



International Symposium

Active Living and Environment: Towards a Healthier and More Sustainable Future

28 – 30 August 2017 | University of Otago | Dunedin | New Zealand

Comments from Symposium Delegates

Email Feedback from Symposium Delegates

"Thanks so much again for organising the Active Living and Environment Symposium. I think it was a real success, with numerous great presentations, reinforcement of the importance of what we are all trying to achieve, and also some great networking opportunities."

Martin Dutton, Senior Advisor, Nutrition & Physical Activity Policy, Public Health, Ministry of Health New Zealand

"Thanks for a great symposium – was awesome to see how many enthusiastic people you have in your research community."

Claire Pascoe, New Zealand Transport Agency, Wellington, New Zealand

"I want to congratulate you and your team on an excellent conference. I found it very stimulating and it was incredibly well-organized!"

Professor John Spence, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada

"Thank you for facilitating my presentation at a distance, I was thrilled to still be able to participate in the conference, and was sad to miss the rest of the presentations - the programme looked great. I look forward to seeing the slides etc., when they are available on the website! ... I am immensely proud of the BEATS team, and honoured to be part of it."

Dr Debbie Hopkins, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom

"THANK YOU so much for inviting me to your symposium, it was a huge honour and I really enjoyed my short time there."

Assoc Prof Melody Smith, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand

"I really enjoyed my day at the conference and found it illuminating. The organisation of the symposium was superb. Congratulations and thank you again."

Dr Marie Russell, Department of Public Health, University of Otago, Wellington

"Puno ti hvala opet za neverovatno interesantni simpozium. "working together" je bilo narocito vazno, i simpozium je bio velika pomoc za to!" [*"Thank you very much for an incredibly interesting symposium. "Working together" was particularly important and the symposium was a great help in that regard!"*]

Tamara Bozovic, Principal Transport Planner, New Zealand Transport Agency, Hamilton, New Zealand

"Fantastic symposium. Everyone I spoke to was just buzzing about it. The organisation was incredibly professional. I've been to transport conferences where a consultant has been paid vast amounts to organise exactly what you and your team did. I was very, very impressed."

Charlotte Flaherty, Symposium delegate, Dunedin, New Zealand

"Thanks for your emails following up from the ALE symposium which was a great success. Really enjoyed my two days and it was very worthwhile for me to come. Thank you for hosting us and for being so incredibly well organised with everything you put together. There was a nice feel to it all and people were very welcoming and friendly."

Kirsty Barr, School Travel Planning, Contractor for Queenstown Lakes District Council, Wanaka, New Zealand

"Thank you so much for an awesome conference."

Dr Meredith Perry, School of Physiotherapy, University of Otago, Wellington, New Zealand

"Thanks for a great conference"

Delvina Gorton, Southern District Health Board, Queenstown

"As a School Road Safety practitioner I found attending the Symposium constructive and motivational, there is so much passion and drive in both presenters and delegates to make change! Along with new concepts and findings I also made valuable contacts who have willingly shared their experience and knowledge with me."

Stephanie Hautler, School Road Safety Coordinator, Selwyn District Council, New Zealand

"Thanks for a great symposium!"

James Young, Greater Christchurch Partnership, Christchurch, New Zealand

"I really enjoyed the conference and gained a lot from it. Thank you for all the hard work to organise it for us."

Bernadine Walsh, Manager, SmartGrowth Bay of Plenty Partnership, New Zealand

"Nos hemos venido muy contentos de todo lo aprendido y como tu dices de los amigos encontrados y del mes tan bonito que hemos pasado con vosotros. MUCHAS GRACIAS por todo. Seguimos en contacto." [“We have returned home very happy about everything we learned and, as you said, with the friends we met and a great month spent with you. THANK YOU VERY MUCH for everything. We will keep in touch.”]

Professor Eduardo Generelo Lanaspá, University of Zaragoza, Huesca, Spain

"The last week our project PACO visited New Zealand and I gave an invited talk at the Symposium, and the project was well received and generated curiosity. The Symposium organized by Sandy Mandic - we are lucky because she is a collaborator in our project - has been spectacular. I think it has been the best organized symposium with a high quality that I have attended on this topic, with a participation of 80 people mixing policy makers from transport, health and education sectors with researchers from these areas and furthermore, organizations and associations. All participants talked using a common framework of good intentions regarding the promotion of active mobility and built environment. I want to thank Sandra and now, I know who I will ask to organize a very good conference." [Translated from Spanish.]

Associate Professor Palma Chillón, University of Granada, Granada, Spain

"It was a really well run, interesting symposium and have found it useful in different components of my work with the Public Health Unit, so many thanks to the organising committee. Hopefully it can become an annual or bi-annual event."

Emily Kerr, Waikato District Health Board, Hamilton, New Zealand

"Many thanks to all of you for inviting me and for putting together this wonderful event. The excellent feedback is totally deserved and the expressed desire to have something like this every two years very encouraging."

Dr Enrique García Bengoechea, Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia

Anonymous feedback from the symposium delegates provided in the symposium evaluation form:

What did you enjoy most at ALE 2017 Symposium?

International examples, information sharing, tool sharing/insight.

Keynote speakers

Hearing about how practitioners translate research results into concrete actions/programmes/policy changes. Hearing how collaboration can work.

Broad breadth of topics

Expanding my own worldview and research ideas.

Exposure to new ideas.

Fantastic opportunity to engage with people involved in a wide range of PA/cycling roles.

Great ideas.

Hearing about all the good work happening in NZ

Hearing from the Health sector.

In particular, John Spence's discussion, but the experiences of the presenters has been amazing!

Learning new knowledge, meetings others doing the same type of work as me

Meeting everyone and learning about their work.

Meeting international academics.

Meeting others.

Meeting people with similar interests.

Multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral representations. Dinner was awesome!

Multidisciplinarity and internationality

The multi-disciplinary features of the symposium.

The range of presentations - town planning to public health.

The range of topics

The opportunity to exchange ideas and to know different work perspectives.

Networking and listening to presenters who have a lot of experience and expert in this field.

Networking and presentations from government agencies.

Networking and talking with others with similar interests and work. Debating the way forward.

Networking opportunities.

Networking with other delegates

People I met and individual/group discussions.

Sharing ideas with different colleagues

The mix of activity and environment.

Active transport and nature links

The variety of presentations and the whole group coming together in BURNS 1 to listen to invited speakers.

Third day keynote speakers.

Variety of speakers.

Very impressed. MOT and NZTA presenters really good.

Other selected comments about the symposium from the official evaluation form:

The best symposium I've been to regarding quality and multi-disciplinary view.

Form a society around it.

Great inspiring event - thank you!

Fantastic group of people, good size conference.

For a first time international symposium, this was so professional!

Well done to the organisers for a highly successful symposium. You all should be congratulated for such a well-presented event. Sandy and company, you are all amazing.

Thank you, it was well worth attending.

Hold the symposium in Dunedin every time as it is important especially at Otago University and link to PA.

This type of symposium should be organised in NZ once every 2 years to have feedback on practical applications and interventions resulting directly from research being presented in previous conference (This could travel from one uni to another?)

Provided a forum to engage in dialogues with mostly academics but a great range. This type of symposium should be organised once every 3 years only because it is so time-consuming for the organisers over and above their busy days, there is much to do! Provided opportunities for questions.

This type of symposium should be organised once every 3+ years and could add it onto another conference and have a special one day dedicated to this topic but share conference costs, risks and profit. E.g. a public health conference. Locations of organising future symposiums depend on your goals and costs.

Well run

Very fantastic. I really enjoyed it!

Thank you for all your efforts.

Thank you for a wonderful symposium.

Congratulations to the organization

Great work!

PERFECT!