



Living Streets Aotearoa

## ***Welcome to the August 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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- Our Golden Foot Walking Awards delivered a fabulous batch of winners and finalists
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## **Our Golden Foot Walking Awards delivered a fabulous batch of winners and finalists**



We were thrilled by the calibre of entries for our 2024 Golden Foot Walking Awards.

The seven winners and 13 finalists included local walking groups, a neighbourhood street trial, a community-led sculpture trail, school travel plans and many more initiatives encouraging walking.

The awards ceremony was held in the Galleria at Parliament on 23 July, hosted by Celia Wade-Brown

QSO MP.

**Andy Smith Award and Events Award.** Firstly, announcing the winner of the supreme award! The inaugural Andy Smith Award was presented for an extraordinary achievement for walking. The winner was the Walk1200km initiative by Wilderness Magazine. It was great to have Alistair Hall, editor of the magazine, at Parliament to accept the award. The

award is named in honour of the former president of Living Streets Aotearoa, Andy Smith, and was presented by his nieces Pam Tramoundanas and Linda Smith.



Walk1200km is a challenge where participants attempt to walk 1200 km in 12 months. The goal is to encourage and foster a daily walking habit. In the first year, approximately 2500 people joined. In the second year it grew to around 4700, and in 2024 there are 6500 registered participants. Walk1200km has got so many people walking in our towns, our cities and all around Aotearoa.

This project also won the Events Award. [Read more...](#)



*Photo: Ellen Blake (Living Streets Aotearoa) left, Pam Tramoundanas and Linda Smith (Andy Smith's nieces), Alistair Hall from Wilderness Magazine.*

**School Project Award.** The winner of this award was Waimataitai School in Timaru for its School Travel Plan. The school developed and implemented a school travel plan to increase the use of active modes of transport, improve safety, and reduce congestion at the school gate.



At a 12-month evaluation, walking and scooting to and from the school had increased by 24%. [Read more...](#)



**Extraordinary Walkers Award.** This Golden Foot Walking Award was presented to Kiwi Seniors Active Walkers in Southland. The group started in 1992 as a Hillary Commission programme called Active in Age which was designed to encourage people aged over 50 to exercise more. They have walked weekly since then and have a membership of more than 100. Walking is the main activity, but the

social side is also very important. [Read more...](#) Footnote: A group leader says: “We are really happy about the award. I think it will travel with us on the bus each week.”

**Urban Connection Award.** Wellington City Council won the Urban Connection Award for its Freyberg Street Neighbourhood Street Trial. This was the Council’s first low traffic neighbourhood street trial. The goals of the project included enhancing safety for students commuting to Lyall Bay School, promoting the use of active transport modes among students and parents, and creating a more pleasant environment for people who live in the area and go to school there. [Read more...](#)



*Photo: Ellen Blake from Living Streets Aotearoa presenting the award to the Wellington City Council team at the awards evening at Parliament.*

**Place-making Award.** We awarded this Golden Foot Walking Award to the Geraldine Sculpture Trial by Geraldine.nz. The Geraldine Sculpture Trail was created to inspire and



delight the community and visitors by developing four walking loops each connecting the CBD with the natural environment, art, history and culture. Unique in New Zealand, this free and accessible open-air gallery showcases high quality art set in Geraldine’s riverside woodlands, rhododendron dell, expansive domain and ancient podocarp forest. [Read more...](#)

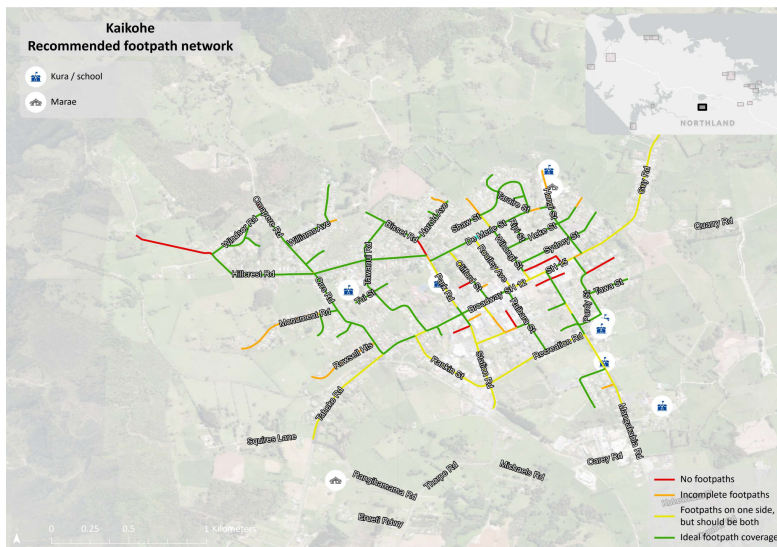
**Walking Champion Award.** This was presented at the awards ceremony to Frank Goldingham. Frank has made a significant and lasting contribution to society via tirelessly championing walking in Aotearoa New Zealand and internationally. He has done this by promoting walking, profiling hundreds of walks, publicising walking events and walking

groups throughout New Zealand through his magazine Walking New Zealand, and founding the successful Manawatū Walking Festival. [Read more...](#)



**Programmes Award.** Far North District Council received the Programmes Award for its Urban Active Modes Plan. Whilst

the Far North District is largely rural, there are a dozen urban areas where people could use active transport for daily needs. The urban active modes plan focuses on improving footpaths and crossings in the district. It is possibly the first time anyone has accurately quantified the scale of work needed on footpaths to get them up to a minimum standard. The appropriate crossing type



and recommended footpath coverage on every street in 14 towns was produced. (Image shows recommended footpath network for Kaikohe.) [Read more...](#)

**Finalists.** [Our website shows the full list of finalists and winners.](#) Congratulations everyone!

## US Congress investigates the risk to pedestrians from oversized vehicles

*Living Streets Aotearoa President Tim Jones writes:*

Our April 2023 eBulletin [highlighted the increasing risk oversized vehicles such as double-cab utes pose to pedestrians](#). We think the Government needs to regulate the import and/or use of these dangerous vehicles, and it's one of the policy areas we plan to do more work on.

In the US, politicians are now paying serious attention to this issue. As [this article](#) notes:

"Between 1993 and 2023, the average vehicle on U.S. roads swelled by 1,000 pounds, while simultaneously getting four inches wider, 10 inches longer and eight inches taller — bloat that's driven by the increasing sales of pick-up trucks and SUVs... One study estimated that 18 percent of pedestrian deaths could be avoided just by capping the hood height of passenger trucks and SUVs at the level of a modest crossover."

Driven by the extra profits to be made from selling oversized vehicles, the same trends of increasing vehicle size, weight and bonnet height have been seen here. The technological aids now available in many vehicles don't fix those issues. Big utes may have their place on the farm, but they're a menace in our cities – and it's time the Government acted to reduce the risk.

Replacing our current fleet of internal combustion engine cars with electric cars is often touted as the key action to reduce transport greenhouse gas emissions. While EVs have an important role to play, investing in better public transport, walking and cycling would be a much better solution for our cities' transport issues – and it turns out that EVs pose risks of their own to pedestrians.

A [recent UK study](#) found that "the average annual casualty rates of pedestrians per 100 million miles for electric or hybrid-electric cars/taxis was 5.16 and for petrol or diesel cars/taxis was 2.40, showing that electric or hybrid-electric vehicle collisions with pedestrians were on average twice as likely. Pedestrian collisions with electric or hybrid-electric vehicles were shown to be even more likely in urban environments (2.5 times as likely as with petrol or diesel cars/taxis)."

The reason is that electric cars are much quieter than petrol or diesel cars, meaning that pedestrians don't hear them coming.

It's good that electric cars are becoming more common on New Zealand roads – but that mustn't happen at the expense of pedestrian safety.

## **In the news - coverage of the Golden Foot Walking Awards...**

[Southland's extraordinary walkers win Golden Foot.](#) A group for Southland seniors has been meeting every week for the past 32 years to go for a walk. The group, Kiwi Seniors Active Walkers Southland, was recognised with an Extraordinary Walkers Award at the Golden Foot Walking Awards.

[Council puts its best foot forward.](#) Far North District Council (FNDC) has stepped up to win a Golden Foot Walking Award for its drive to improve active transport options in the Far North.

[Timaru District wins award dedicated to walking.](#) A Timaru school's travel plan and a Geraldine sculpture trail have proven they are a step above the rest — award winners in the Golden Foot Walking Awards which recognise an ongoing commitment to walking and pedestrians.

[Wellington City Council projects recognised with awards and acknowledgement.](#) The Freyberg Street neighbourhood street trial won the Urban Connection Award at the Golden Foot Walking Awards, recognising the safer street initiative installed outside Lyall Bay School last year.

## 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](http://www.livingstreets.org.nz).

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