



Living Streets Aotearoa

Welcome to the June 2024 e-Bulletin from Living Streets Aotearoa

We want 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.

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Get your nomination in for the 2024 Golden Foot Walking Awards



We are now receiving nominations for the 2024 Golden Foot Walking Awards. It's exciting to see the projects and people being nominated this time around.

Our biennial awards celebrate innovative walking projects, facilities and initiatives, and the people who created them. They highlight best practice and reward ongoing commitment to walking for all ages and abilities. The awards are a fabulous opportunity to

recognise a person, organisation or business who has made a difference to walking in their local area.

If you know someone or a project that fits this description please nominate them. It's easy to do. Details are here: <https://www.livingstreets.org.nz/goldenfoot>. We are happy to provide help if you need it.

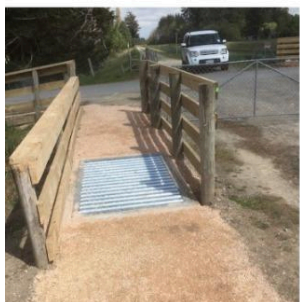
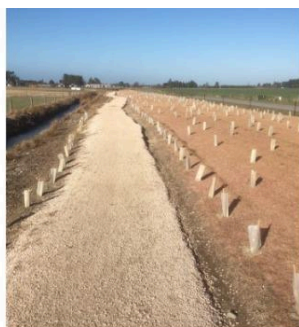
The closing date is Monday 17 June 2024.

Showcasing past winners of Golden Foot Walking Awards

Our Golden Foot Walking Awards have been running since 2009. Previous winners have included school projects, walking advocate champions, local authorities, walking events and public spaces that support safe walking.

Here are some of the 2022 winners:

Methven Walkway - An 8km walkway built around the town was a collaboration between



local people, the Methven Lions Club and the council. It was designed so people of all capabilities could enjoy it, crossing both public and private land that was previously inaccessible. The walkway incorporates an enchanted forest, pīwakawaka walk and hundreds of native plants.

Cobham Drive project, Wellington - The Cobham Drive sidewalk was a narrow, shared path adjacent to a busy highway. It was transformed by Wellington City Council into a fully accessible, beautifully landscaped, separated footpath and cycleway, with seating to enjoy the scenery.

All-terrain vehicle - The Central Hawke's Bay Disability Network identified a need for an all-terrain vehicle which could be used on the beach, trails, forest walks and paths. They researched and fundraised to buy one. It is available for borrowing for free from the local pool.

Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor pedestrian footbridge project - Christchurch City Council constructed three new pedestrian bridges in the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor, reinstating valuable community connections that were lost in the 2010-2011 earthquake sequences. The bridges encourage exploration and connection with the former red zone corridor.

Photos: Methven Walkway, a 2022 winner in Golden Foot Walking Awards.

Living Streets Aotearoa meeting with Minister of Transport

Tim Jones and Ellen Blake from Living Streets Aotearoa recently met with the Minister of Transport Hon Simeon Brown. It was a positive and encouraging meeting. Here is their summary of what was discussed.

We focused on two topics - ensuring that footpaths are for pedestrians, that is people on foot and using mobility devices such as wheelchairs, not for users of other transport modes;

and the need to create a separate, well-funded Walking Improvements Activity Class in the National Land Transport Fund.

Footpath maintenance. As part of the discussion we highlighted that road safety includes not just vehicle crashes, but also the good maintenance of footpaths to avoid slips, trips and falls. Our message included that we support good practice safe separated infrastructure, and are not in favour of shared paths.

Walking to school. We introduced the topic of encouraging children to walk to school and ensuring they could do so safely. This includes having permanent speed reductions near schools, given how much footpaths near schools are used throughout the day, not just at the start and end of the day. We followed up by talking about the success of walking school buses, particularly in Auckland.

Separate funding. We also raised our proposal of creating a separate “walking improvements” activity class in the National Land Transport Fund, so that walking projects can have their own dedicated funding. We explained that this was within the Minister’s power and could be cost-neutral.

Street furniture and trees. The Minister asked for our opinions on street furniture and street trees. We explained the risks that encroachment of street furniture poses to pedestrians, and said that street trees were important for shade. We talked about how there are different methods for planting street trees now, and that more work or research on how best to do this would be useful.

E-scooters not allowed on Melbourne footpaths



Under Victorian law, e-scooters can only be ridden on shared paths and roads with a speed limit up to 60km/h but any scooter capable of exceeding 25km/h is restricted to use on private properties. Photograph: Victor Velter/Shutterstock

Advocating to keep pedestrians safe on our footpaths is the fundamental kaupapa of Living Streets Aotearoa. That is why we continue to support better regulation of e-scooters and other vehicles on footpaths (and on roads too).

We were pleased to read recently that Melbourne authorities are taking

positive action to protect pedestrians:

“E-scooter riders have been warned “the time for leniency is over” after Victoria police caught hundreds of people riding on footpaths and without helmets. Officers fined almost 300 riders over a two-day crackdown earlier this month in Melbourne’s CBD and at major transport hubs.” – The Guardian, Melbourne, 31 May 2024. [Read the full story.](#)

Pedestrians deserve a safe place to walk and a pleasant social space to build our community in, on the footpath.

We have talked about e-scooters in two recent interviews:

- Tim Jones - <https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/thepanel/audio/2018940185/the-panel-with-heather-roy-and-steve-mccabe-part-2> (From 6.30 mins)
- Dr Chris Teo-Sherell - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQvHXg8Wjuc&si=zdZQ9blsQryEPzyK>

Discouraging parking on footpaths with our Yellow Feet



Vehicles blocking footpaths are an annoyance reducing pedestrian amenity and they also create a safety issue for pedestrians. Sometimes a polite reminder is all it takes to encourage people to follow the rules and keep footpaths clear for pedestrians.

Our distinctive Yellow Feet leaflets can be placed on the windscreens of vehicles parked on footpaths. They say - ‘Please don’t park on the footpath - it puts others at risk. You could be towed or fined. Children could get hit if forced

onto the road. Wheelchairs and pushchairs can’t get past. Vision-impaired people could injure themselves.”

Yellow Feet are available free to Living Streets Aotearoa members. Councils and other organisations can order print runs with their logo included – or find a sponsor and we can get them printed for you with your sponsor's name.

[Find out how to order Yellow Feet.](#)

[Watch a video showing the impact of parking on footpaths](#)



Where do you like walking?

We would love to see a photo of your favourite footpath, or pedestrian plaza, or good walking space. What do you like about it? Please share it with us.

Ellen Blake from Living Streets Wellington tells us about one of her favourite footpaths...

“Wigan Street is one of my favourite footpaths, not so much because it meets a good footpath standard. It is more that it is away from busy, noisy, wide and fairly boring Taranaki Street.

“Wigan has a number of interesting views and shops. It has a favourite cinema, the bike parks are on the road, and has a couple of different routes and shortcuts through to various destinations. And there are usually people out walking here too.”

Join Living Streets Aotearoa

Your membership helps us continue to be a credible voice for pedestrian issues, working to make our cities and towns more liveable.

As a member, you'll be informed about events and other activities of Living Streets Aotearoa, including ways to get involved and help us to influence decisions relevant to pedestrians. Members receive a discount on the registration fee for our biennial Walking Summit.

[Find out more about joining Living Streets Aotearoa](#)

Ways to connect with Living Streets Aotearoa



ABOUT LIVING STREETS AOTEAROA

Living Streets Aotearoa is the national organisation promoting walking-friendly communities. You can find out more about us at www.livingstreets.org.nz.

Living Streets Aotearoa



**PO Box 1579
Whangarei, NTL 0140
New Zealand**