



Newsletter #6

October 2011



## Spring Streetworks

It looks like a large scale operation; Oxford St is blocked off by a sea of road cones and a smattering of high-viz vests can be seen dotted down the road. Volunteers are sorted into lines based on their surnames and sign-in for a day of work. Signs help up high draw people into different groups – snow party, helping the elderly, clean ups. It's a well-oiled machine; but more than being a machine, it's an outworking of faith, passion and heart! At a glance, it is obvious that hard work and time have been invested into what is unfolding; but for each visible hour of work are many unseen hours! Many heartfelt conversations about the responsibility to engage people in serving; many prayers of desire to see hearts stirred and mindsets shift; much soul searching about walking the talk.

The street lined with road cones is an invitation – to a beginning; to the start of something. Yes, it's a day of hard work; but may the work not stop when the sun goes down. On this particular day there are pre-set task lists – fences to be painted, furniture collected, homes cleaned, the day is full! But, everyday there are conversations to be had, neighbours to be met, and gestures of love to be given and received. The road cones, the crowds, the buzz, the food – all make it exciting but can we, will we, continue when none of the excitement is there? Will we serve, love and give even if no one notices or gratefully receives? Will we do our best to water the seeds planted by many on these days but nurtured by so few?

# THANK YOU

Agora  
Gateway Church  
New World Heaphy Tce  
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THERE ARE NO WORDS TO DESCRIBE HOW GRATEFUL  
WE ARE FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO  
STREETWORKS!!!

IT IS ONLY THROUGH THE **GENEROSITY**  
OF PEOPLE LIKE **YOURSELF** THAT  
STREETWORKS CAN EXIST!



At the start of this year, Streetworks changed up the way it ran in order to be sustainable and continue to grow. The (hard)core team was created! That is where I come in: my name is Erin and I am a new face to Streetworks. This is my second year being a part of Streetworks and the second year of my degree in Occupational Therapy.

I've had the honour of being a part of the core team and worked alongside Claire, Brad, Colin, Jono, Olivia and Stu. Spring Streetworks was the first big event with core team helping. We had multiple meetings leading up to the big day, including the all-in leaders meetings and prayer night. Every meeting started with a round of 'highlight and lowlights' of the week. We would talk about concerns we had with the event and then brainstorm a solution. The core team meant there were seven different brains, all wired differently, working to come up with solutions. We would share progress of the areas we were in charge of so that everyone was in the loop. We worked together on helping each other out if needed or just help celebrate when problems were resolved. Every meeting involved prayer; for each other, the event, project leaders, volunteers, those we would be helping on the day and many prayers of thanks!!!!

Creating a team means that if one of us is unable to take part in an event there will still be six others committed. It means that overall running of the events is not left to one or two people. Seven shoulders now carry Streetworks and it is a much lighter load. The core team will ideally allow Streetworks to grow and take on new challenges while up holding our core values of serving that one in front of you and putting our faith into action.

- Erin Hancock



To see more photos of  
Spring Streetworks  
check out our website  
or facebook!

[www.streetworks.org.nz](http://www.streetworks.org.nz)

When I was first asked to be a Streetworks Project Leader, I jumped at the chance. The prospect of working with a team of passionate people who desire to make a difference in their community filled me with excitement. However, it wasn't long before the doubts started to form; having only been in New Zealand for a few months, I was unsure that I'd have the contacts or capacity to put together a project and gather the required resources.

I needn't have worried! After an initial meeting, it became clear that the whole process would be straight forward. Streetworks had a list of projects from previous years that I could choose from and I was given contact details of organisations that could help me out. The values of active discipleship, people, community, authenticity and integrity that underpin all that Streetworks does struck a chord with my heart. As I took hold of the vision, I began to plan a project to reach out to elderly in the community. With just 11 days to go, I received an email telling me that there had been a mix up and the elderly I was planning on helping were already being helped! I thought it was a complete disaster, but I was reassured that it would all be alright in the end. I frantically started to plan the project from scratch again. After phone calls, emails and house visits the project came together. It was amazing to see how everything just fell in to place and I even had a couple of days to spare.

On the day, some of our team spent time with elderly residents at a retirement home, chatting, looking at photos and listening to stories of times of old. Others spent the day renovating a garden and chopping wood for a lovely couple. We were also able to do some sorting and cleaning for another elderly lady. As a team we were tremendously blessed as we served these great people and as they shared their lives with us. Getting together at the end of the day with other teams for a BBQ and the most amazing brownie ever was a real privilege. We got to rest our weary bodies, hear stories of the day and be encouraged about the work that had been done in the name of Jesus.

- Nicola Froggatt



**Keep an eye out for our mini-backyard blitz day happening on November 19<sup>th</sup>!!! We need some keen volunteers to help meet the overwhelming demand we've received for clearing up peoples' gardens and sections**

