

The Walking Festival 2026 – Walk Tātāriki's (Leaders) Information

March 28, 29 & April 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17,18 & 19

The Walking Festival, now in its 12th year, provides an opportunity for a broad range of community groups and organisations to celebrate walking.

Please note the festival is running over a non-consecutive 3 week period with Tuesdays, Thursdays and the first lot of weekdays being avoided.

The Festival is a big team effort, and has over 30 different groups leading and supporting walks across the region in a variety of locations and catering for all abilities and interests.

The Committee is responsible for the following aspects of the Walking Festival including producing some of the walk events, coordination of the overall Walking Festival online applications, and the online platform, liaison with Walk Tātāriki's (Leaders) and the overall administration and marketing for the Walking Festival.

The Walking Festival is promoted via the Christchurch City Council website and Facebook page, and various other digital and physical marketing avenues. Walk Tātāriki's (leaders) are encouraged to carry out marketing activities for their walks.

Due to the increasing level of interest in the Walking Festival from Walk Tātāriki's (leaders)/organisations we may need to limit the number of walks included.

KEY DATES 2025

Wednesday 26 November

Online applications open

Thursday 22 January 12-1pm (teams)

Leaders Meeting (registered & potential)

Friday 23 January

Online applications close

January 27th 5-6 pm

Training - Promotion & templates

February 3rd 5-6 pm

Training - Booking system setup

February 15th

Programme and promotion material available

WALKING FESTIVAL 2026 OBJECTIVES:

EXPLORE, LEARN AND CONNECT HŌPARA, AKO ME HONO

Hapori:	Developing community well-being
Whenua:	People are connected & feel a sense of belonging to their local place, to Ōtautahi and surrounding districts
Whānau:	Our stakeholders and partners are supported provide recreational opportunities
Te Ara:	Provide pathways for people to continue to walk regularly

KEY TARGET AUDIENCES WE WANT TO ENGAGE THROUGH THE WALKING FESTIVAL INCLUDE:

People who may be less active or new to walking, along with families, pre-schoolers, children, youth, older adults, Māori, Pacific communities, migrants, people with disabilities, and those who are new to the area. The festival aims to reduce barriers to participation by offering welcoming, accessible, and supportive opportunities that encourage people from all parts of our diverse hapori to get involved.

WALKING FESTIVAL SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE & WALK CHECKLIST

You will be responsible for the risk assessment of your walk. We will assist by supplying a blank template to assist in your planning of the walk. If you have previously participated in the festival we will supply your previously submitted risk assessments. You will be responsible for any changes or modifications that are required for your 2026 walk.

HOW TO /APPLY

All walk events must be submitted through the online application form.

For your application to be considered for acceptance as a Walk Provider you will need to:

- Submit the online application form
- We will be in contact afterwards regarding risk assessments, maps, and further required details.

CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERING YOUR WALK EVENT APPLICATION

The Walking Festival Planning Committee will consider a number of factors when assessing the suitability of your proposed walk including:

- How does your Walk Event meet the objectives of Walking Festival?
- Duplication of locations or target groups on the same day – we will come back to discuss options to change dates.
- That you have included all relevant information in the online application form and attached the completed Safety Risk Assessment Form and your Site Plan

MARKETING

The Walk information which you provide through the online application form will be included in the Walking Festival promotional material including the online platform, social media. Your walk information may be reformatted and abridged.

Walk tātāriki's (leader) will be required to enter their Walks on the Christchurch Events website "What's On" event web page. Information on how to do this will be sent to Tātāriki's (leaders).

You are required to use Walking Festival logo on any marketing material which you produce for your Walk event. We want people attending your walk to know this is part of a bigger festival and encourage them to try something new. The logo helps to direct them to the website to get information about the rest of the walks on offer.

Promotion templates and Facebook promotion examples will be provided as well wording around event cancellations and postponements.

Please provide information about your additional promotions through the online application form.

FUNDING & ASSISTANCE

Community groups and organisations can apply to their local Community Board's Discretionary Response Fund or in some areas the Community Board Small Funds. More information can be found on these resources here:

- [Discretionary Response Fund : Christchurch City Council](#)
- [Community Board Small Funds : Christchurch City Council](#)

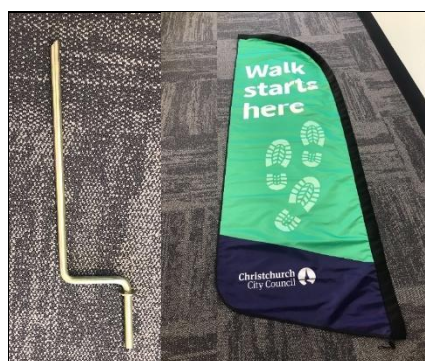
You can find your Community Board with the map [here](#) and contact your respective Community Recreation Advisor for assistance in funding applications as well as further support in your proposed walk:

Jacqui Miller	Waitai Coastal-Burwood-Linwood	03 941 5333	jacqui.miller@ccc.govt.nz
Lisa Gregory	Waimāero Fendalton-Waimairi-Harewood	03 941 6729	lisa.gregory@ccc.govt.nz
Jason Chee	Waipapa Papanui-Innes-Central	03 941 7145	jason.chee@ccc.govt.nz
Helen Miles	Waipuna Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton	03 941 5409	helen.miles@ccc.govt.nz
Nime Ah Kam-Sherlock	Waihoru Spreydon-Cashmere-Heathcote	03 941 5677	Menime.AhKamSherlock@ccc.govt.nz

WALK EVENT RESOURCES

After feedback from walker tātāriki (leaders) at the Festival debrief meeting we purchased a number of resources which can be used during the Walking Festival to support you. These are shown below in the photos. If you wish to use these please select the items you need using the online registration form.

Please note: we will work with you to supply these resources, this may involve you picking up or transferring the resources to the next group who requires them.



Double sided 2.2m Wind blade with spike to put into dirt/grass



Portable PA system with microphone and shoulder strap



High Vis Vest with Walking Festival on the back

WALK TĀTĀRIKI (LEADERS) REPORT

All walk leaders are responsible for submitting a quick and easy post walk report (template provided) about their walk within two weeks of completing the walk.

WALKING FESTIVAL CONTACT DETAILS EMAIL walkingfestival@ccc.govt.nz

Helen Miles	03 941 5409	helen.miles@ccc.govt.nz
James Watson	03 941 5384	james.watson@ccc.govt.nz

Please feel free to forward this information on to other interested parties. We welcome all enquiries.