

UD 2020: People and Transport

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Street Smart: A Pedestrian's View

Presenter: John Evernden, Director CUDA

Street Smart: A Pedestrian's View

The definition of Universal Design tends to indicate that the Principles are only applied at the Design Stage. This presentation demonstrates that the Principles can be applied to our paths of travel at any time - through Adaptation, Reconstruction, or in a Temporary Situation.



Street Smart: A Pedestrian's View

- Footways are being re-discovered by people who need to exercise, because of venue closures and distance restrictions imposed by the COVID 19 Pandemic, and by our ageing population.
- But do our footways do their job?



This 1.8 metre-wide footway does, and allows two wheelchairs or strollers to pass.



This narrow footway does not – It drops off to the roadway on one side and to the parking area on the other side – a hazard for most people.



This footway is 1.2 metres wide, and has no passing area for 250 metres.



The grass either side is 50 mm above the footway, making passing for wheelchairs and strollers impossible.



This long footway was 800 mm wide, but narrowed to 600 mm because of gravel and debris intrusion, with no passing area. Why is a passing area necessary?



This is why!

The lady with a walking frame and the young man with the stroller both have to move off the path so that they can pass.



Unfortunately, more emphasis is placed on the movement of vehicular traffic, at the expense of pedestrian traffic. Vehicles can drive into this slip lane at an angle, to the potential danger of pedestrians.



UD Solution: A lay-bye lane forces drivers to slow down to make a 90 degree turn into a property.



The result – a safer solution for pedestrians.



This water fountain is designed to be fully accessible but is inaccessible to many people because it is located on grass which has a sandy base and it is not connected to an accessible path of travel.



UD Retro-fit Solution: Council increased the size of the concrete slab so that people can approach the control button from the side that best suits their abilities; and connected the slab to the existing path of travel.



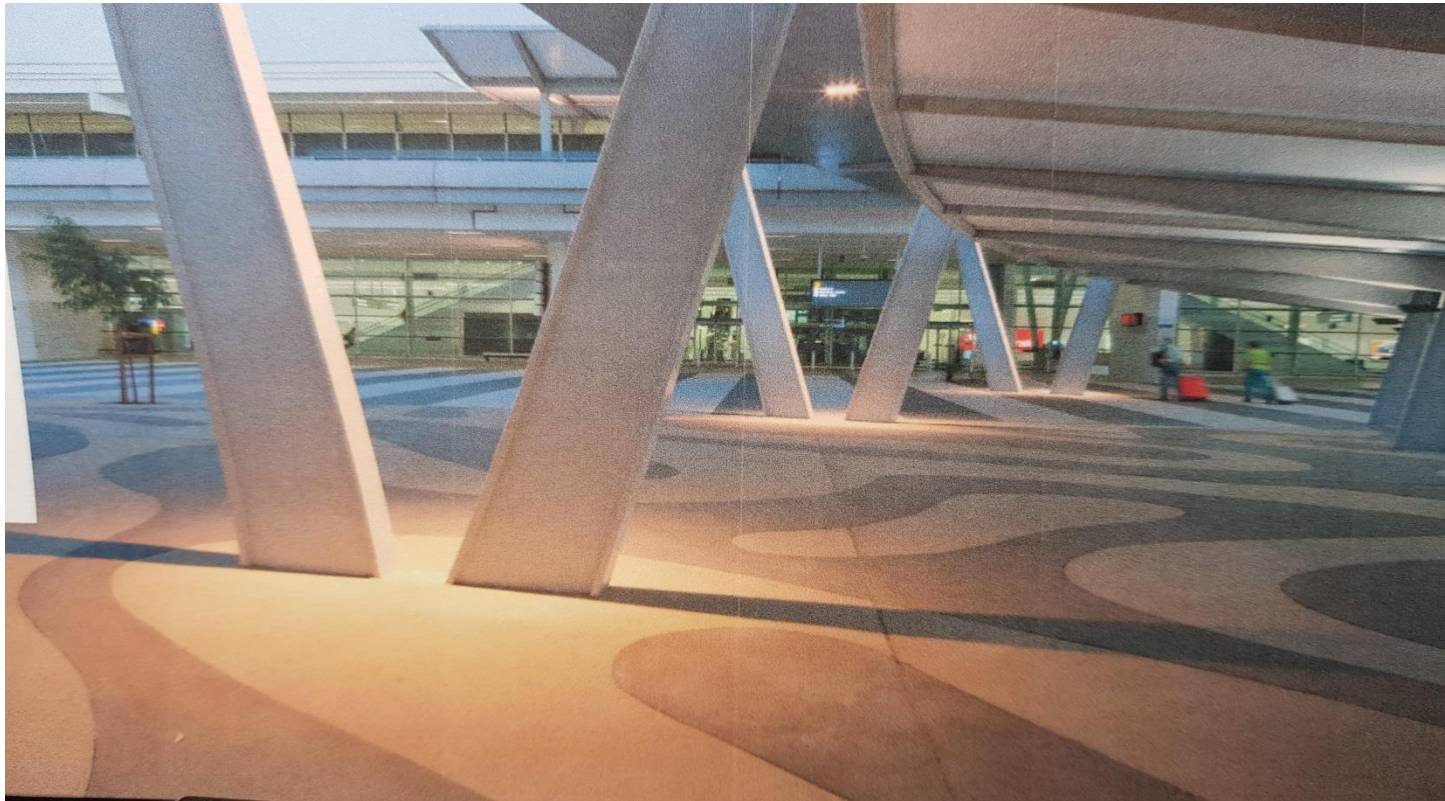
UD in Reconstruction: Church entry not accessible. Path to Church and Child Care Centre cracked. Morning tea on patio.



UD Solution: Cracked pathway excavated; new slab extends from upper step to grassed area; larger area on which to have morning tea.



Sloping columns are a potential hazard for people who have vision impairment



Sloping Columns: UD solution - Seating



A walk to the Post Box can be a disappointment



But this after-hours book return is O.K.



Resting places are an important part of walking – but not under bird-friendly trees.



Resting places in gardens are also a bad idea, especially when plants grow through the slats.



Striped features across a footway could appear as steps to a person who has low vision



Footway clutter is a hazard for people with vision impairment



Footway clutter can also be a hazard for every pedestrian. The bollard near the kerb is a bike rack



Overhanging shrubs make this footway impassable



Small walk-through traffic islands are safer for everyone.



This walk-through is a hazard, with sloping sides and no colour contrast.



This walk-through traffic median is safe, not raised and with colour contrast.



Tactile Ground Surface Indicators are not for decoration.



Correctly laid Tactile Ground Surface Indicators.



Conclusion

- **Are our footways doing their job?**
- **Many are not.**
- **So how do we unlock their value?**

Universal Design is the KEY!



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Questions?



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Centre for Universal Design Australia

udaustralia@gmail.com

Presenter: John Evernden,

B. Sc. (Tech.) Civil Engineering; B. App. Sc. Ecotourism;

Accredited Access Consultant

Director Centre for Universal Design Australia

jajevernden@gmail.com

0400 106 169



Heritage Issue - UD Solution



Temporary UD Solution

- The 90 year-old, heritage-listed Civic Theatre in Newcastle has a sloping floor. It was found that people who use a wheelchair, and who do not have adequate upper body strength, tend to flop forward because of the sloping floor. Management purchased ten rubber ramps that were designed to meet the grade of the sloping floor and provide a level upper surface. A raised hob at the front prevents a chair from rolling forward. The one metre wide X 500 mm deep ramps can be placed at many different places throughout the theatre depending on a person's sight or hearing abilities.

