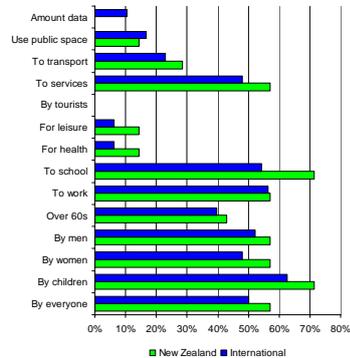
- Amount of data
- Health
- Use of public space
- Leisure
- Tourists



Decreases in walking in the last 10 years

% International experts

- Children
- Work
- School
- By men



% New Zealand experts

- Children
- School

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Changes in levels of walking: conclusions

In general

- Strong performance of 'optional' walking:
 - Especially health, but also use of public space and leisure
- 'Necessary' walking not doing well: declines – from often already low levels - in :
 - Walking to work
 - Walking to services
 - Walking by men
- Especially serious declines in children walking and walking to school
- Overall, experts see walking as still declining

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Walking: the Titanic experience



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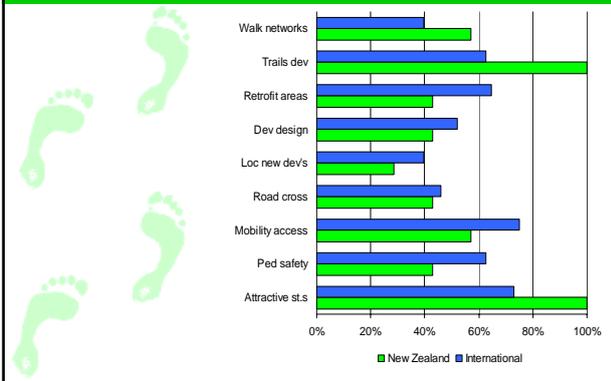
Progress (or otherwise) in activities designed to increase walking

"What progress has been made in the last 10 years in relation to":

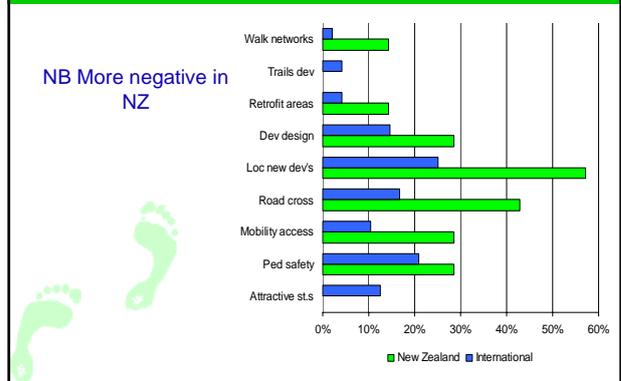
- Making walking possible?
- Making the choice to walk?
- Making the case for walking?
- Making walking happen?

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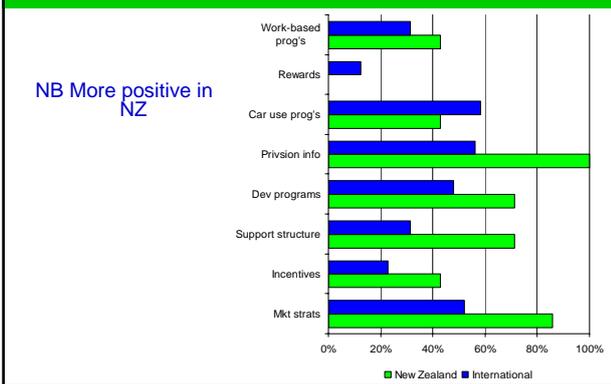
Making it possible: positive change



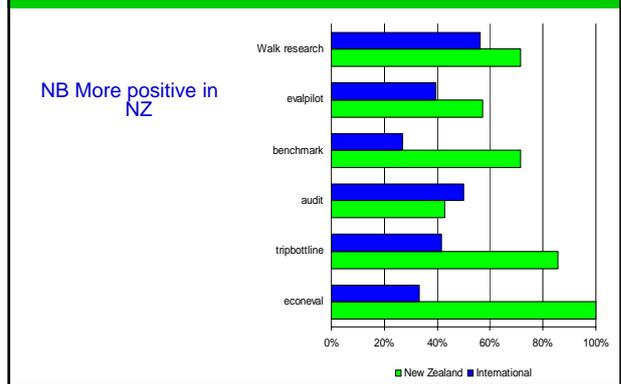
Making it possible: negative change



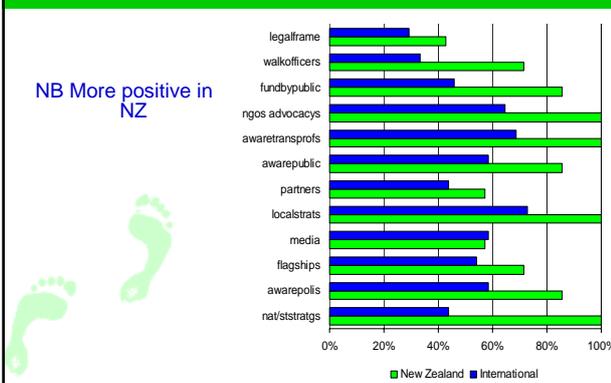
Making the choice: positive change



Making the case: positive change



Making it happen: positive change



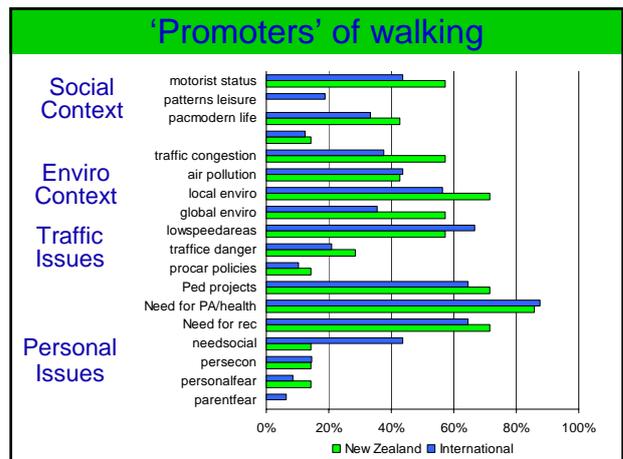
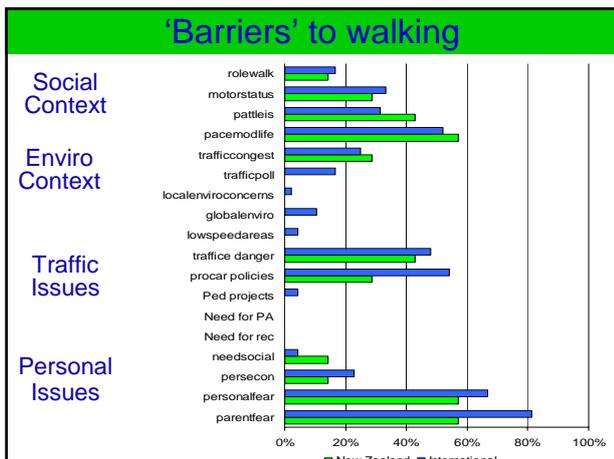
Conclusions on progress

Making it possible

- Some issues improving and some getting worse

Making the choice, case and happen

- Strong positive progress
- Few categories worsening: indicates little prior activity?
- Much more activity in NZ



Influences on walking: summary

Strong consensus across the world

We WANT to walk more:

- Personal – better health, more recreation
- Environmental – local issues

We are HELPED to walk more:

- Infrastructural – pedestrianisation
- Regulatory – slowing down cars

But we are SCARED to walk more:

- Social - fear for ourselves and our children (traffic and personal safety)

And we are PREVENTED from walking more:

- Political – pro-car policies

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Influences on walking: inferences

Logical outcome of wanting to walk more but being discouraged from doing so in the street?

- More discretionary walking (for health, as tourists, for recreation, on trails)
- Less functional walking (to work, school, shops and services) as part of daily life

Outcome is consistent with predictions made in the only other macro walking study

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Survey of walking experts in Europe in 2000

Across Europe, by 2010:

- Walking will be seen as being more important
- More facilities, infrastructure, information and money
- More walking for leisure and health
- Less walking to services and facilities

Overall balance?

- Less walking by everyone overall
- More talking, less walking

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Conclusions: global perceptions

Half full?

- Intensive activity in *making the choice, making the case and making it happen*
- Optional walking important and growing
 - Especially health, but also use of public space and leisure and walking on trails

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Conclusions: global perceptions

Half empty?

- Declines in most types of necessary walking
 - Especially serious declines in children walking and walking to school
- Many more negative values in *making walking possible*
 - Unwalkable developments, crossing roads, traffic speeds, pro-car policies and personal safety in the street
- Overall conclusion
 - Intensive pro-walking activity
 - But contextual socio-political conditions deeply unfavourable

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Conclusions: global action

What works?

- Walking for health message very powerful

What doesn't work?

- Personal economic messages

What needs to work?

- Dealing with the fundamental necessities for walking – traffic, speed, crossing roads, location of facilities, fear
- Walking not a bolt on extra to 'business as usual', i.e. more car traffic
- Peak Oil and Climate Change: may be no future 'business as usual'

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Cars: The Titanic Experience?



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Continuing the global fight

Walk21-VII Melbourne

- Papers will be available on the Walk21 website www.walk21.com
- Accumulated papers from the previous six conferences will soon be uploaded, keyworded and searchable

Walk21-VIII Toronto, Canada, October 2007

- "Putting Pedestrians First": www.torontowalk21.ca

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The International Charter for Walking, 2006

Developed in the context of the Walk21 Conferences over the past 3 years

Objective: creating healthy, efficient and sustainable communities where people choose to walk

"We, the undersigned recognise the benefits of walking as a key indicator of healthy, efficient, socially inclusive and sustainable communities and acknowledge the universal rights of people to be able to walk safely and to enjoy high quality public spaces anywhere and at anytime"

"We are committed to reducing the physical, social and institutional barriers that limit walking activity"

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The International Charter for Walking, 2006

"We will work with others to help create a culture where people choose to walk through our commitment to this charter and its strategic principles:"

1. Increased inclusive mobility
2. Well designed and managed spaces and places for people
3. Improved integration of networks
4. Supportive land-use and spatial planning
5. Reduced road danger
6. Less crime and fear of crime
7. More supportive authorities
8. A culture of walking

Signed
Position

Name
Date

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The International Charter for Walking, 2006

Please:

- Get a copy of the Charter from www.walk21.com
- Sign it yourself and get your organisation to sign
- Shame your Mayor!
 - “Sydney has signed: what’s your problem?”

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Thank you for listening!



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