



Living Streets Aotearoa

Welcome to the September 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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Sharing the nominations for our Golden Foot Walking Award finalists

In our August e-Bulletin we [profiled the seven Golden Foot Walking Awards winners](#).



This month we have collated a [summary of the 13 finalists](#) on our website, with information from their nominations.

The finalists include two walking to school initiatives, a gumboot swap, murals in walking spaces, public transport link improvements, one person's personal challenge to walk every street in Dunedin and many more. All are fantastic projects encouraging and supporting walking!

Here is a list of the finalists. [Go to this Living Streets Aotearoa webpage to read the summaries.](#)

- Supporting Safe, Green and Healthy School Travel for Grantlea Downs School, Timaru by Timaru District Council
- Walking School Buses, Berhampore School and Miramar Central School, Wellington by Wellington City Council
- Paraparaumu Transport Hub by Kāpiti Coast District Council

- Carterton BRT Stop and Park and Ride Project by Metlink and Greater Wellington Regional Council
- Walking Every Street in Greater Dunedin by Julie Woods
- Northern Southland Walk Group
- Waitaha and Te Tai Poutini Healthy Neighbourhoods Community of Practice by Christchurch City Council
- Waimapihi Mural, Garrett Street, Wellington by Isobel Joy Te Aho-White (Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Kahungunu ki te Wairoa)
- St James Theatre Mural, Kia whakatōmuri te haere *whakamua*, Wellington by Keri-Mei Zagrobelna (Te Āti Awa, Te Whānau-ā-Apanui) and Tina Rae Carter
- Hāwera Town Centre Strategy by South Taranaki District Council
- Installation of Many New Raised Crossings, Wellington by Wellington City Council
- Featherston Street Safety Improvements Project, Palmerston North by Palmerston North City Council
- Gumbboot Swap, Shirley, Ōtautahi Christchurch by The Shirley Village Project.



Living Streets Aotearoa's 2024 AGM

Our 2024 AGM was held on Wednesday 28 August - thanks to all the members who attended, and those who sent apologies!

You can download the full [President's Report](#) and [Financial Statement and Review](#) from our website.

Our newly elected Executive Council is:

President: Tim Jones

Vice-President: Caroline McElnay

Secretary: Craig Stansfield

Treasurer: Chris Teo-Sherrell

Executive Council members: Carina Duke, Robin Rawson and Bill Frith

At the AGM, we thanked former Executive Council member Ellen Blake, who did not stand for re-election. Ellen has been a tireless, passionate advocate for walking and for Living Streets Aotearoa for many years and has played a huge role in organising Living Streets Aotearoa events, including recent Walking Summits, the Golden Foot Walking Awards and Walk2Work Day. We will miss her energy and enthusiasm.

We also thanked former Vice-President Carina Duke and former Treasurer Robin Rawson, who stood down from their named positions at this AGM, although both were re-elected to our Executive Council. Carina's expert knowledge in best practice for walking infrastructure, and her walking advocacy in and for Ōtautahi / Christchurch and the South Island more generally, continues to be invaluable, and Robin's expertise, energy and eye for detail has helped to greatly improve our financial management. She'll be staying on to help our incoming Treasurer.

We also welcomed new Executive Council member Bill Frith, whose involvement in walking research will help our work to fill a significant gap in New Zealand transport planning.

We've had [a significant policy win](#) in the past year, and celebrated [a highly successful edition of our Golden Foot Walking Awards](#), but there are some tough challenges ahead. The incoming Executive Council is meeting this week as we get on with tackling those challenges!

Tim Jones, President, Living Streets Aotearoa

How to use your mobile phone to report issues for pedestrians

Sometimes when we are out walking there are obstacles in our path, or hazards which make the way less desirable for pedestrians. The good news is that we don't have to put up with it!

Many councils have signed up to apps where the public can report concerns. Indeed councils need us to let them know when things are not right, they need our eyes and ears. Letting them know there is an issue is the first step to getting it fixed. If you have a mobile phone, apps make this easy and quick to do.

Apps for your mobile phone. [Snap Send Solve](#) is the universal app that works for all councils in New Zealand. You can download it onto your mobile phone and use it to directly report

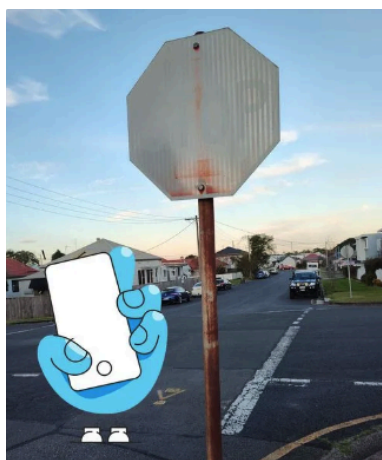
issues. If you see that your council hasn't specifically signed up to this app, that's OK. Snap Send Solve will automatically forward your issue to the appropriate council.

Other apps that councils use are FIXiT and Antenno. A quick check on your local council website should tell you which app works best for them.

What can you report? Pretty much anything to do with pedestrian access can be sent to your council for sorting.

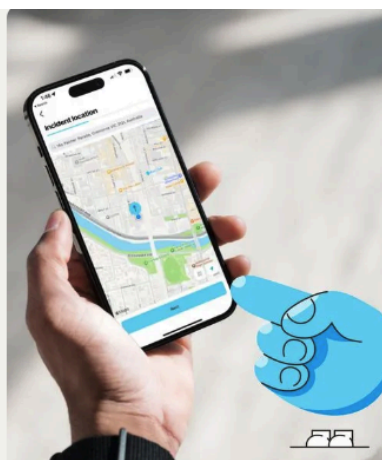
For example, parking on the footpath, clutter on the footpath, e-scooters blocking the way, inadequate signage for pedestrians, footpath damage, vegetation obstructing the footpath, too short a time to cross at the signals, construction or roadworks taking over the footpath.

The apps let you attach photos, and the location of the problem. Give it a go!



Snap

Spotted an issue? Snap to help get it fixed!



Send

Send a report on the spot. No clunky forms or hold times.



Solve

We'll get it to the right place so it can get Solved!

Beam e-scooters removed from Auckland streets after serious compliance breach

All Beam e-scooters have been deactivated and removed from Auckland streets, following a Council decision.

Auckland City Council found out that the e-scooter hire company was exceeding the number of permitted scooters operating at any one time. The Council regards this as a serious compliance breach, and it has been referred to the NZ Police.

[Here is a news report from RNZ National.](#)



Other Councils, [including Wellington City Council](#), are now investigating whether Beam has breached their licence conditions. [Wellington City Council has removed Beam e-scooters from the streets](#) until their investigation is complete.

Whilst Living Streets Aotearoa is not against the use of e-scooters in towns and cities, we do not want them used on footpaths.

Our stated position is: Living Streets considers that the safety and amenity of pedestrians must be prioritised in any decisions about use of footpaths for new forms of micro-mobility, in particular, the safety of young and older people, and for those with visual, hearing and mobility impairments.

Everyone is a pedestrian every day, and walking or wheel-chairing is the connection with all other forms of travel. Footpath space is the social space in all our towns and cities and needs to remain safe and pleasant for pedestrians to use.

To ensure pedestrian safety in New Zealand, e-scooters need to be banned from footpaths (sidewalks / pavements). Where space is needed for new forms of micro-mobility this should be taken from road space currently used for vehicles as it is motor-vehicle trips that should be reduced.

[You can read our full policy statement here.](#)

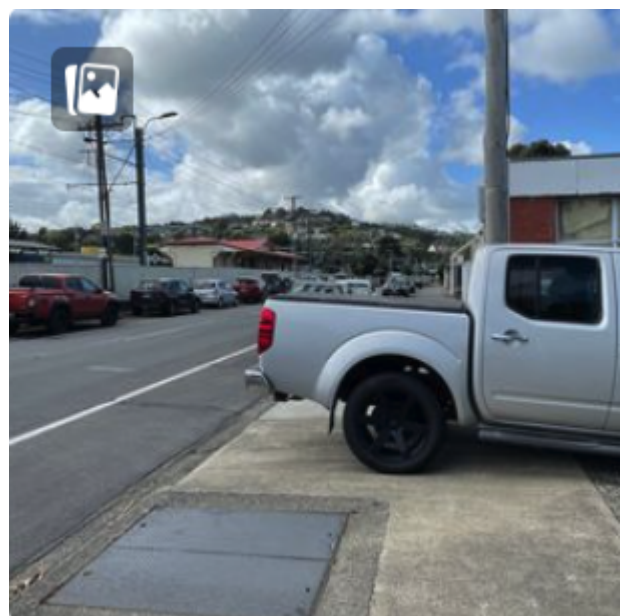
License renewal in Auckland. Auckland Council is due to consider renewing e-scooter operating licenses in November. This is a good opportunity to remind Auckland Council – and other Councils who have e-scooter licensing decisions coming up – that the problems are far more than just the number of scooters reported to them. Although we applaud their strong action, we implore them to ban the riding of e-scooters on footpaths or, at the very least, require that they all be parked only in designated areas and be ridden at no more than 10km/h if on footpaths.

If you're in Auckland, we encourage you to email micromobility@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz and urge the Council to ban e-scooters from footpaths, or at least, set tougher licence conditions along the lines above.

Fines for parking on footpaths and pedestrian crossings increased

Parking fines, which have remained static since 2004, are increasing from 1 October 2024 - you can [read the Government announcement](#) and [see the new schedule of fines](#) (PDF).

The biggest increase – a long-overdue one - is that the fine from parking in a mobility parking space has increased from \$150 to \$750.



Fines for parking on a footpath, on a pedestrian crossing, and in various other places that endanger pedestrians have also been increased – for example, the fine for parking on a footpath has gone up from \$40 to \$70. That’s still not as much as it should be, but if coupled with more active enforcement by Councils, it should go some way towards deterring car users from endangering pedestrians in this way.

Order our [Yellow Feet leaflets](#) to remind drivers not to park on the footpath!

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

