



GEHL ARCHITECTS
URBAN QUALITY CONSULTANTS

/PUBLIC LIFE /DATA
SYDNEY



CLIENT

Sydney City Council
Town Hall House
456 Kent Street
Sydney
NSW 2000 Australia

Project Team:
Bridget Smyth
Laurence Johnson
Lei Liu
Pauline Chan

The following students from University of NSW, have participated in collecting data for the public life survey:

Maria Adriani
Jahnavi Ashar
Jillian Maree Bywater
Guru Prasanna Channa Basappa
Feng Hui
Feng Xiao
Gong Li
Liang Jin
Lin Zhi Jie
Kathleen Walsh McDowell
Rodrigo Ochoa Jurado
Thi Thu Huyen Pham
Fachri Dwi Rama
Wiranti Teddy
Wang Sheng
Wang Shu
Xie Qing Yi
Xu Pian Pian
Yue Jess
Zhou Yimin
Zhu Weijun

The following people from PPS - THE PEOPLE FOR PLACES AND SPACES have participated in collecting data for the public life survey:

Alison Hardacre
Renee Morrow
Heidi Willis
Luke Wilson



GEHL ARCHITECTS ApS
Gl. Kongevej 1, 4. tv.
DK-1610 Copenhagen V
CVR-nr.: 25 30 95 29
Tel.: + 45 32 950 951
Fax: +45 32 950 958
mail@gehlarchitects.dk
www.gehlarchitects.dk

GEHL ARCHITECTS
URBAN QUALITY CONSULTANTS

CONSULTANT

Gehl Architects ApS

Project Manager:
Jan Gehl, Professor, Dr. litt., architect MAA, FRIBA

Project Coordinator:
Henriette Mortensen, architect MAA

Project Team:
Sia Kirknæs, architect MAA
Johanna Kaaman, stud.arch
Johanna Ferrer Guldager, stud.arch
Mariken Landstad Helle, stud.arch

DISCLAIMER

The Public Spaces – Public Life Sydney 2007 has been commissioned by the City of Sydney for the purposes of providing expert advice and opinion by Jan Gehl of Gehl Architects on the opportunities for future public domain planning in the CBD.

The recommendations and findings by Gehl Architects have not been adopted or endorsed by Council in any way.

The information presented has been compiled using a variety of methods.

While care has been taken to ensure its accuracy the City of Sydney does not warrant the information complete or accurate.

FOREWORD

NEED FOR PEOPLE DATA

As most cities have excellent statistics on traffic flows and parking patterns, issues relating to traffic and parking are generally well represented in planning processes. Very few cities however, have data on how people use the city as pedestrians!

SPECIAL PEOPLE CONDITIONS

Sydney has a population of 4 million in the metropolitan area and welcomes more than 2.5 million visitors each year. The high number of people using the city makes it even more important to understand pedestrian activity and ensure pedestrian needs are reflected in future strategies and developments impacting on the public realm.

PEOPLE SPACES PUBLIC LIFE

In 2007 Gehl Architects conducted a public space and public life study in Sydney. The report published, Public Spaces, Public Life, Sydney 2007, includes summaries of the public life survey conducted. The detailed data is published in this separate document.

introduction

Method	Page 6
Survey area	Page 7

pedestrian traffic

Walking in the city centre	Page 9
Summer weekday 8am-6pm	Page 10
Summer weekday 6pm-12pm	Page 10
Summer Saturday 8am-6pm	Page 17
Summer Saturday 6pm-12pm	Page 17
Winter weekday 8am-6pm	Page 24
Winter weekday 6pm-12pm	Page 24

stationary activities

Spending time in the city	Page 33
Summer weekday 10am-8pm	Page 34
Winter weekday 10am-8pm	Page 40

age distribution

Absent user groups	Page 47
Summer weekday 11am-9pm	Page 48
Winter weekday 11am-9pm	Page 50





PUBLIC LIFE DATA

METHOD

PEDESTRIAN COUNTS AND OBSERVATIONS

The purpose of this study was to examine how public spaces are used. It provides information on where people walk and stay either as part of their daily activities or for recreational purposes. This can form the basis for future decisions on, which streets and routes to improve, to make them easy and pleasant places to visit, and not just act as traffic conduits.

The study also provides information on how many people sit, stand or carry out other stationary activities in the city and where they do it. These stationary activities act as a good indicator of the quality of the urban spaces. A large number of pedestrians walking in the city does not necessarily indicate a high level of quality. However a high number of people choosing to spend time in the city indicates a lively city of strong urban quality.

HOW THE DATA WAS COLLECTED

- Counting pedestrians
- Surveys of stationary activities (behavioural mapping)

METHOD

The method for collecting this information has been developed by GEHL Architects and used in previous studies in Perth, Melbourne, Adelaide, Wellington, London, Riga, Stockholm, Oslo, Copenhagen, Rotterdam, Edinburgh and a number of provincial cities in UK and Scandinavia.

- Pedestrian counts were carried out in selected streets for 10 minutes every hour between 8am and 12pm.
- Stationary activities were mapped every second hour between 10am and 8pm.
- The surveys took place on summer days with fine, sunny weather in March 2007 and on a fine winter day in July 2007.
- The data was collected on weekdays (Tuesday /Wednesday) and Saturdays.

STUDY AREAS

The counting positions have been chosen to provide the best possible overview of pedestrian traffic. The areas for recordings of staying activities are equally chosen with the intention to achieve knowledge of the study area as a whole.



pedestrian traffic survey

1. William Street
2. Oxford Street
3. Broadway
4. Pitt Street (a)
4. Pitt Street (b)
4. Pitt Street (c)
5. Dixon Street
6. George Street (a)
6. George Street (b)
6. George Street (c)
6. George Street (d)
7. Park Street
8. Market Street
9. Pyrmont Bridge
10. King Street
11. Sussex Street
12. Clarence Street
13. Pitt Street Mall
14. Castlereagh Street
15. Queen Square
16. Macquarie Street
17. Martin Place
18. Hunter Street
19. Bridge Street
20. Loftus Street
21. Young Street
22. Circular Quay

stationary activity survey

- a. Farrer Place
- b. Jessie Street Gardens
- c. Richard Jonson Square
- d. Macquarie Place Park
- e. First Government House
- f. Philip Lane
- g. Chiefley Square
- h. Queen Square
- i. First Fleet
- j. Circular Quay
- k. Herald Square, Custom House Square, Scout Place
- l. Regimental Square
- m. Sesquicentenary Square
- n. Sydney Square
- o. Pitt Street Mall
- p. World Square
- q. Brickfield Square
- r. Wynyard Park
- s. Martin Place
- t. Dixon Street
- u. Belmore Park
- v. Australia Square
- x. Hyde park



COUNTING POSITIONS FOR PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC



SQUARES AND STREETS WHERE STAYING ACTIVITIES
HAVE BEEN RECORDED



SYDNEY CENTRAL PLAZA

NO STOPPING
30 AND OVER
AREA

10
SHARED ZONE
ONE WAY TO POSTOFFICE

CENTREPOINT



Woolworths Shop

Woolworths

ANGUS & COOY

TOO

Bluebird

Woolworths

Woolworths Shop

PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

walking in the city centre

THERE IS MORE TO WALKING THAN WALKING

Walking is first and foremost a mode of transportation, but it also provides an opportunity to spend time in the public realm. Walking can be about experiencing the city at a comfortable pace, looking at shop windows, beautiful buildings, interesting views and other people. Walking is also about stopping and engaging in recreational or social activities because you have planned them or because you were tempted to as you walked along.

At some point we are all pedestrians walking from public transport, the bike rack, a parking structure or from home. As such streets should be welcoming to all of us.



MAIN WALKING LINKS AND PRIMARY DESTINATIONS IN THE CITY CENTRE



PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

summer weekday 8am - 6pm

LIMITED AMOUNT OF PEDESTRIANS

The general walking pattern shows that the highest concentrations of pedestrians are to be found in the retail core; Pitt Street Mall, George Street (between Market Street and King Street), Other concentrations of pedestrian volumes are found in Martin Place, Park Street, the southern part of George Street and in Broadway Street, where the students are and where there is commuter traffic to and from Central Station. In the northern part of the CBD George Street and Circular Quay are the most busy closely followed by Pitt Street.

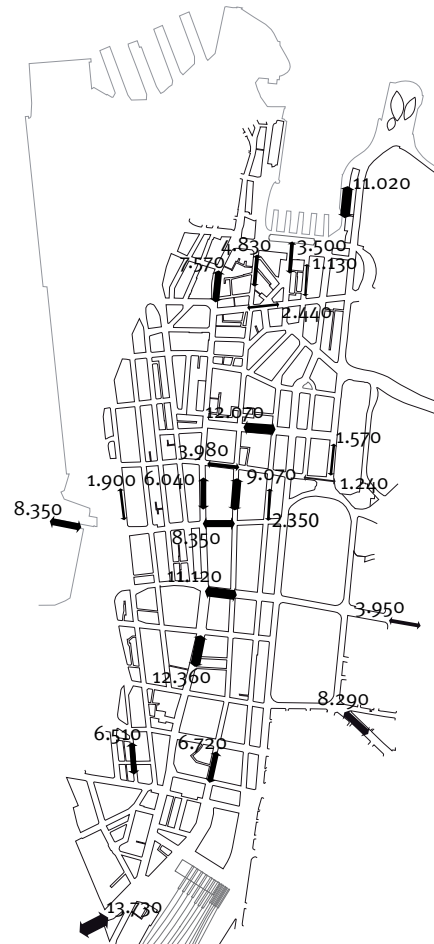
PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC LIMITED TO SHOPPING STREETS

Most of the pedestrian traffic is located to shopping streets and there is a limited spread to the rest of the city centre.

summer weekday evening 6pm - 12pm

LOW LEVEL OF EVENING TRAFFIC

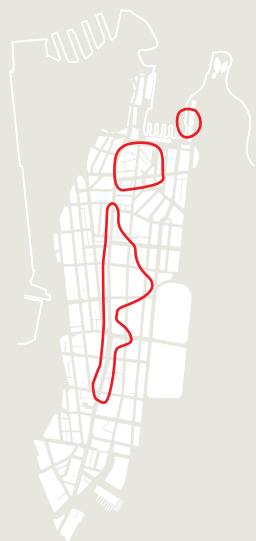
Compared to daytime traffic there is a substantial drop when the evening starts. Shops close between 6pm – 7pm and the majority of all visitors leaves the city centre. Evening traffic is 34% of daytime traffic. In comparison Copenhagen evening traffic is 50% of daytime traffic.



PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC
SUMMER WEEKDAY EVENING 6pm - 12pm 2007
Wednesday the 21st of March 2007
Weather: Mild, 23°C



PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC
SUMMER WEEKDAY 8am - 6pm 2007
Wednesday the 21st of March 2007
Weather: Mild and sunny, 28°C



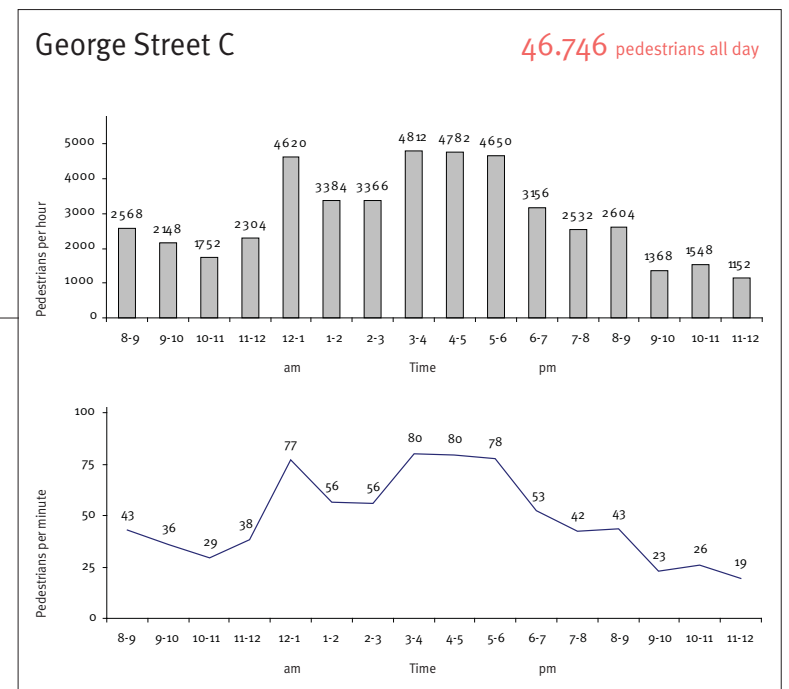
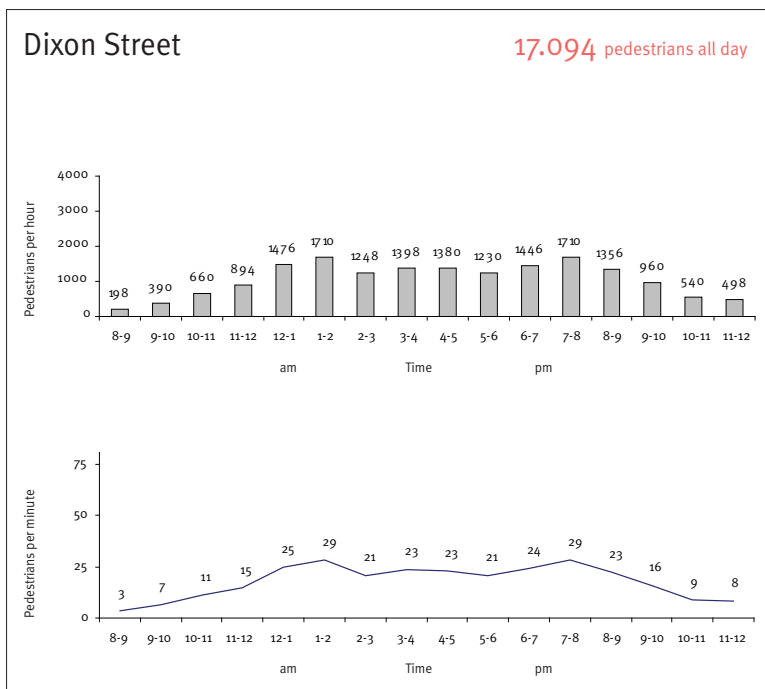
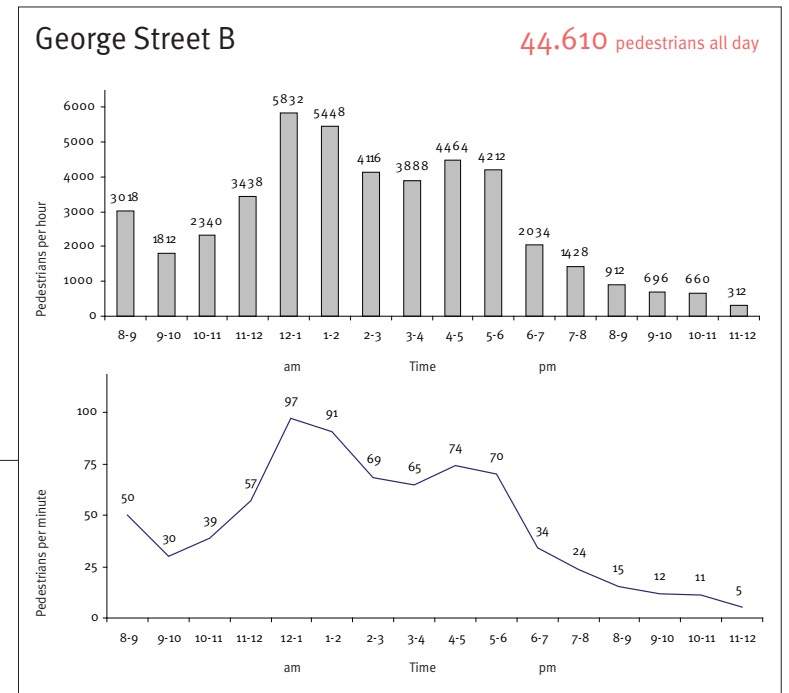
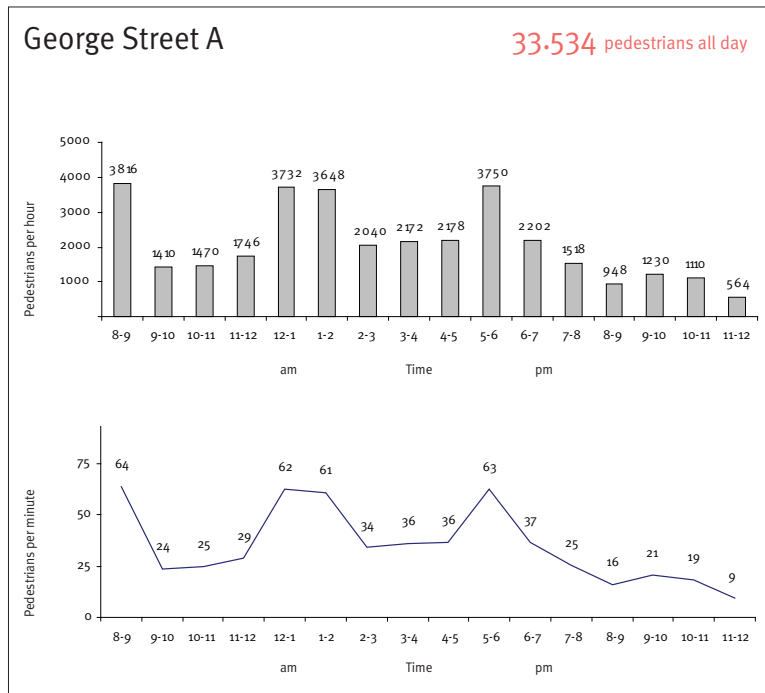
SUMMARY
Summer weekday
8am - 6pm



SUMMARY
Summer weekday evening
6pm - 12pm

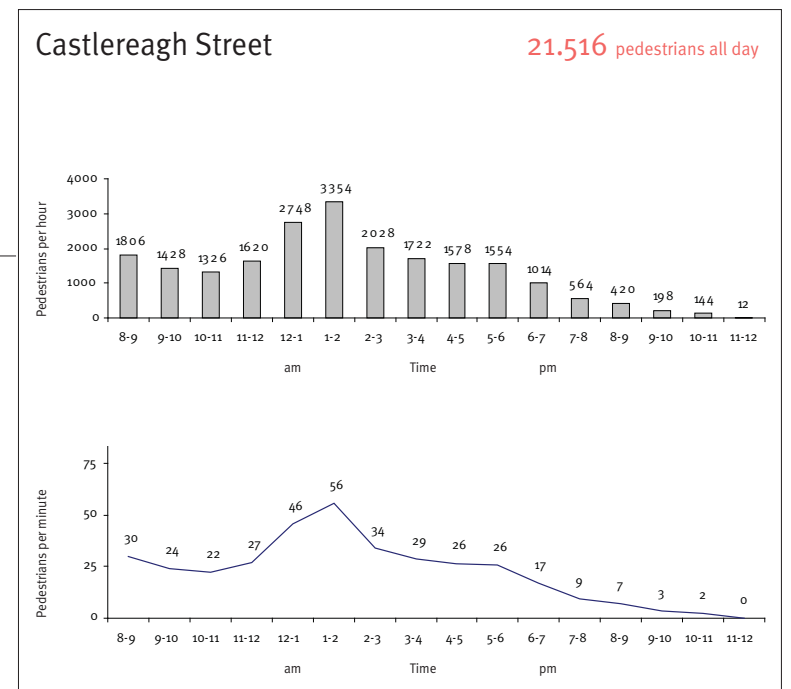
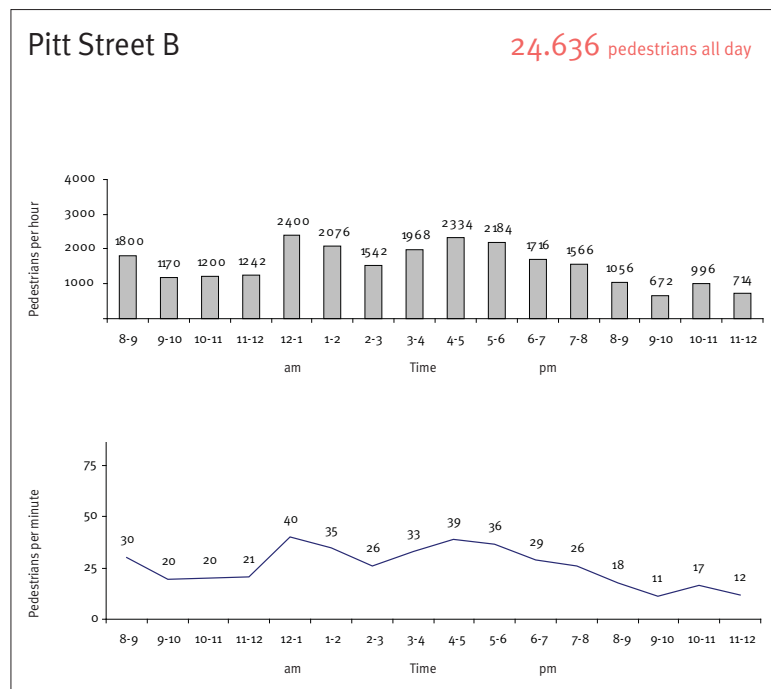
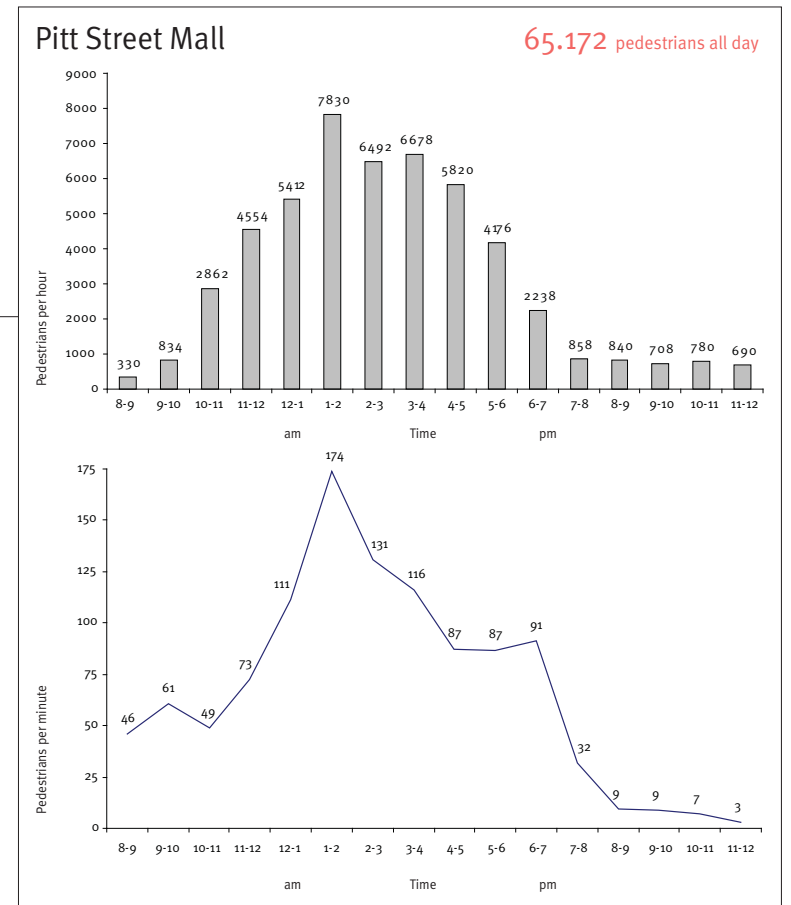
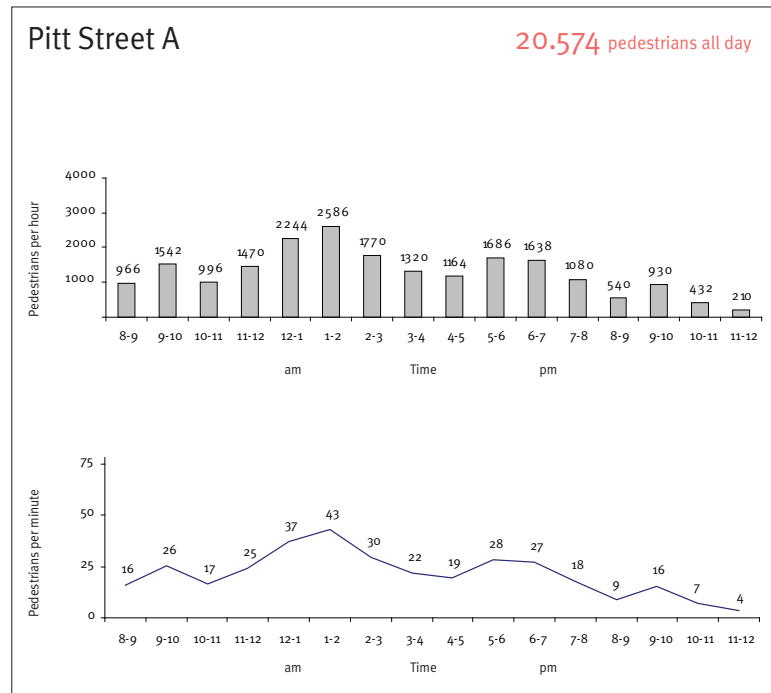
PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

summer weekday 8am - 12pm



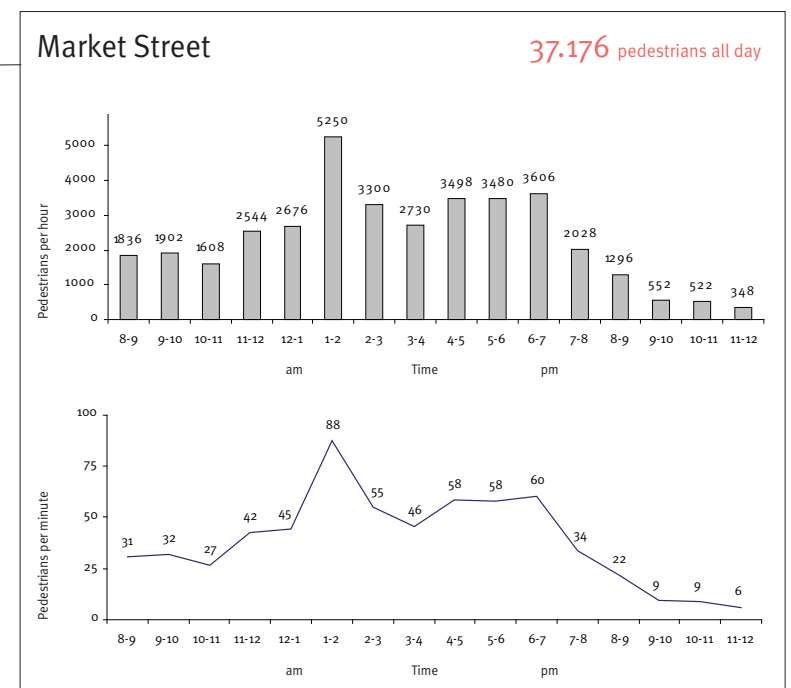
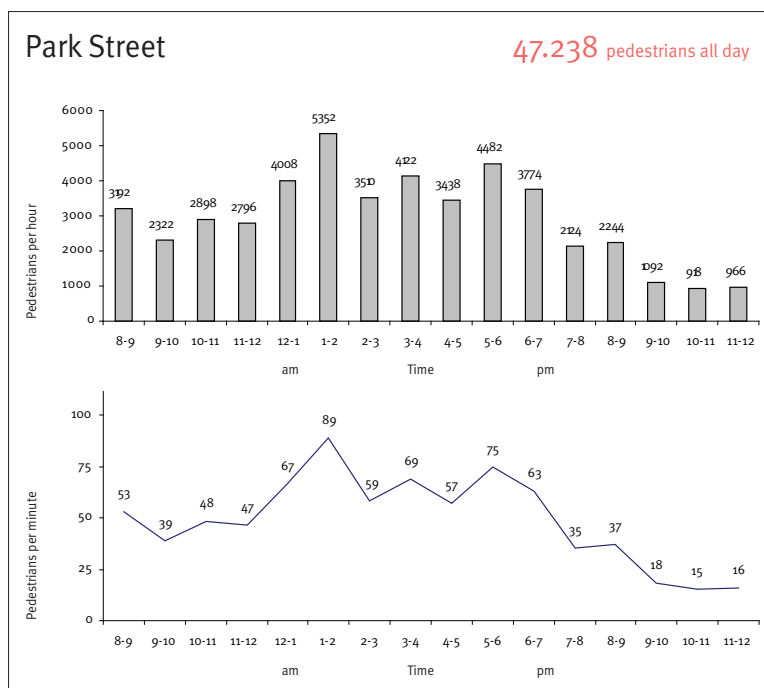
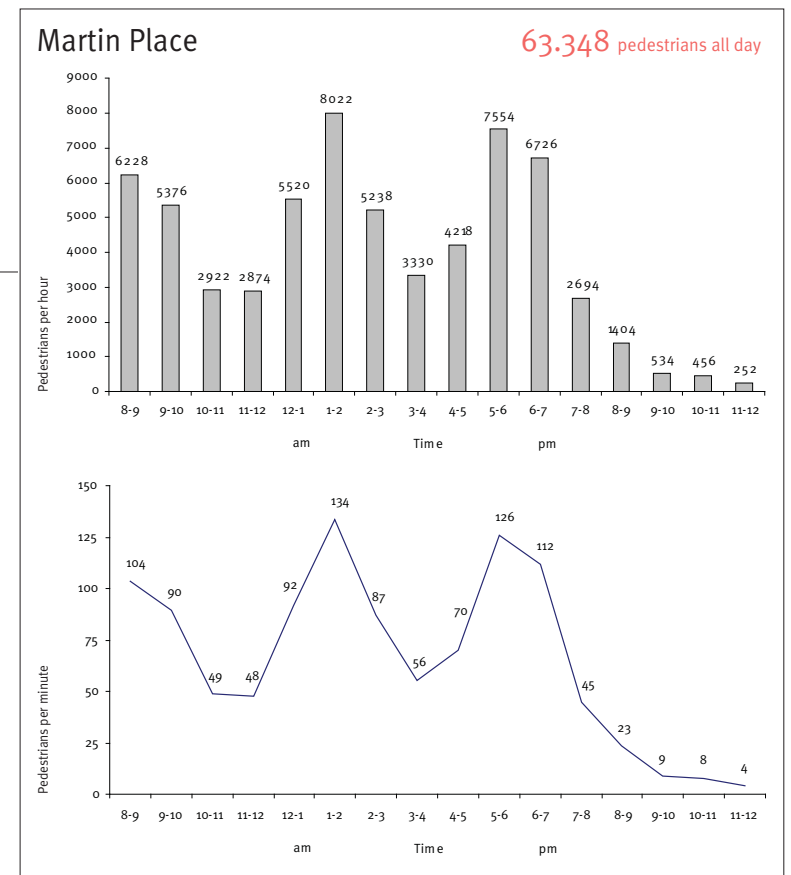
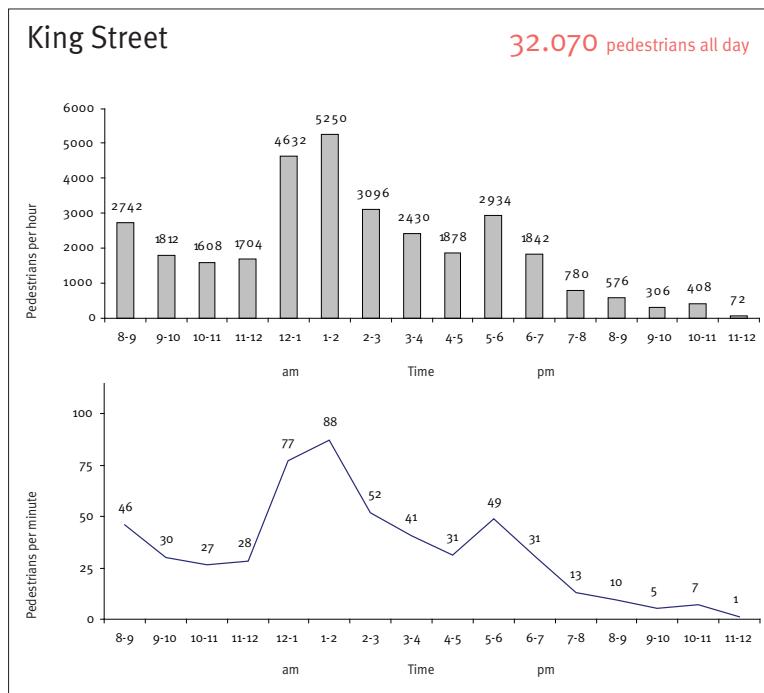
PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

summer weekday 8am - 12pm



PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

summer weekday 8am - 12pm

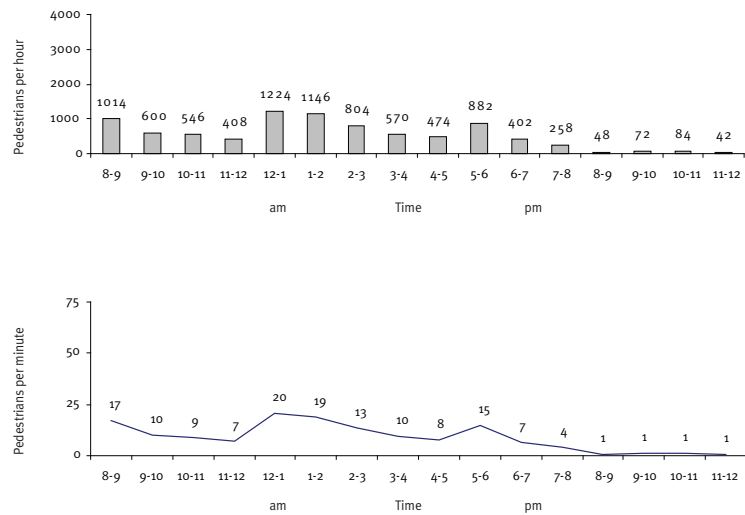


PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

summer weekday 8am - 12pm

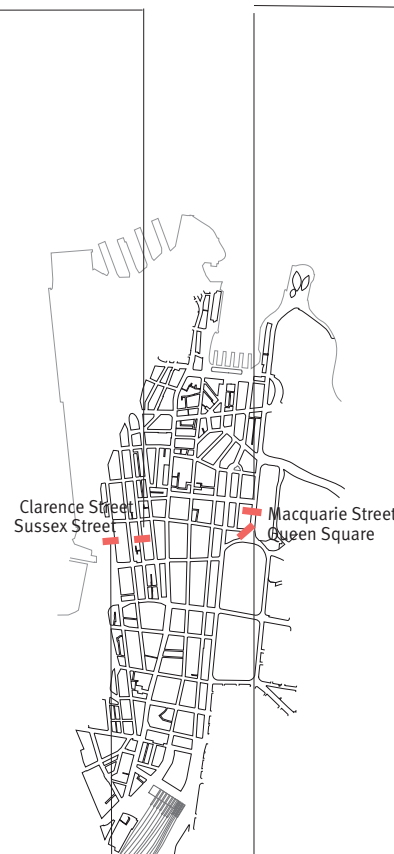
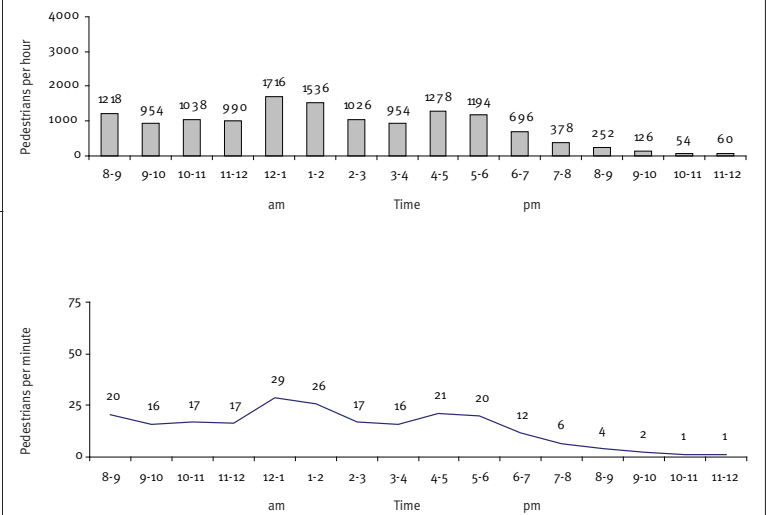
Clarence Street

8,574 pedestrians all day



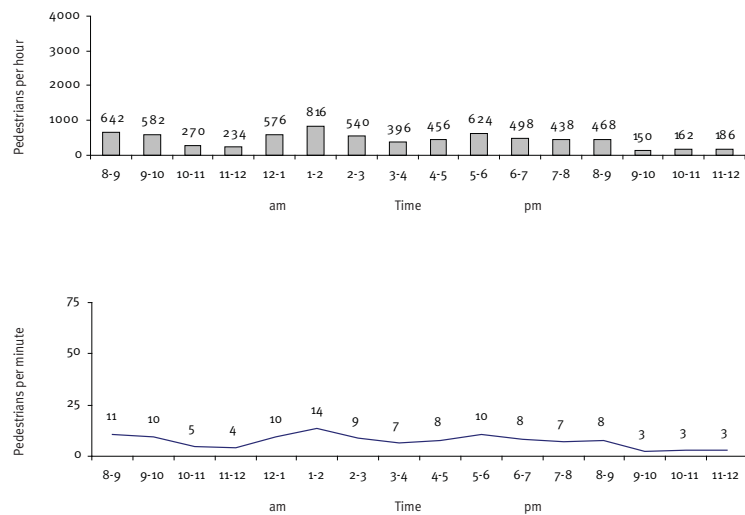
Macquarie Street

13,470 pedestrians all day



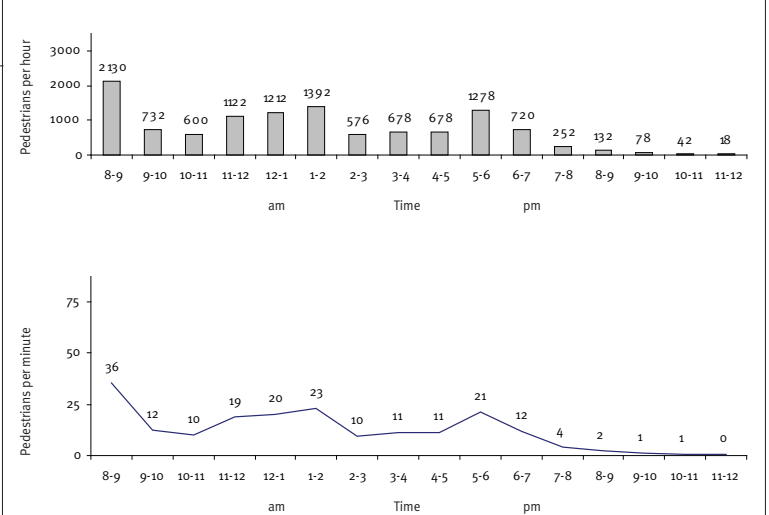
Sussex Street

7,038 pedestrians all day



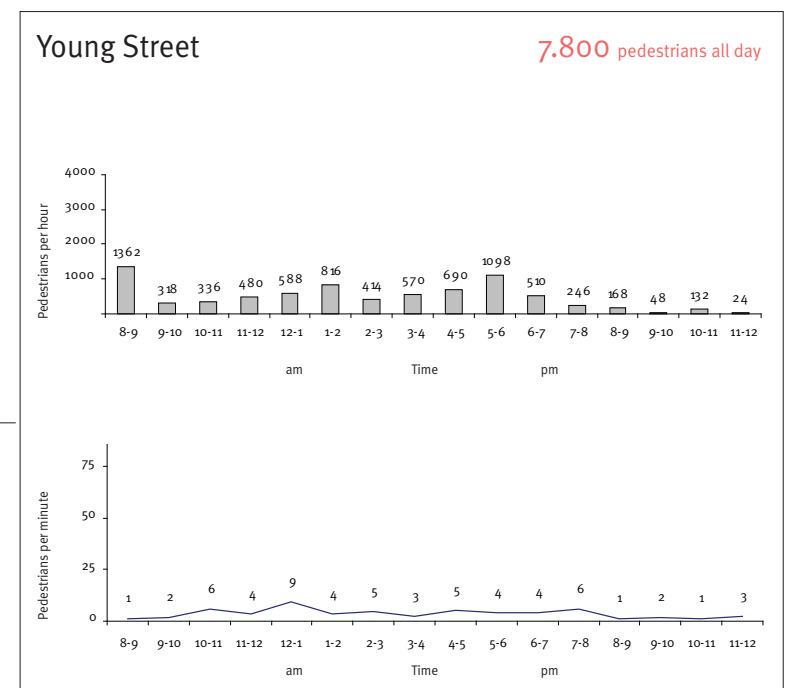
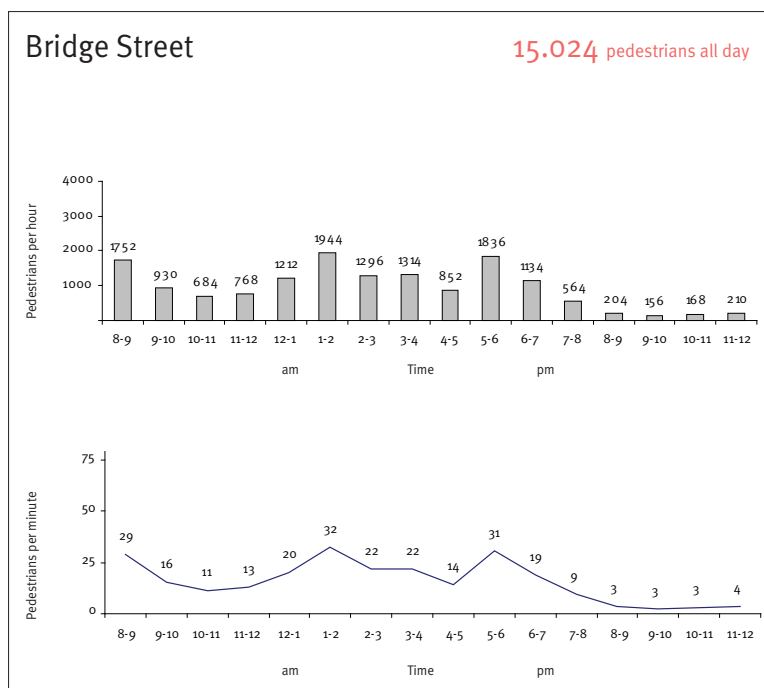
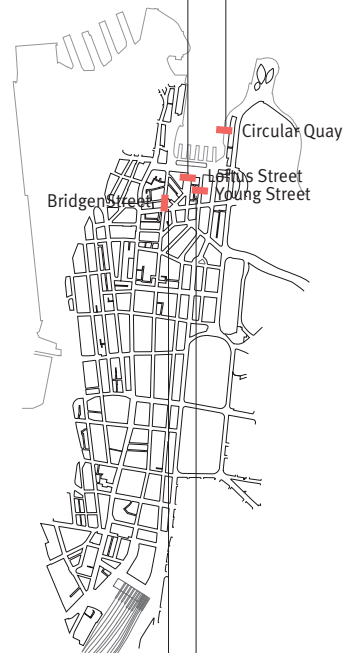
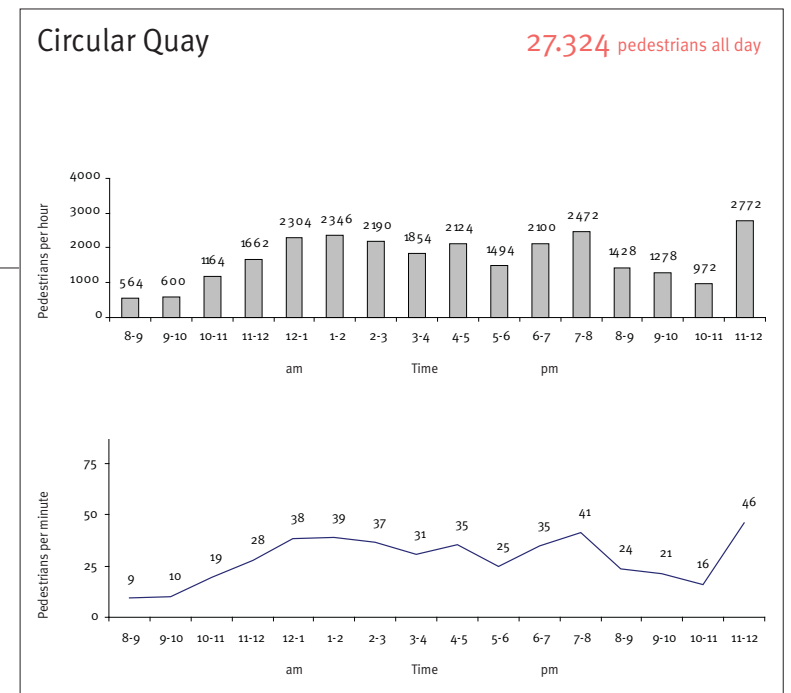
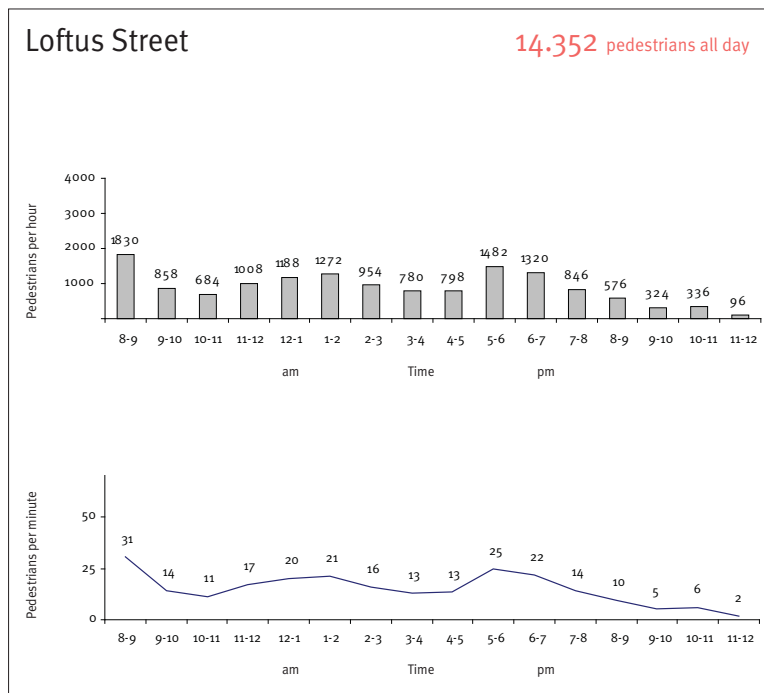
Queen Square

11,640 pedestrians all day



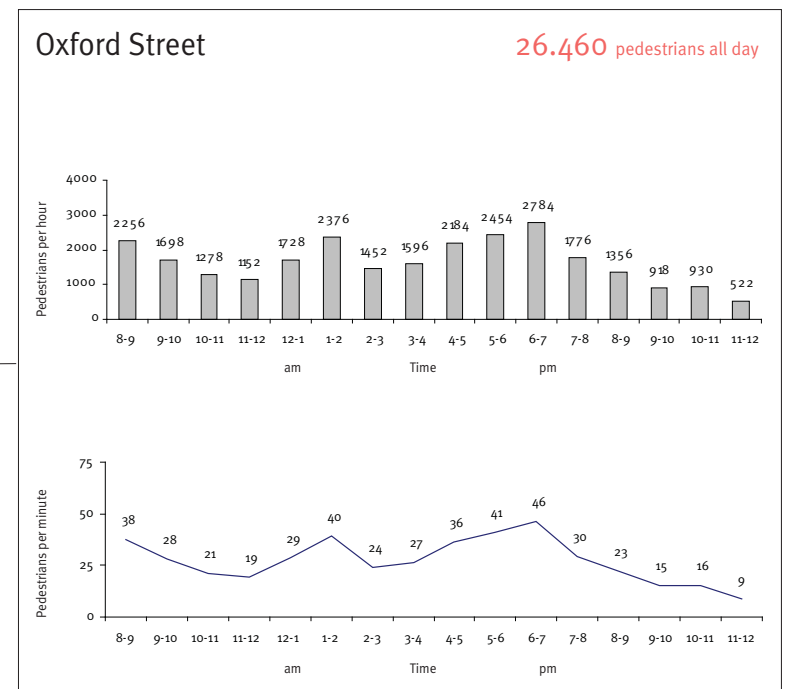
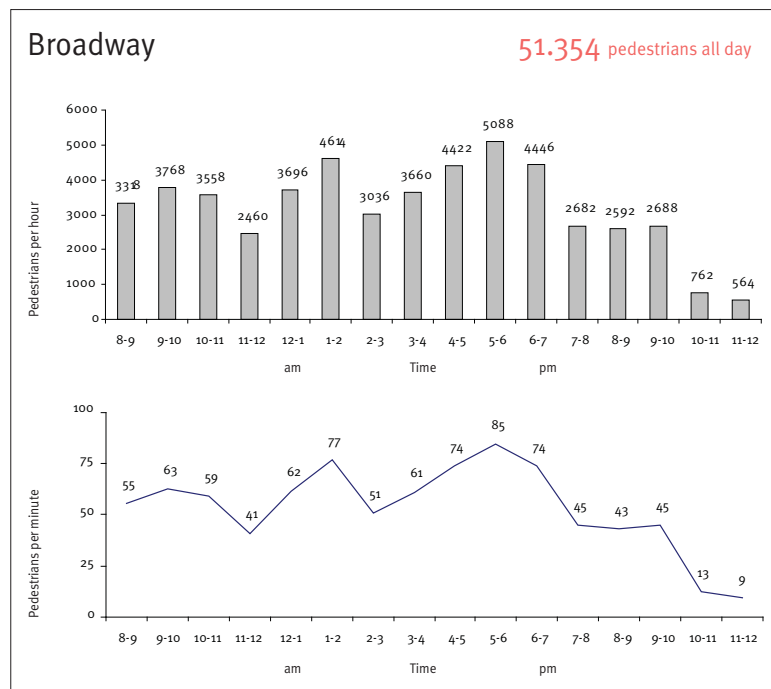
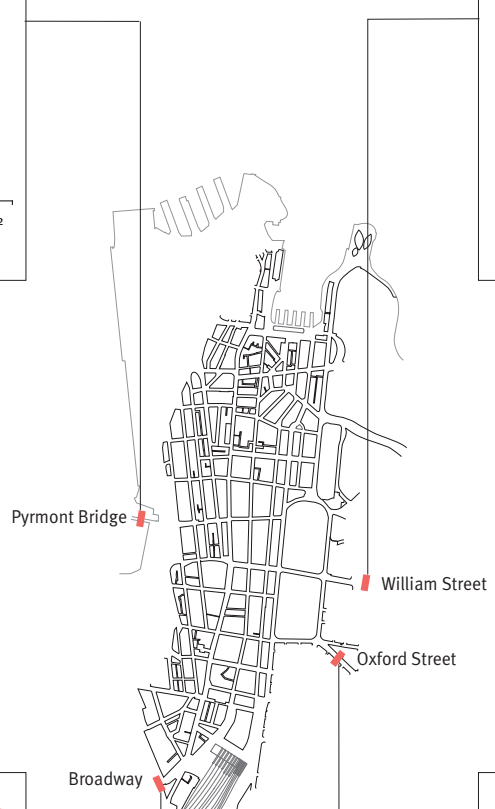
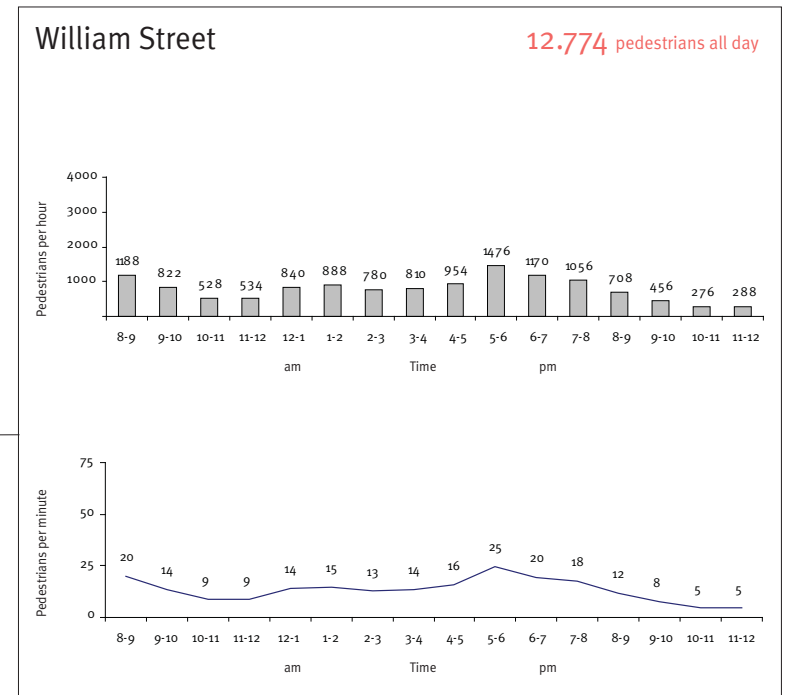
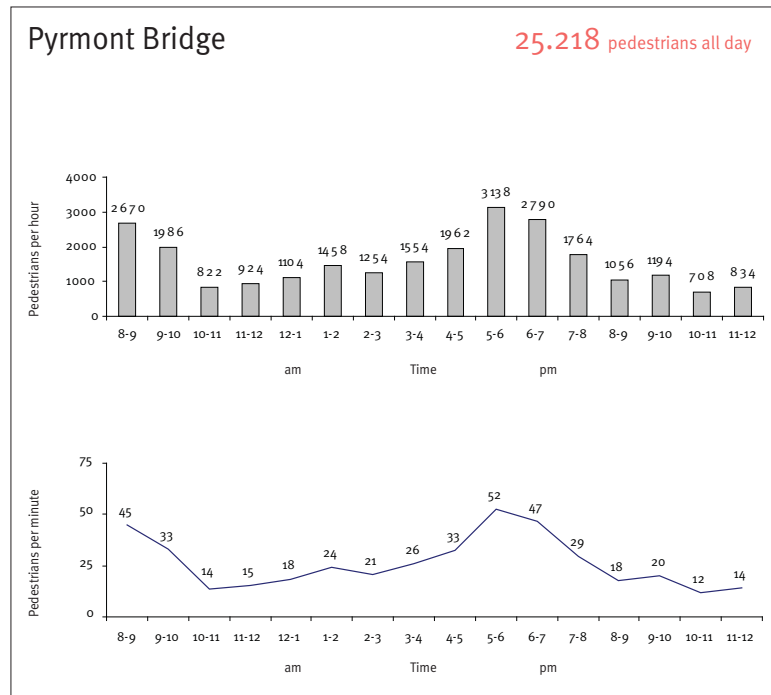
PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

summer weekday 8am - 12pm



PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

summer weekday 8am - 12pm



PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

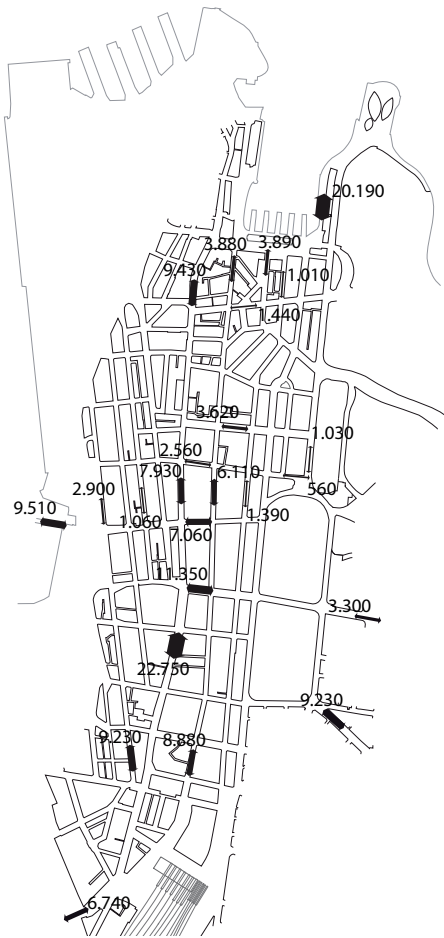
summer saturday 8am - 6pm

UNCHANGED MOVEMENT PATTERN

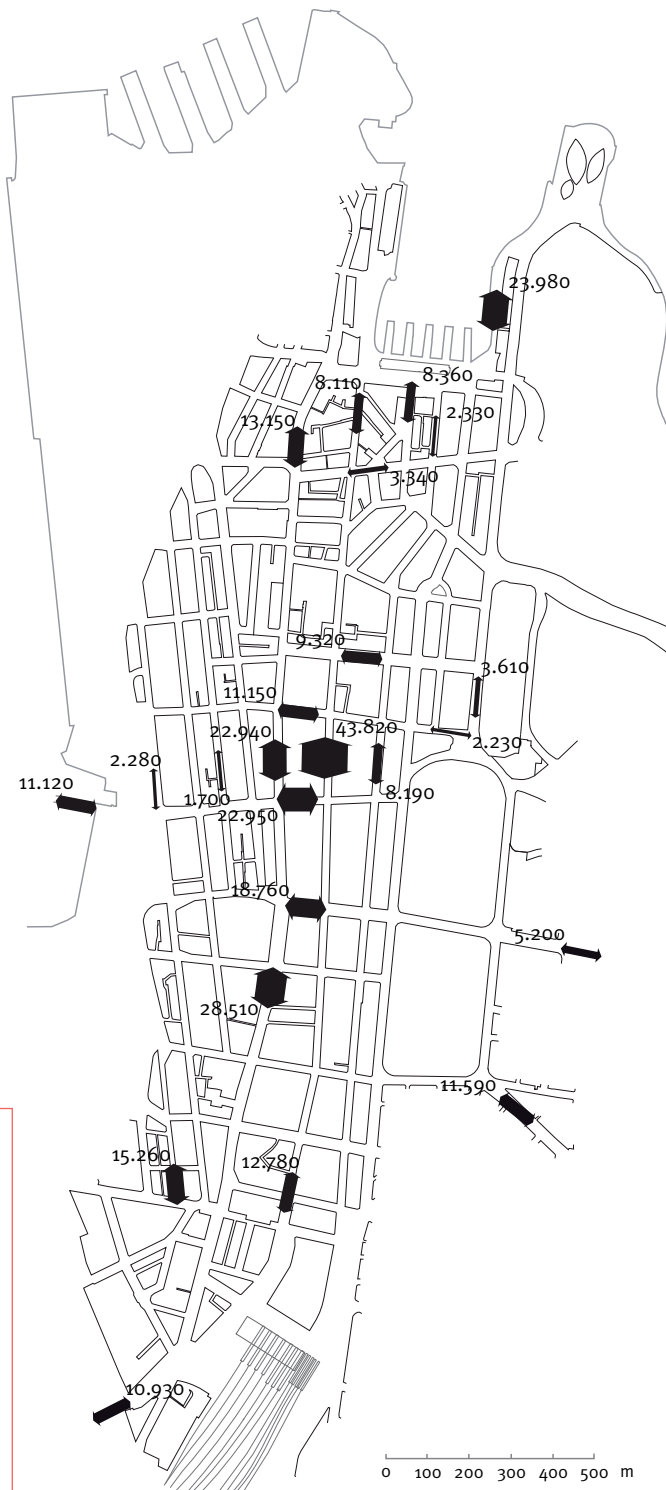
There are no significant changes in the use of the pedestrian network on a Saturday apart from Martin Place which is more affected by the many offices at weekdays and thus less busy on Saturdays.

Saturdays would normally be the busiest day in a city's retail district. However pedestrian flows in Sydney point to a different picture where the city is not laid out for pleasure walks. As a result pedestrian traffic is limited to the basic, necessary trips of going to work, going for lunch, going shopping etc.

In general pedestrian traffic is lower in Sydney on Saturdays except for Circular Quay which experiences an increase. This is due to the many visitors to Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge.

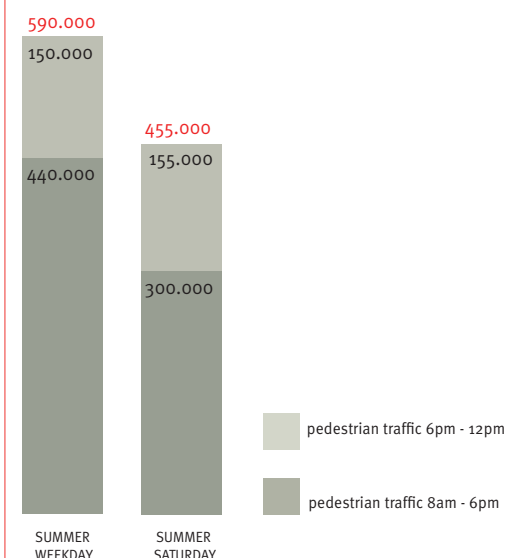


PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC
SUMMER SATURDAY EVENING 6pm - 12pm 2007
Saturday the 17th of March 2007
Weather: Mild, 22°C



PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC
SUMMER SATURDAY 8am - 6pm 2007
Saturday the 17th of March 2007
Weather: Mild, sunny and partly cloudy, 26°C

THE NUMBER OF PEDESTRIANS BETWEEN 8AM - 12PM -in selected streets

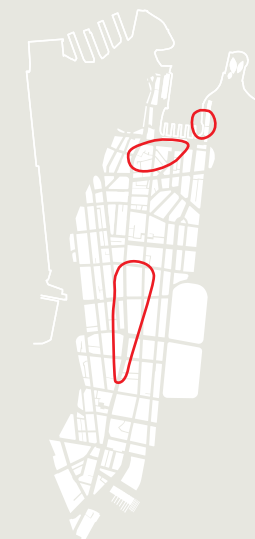


summer saturday evening 6pm - 12pm

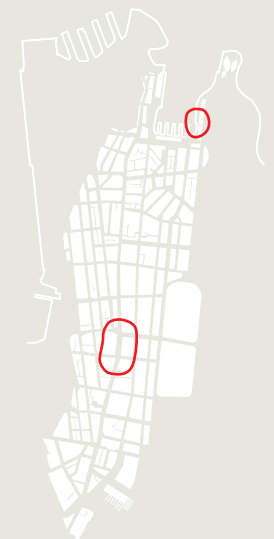
MORE PEDESTRIANS THAN ON WEEKDAY EVENINGS

There is a lack of pedestrian activity during Saturday evening compared to Saturday daytime. Sydney is apparently not a major destination for outdoor dining or for promenading, except for Circular Quay.

This again points towards a city mainly laid out for necessities and not so much for pleasure.



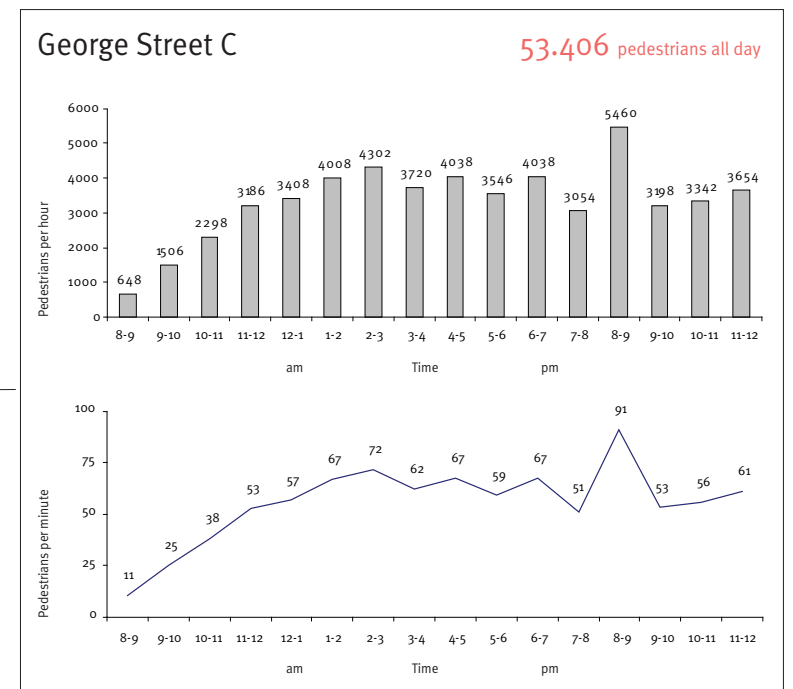
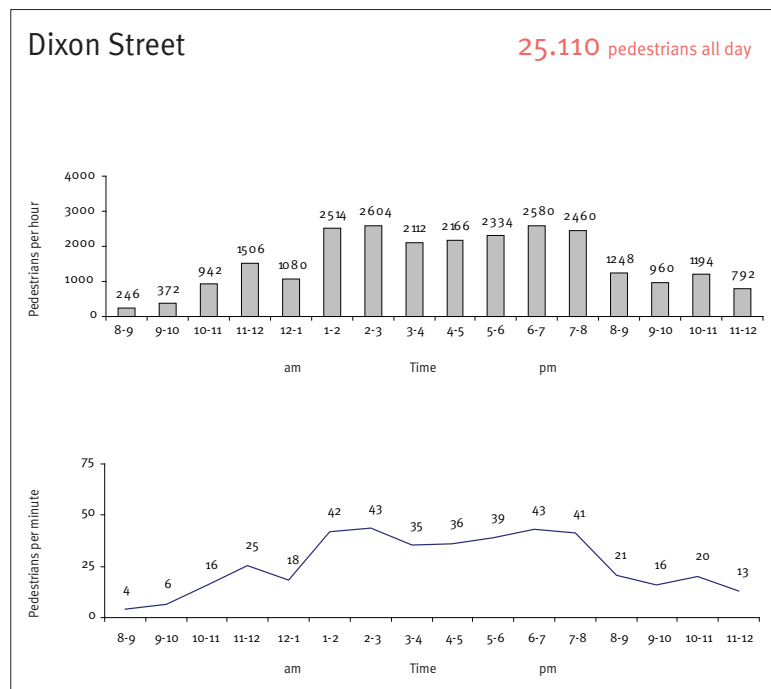
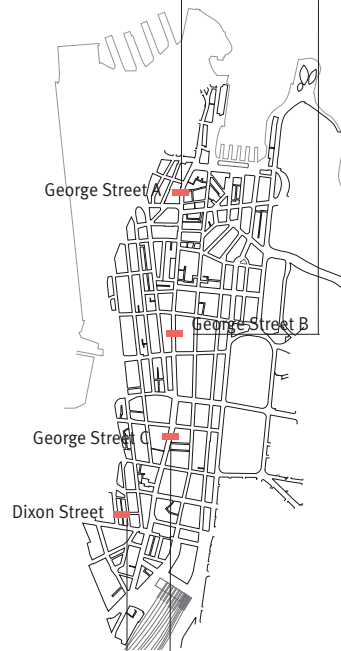
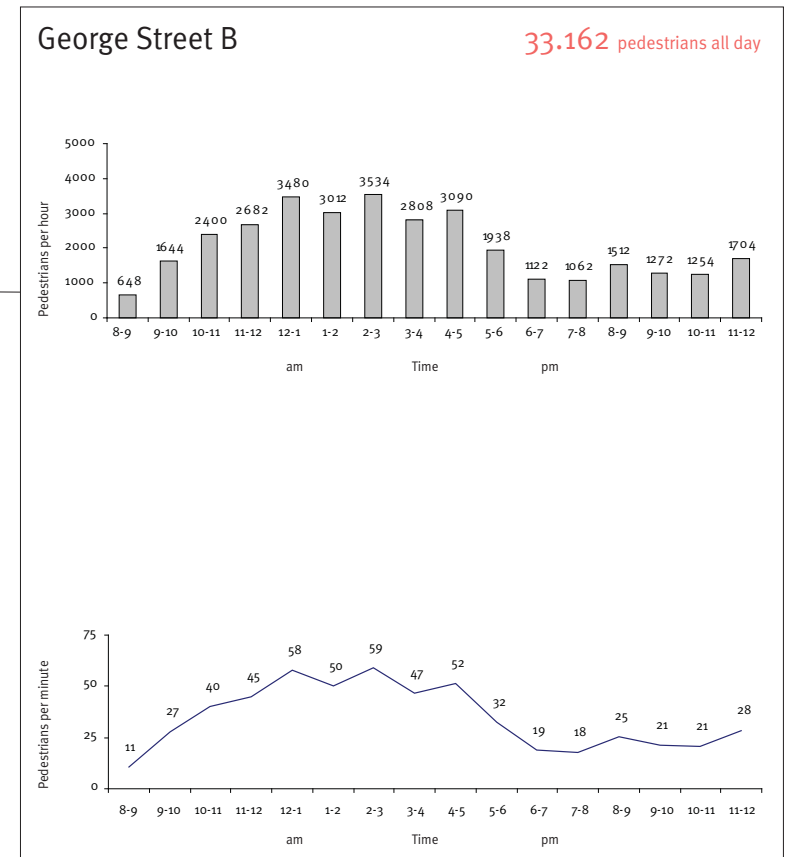
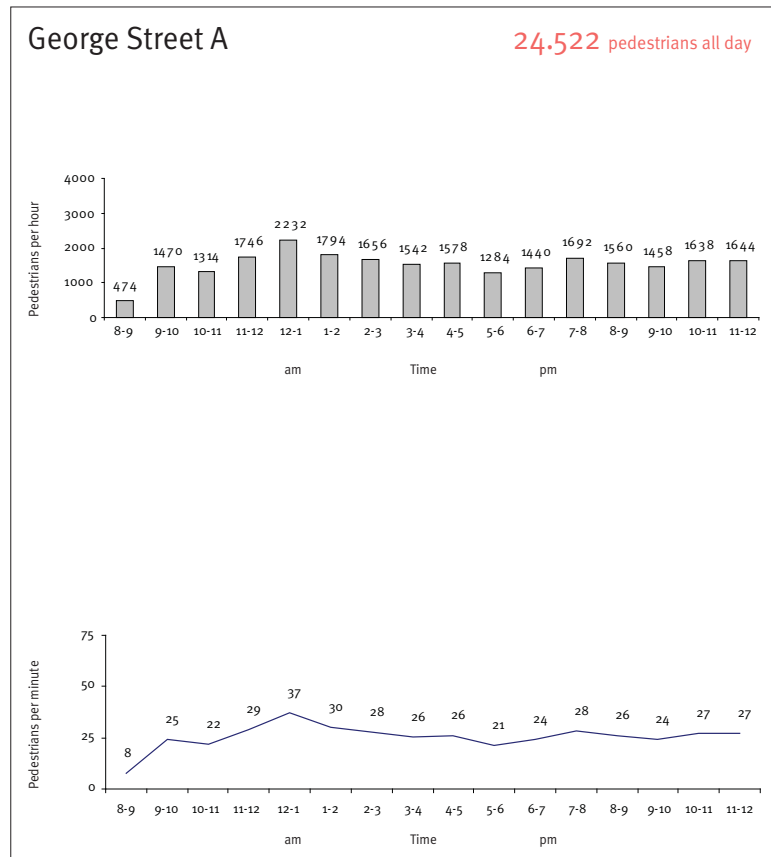
SUMMARY
Summer Saturday
8am - 6pm



SUMMARY
Summer Saturday evening
6pm - 12pm

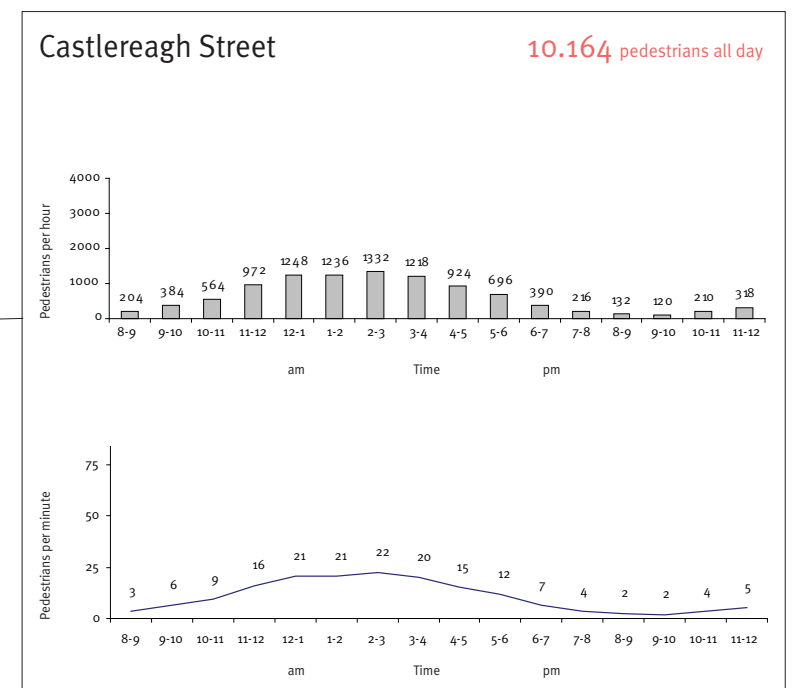
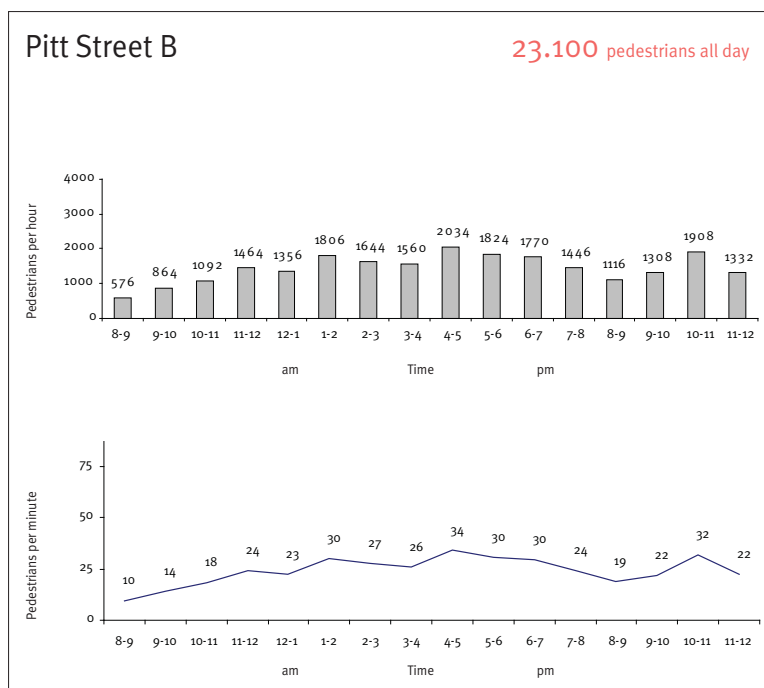
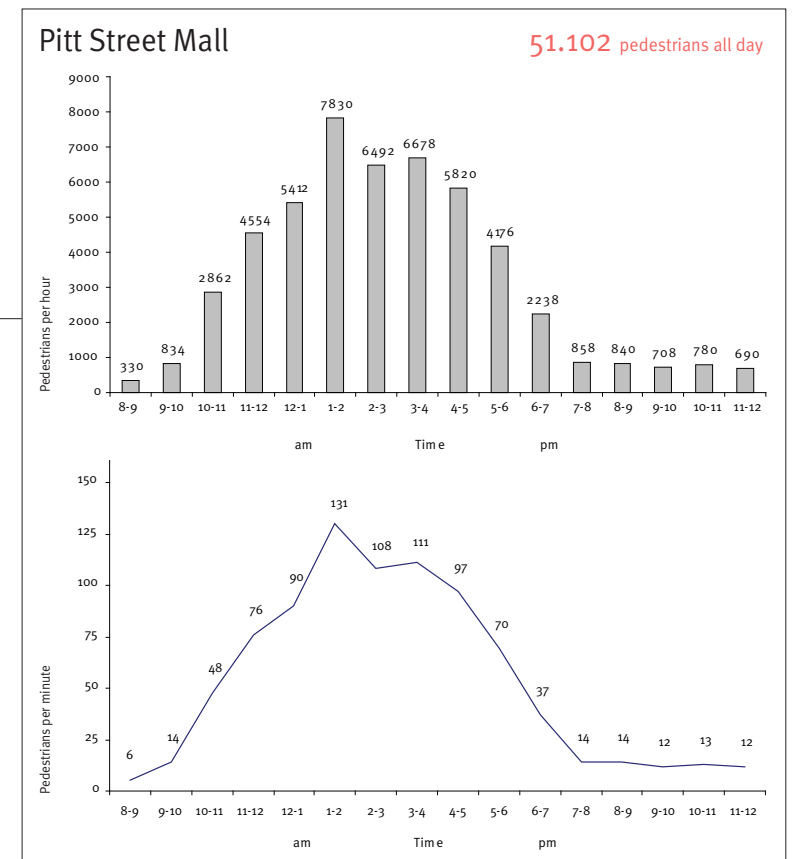
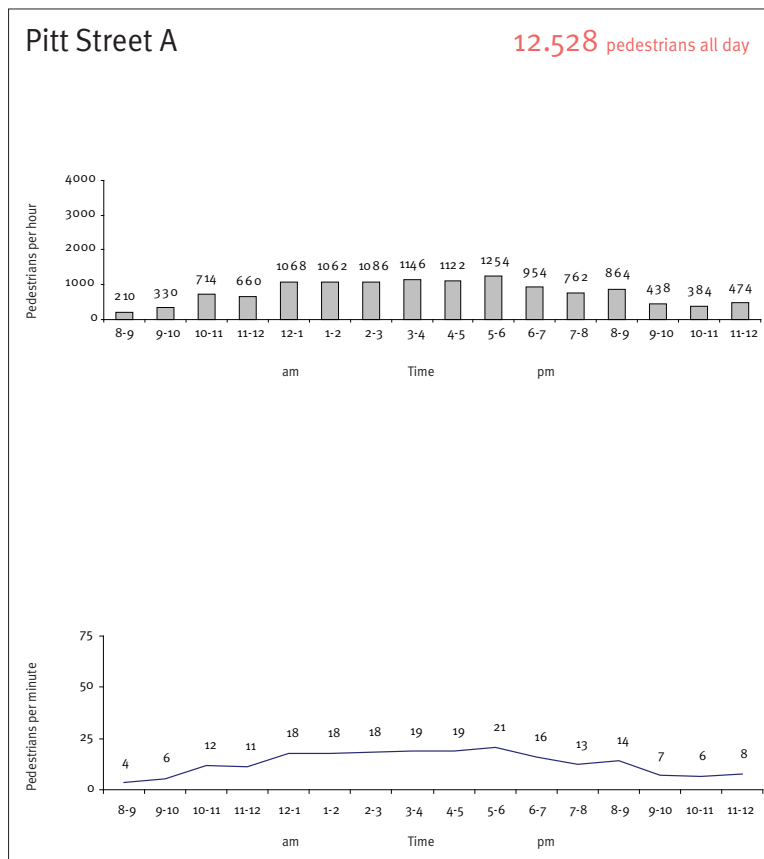
PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

summer saturday 8am - 12pm



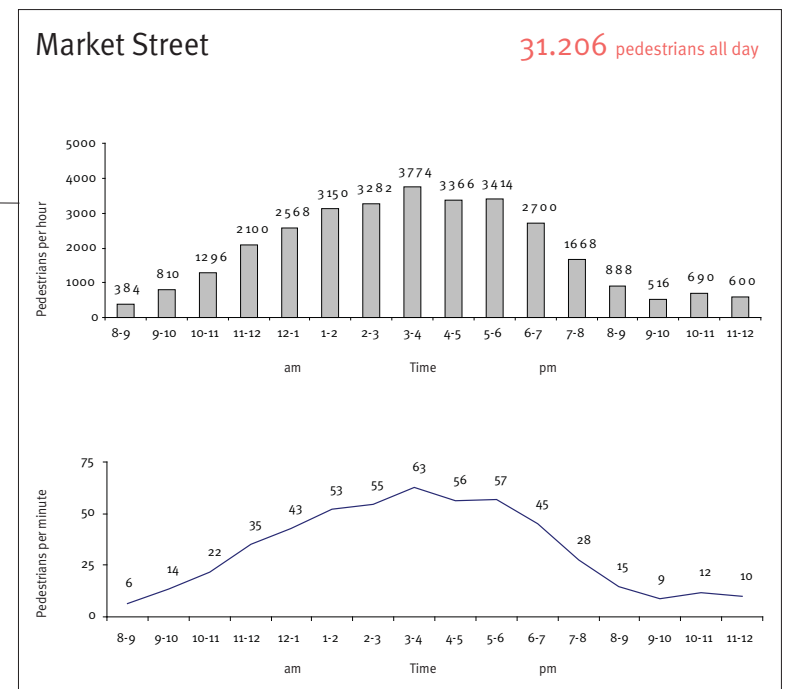
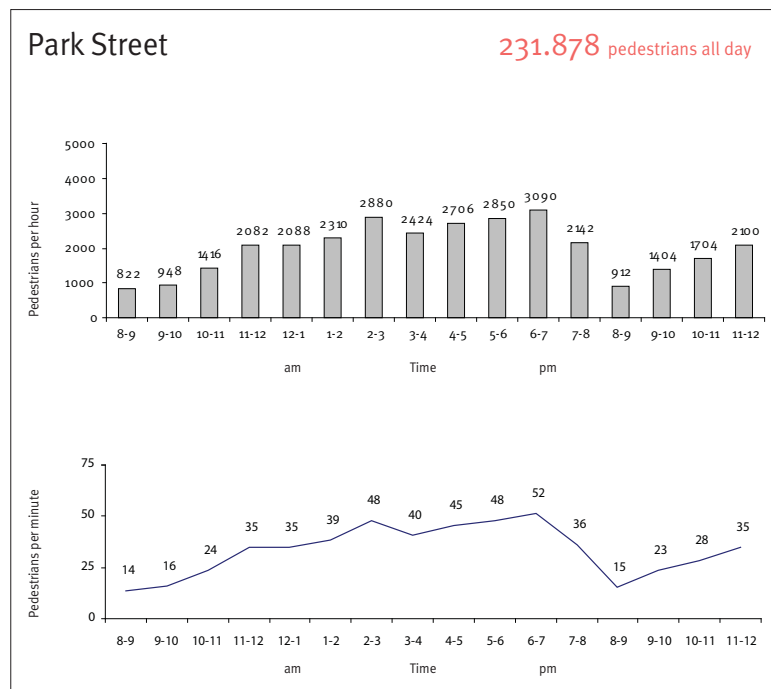
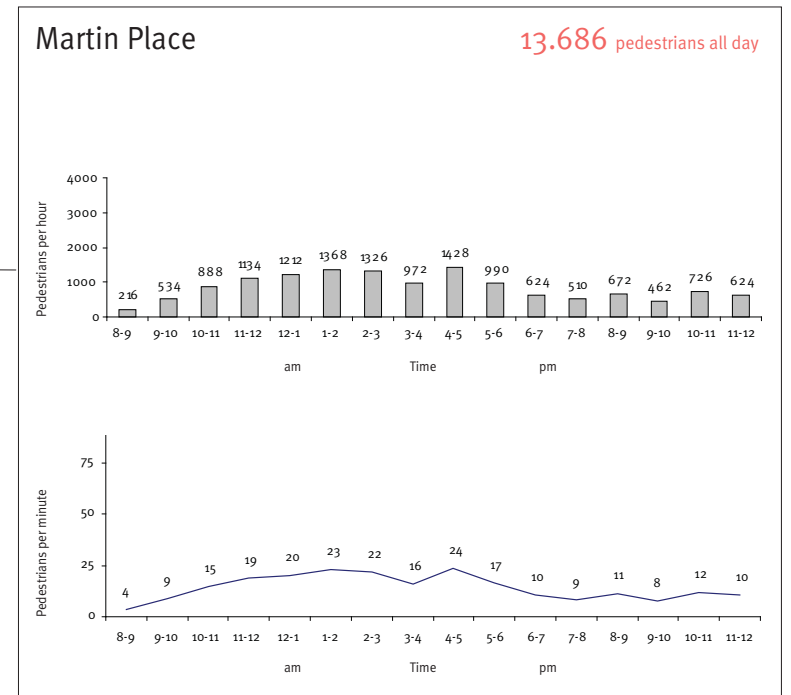
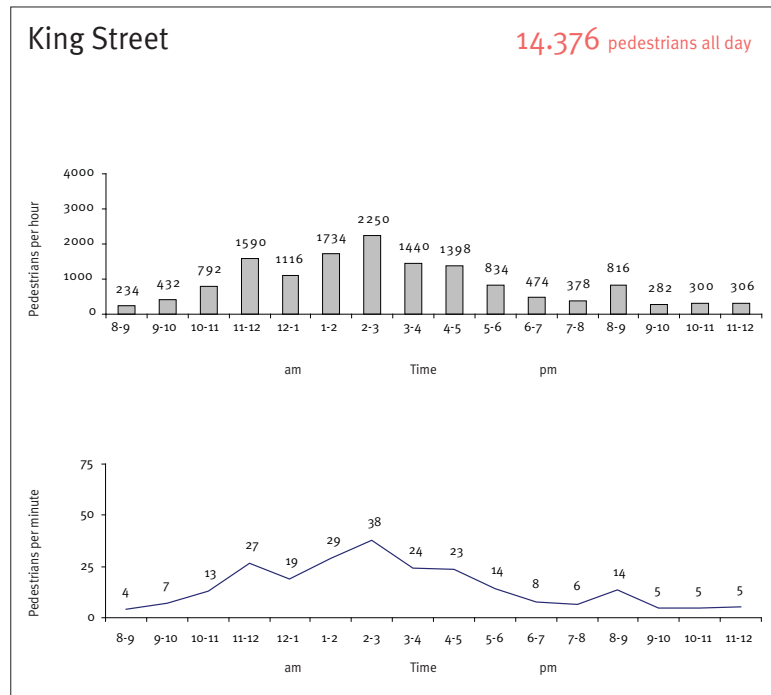
PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

summer saturday 8am - 12pm



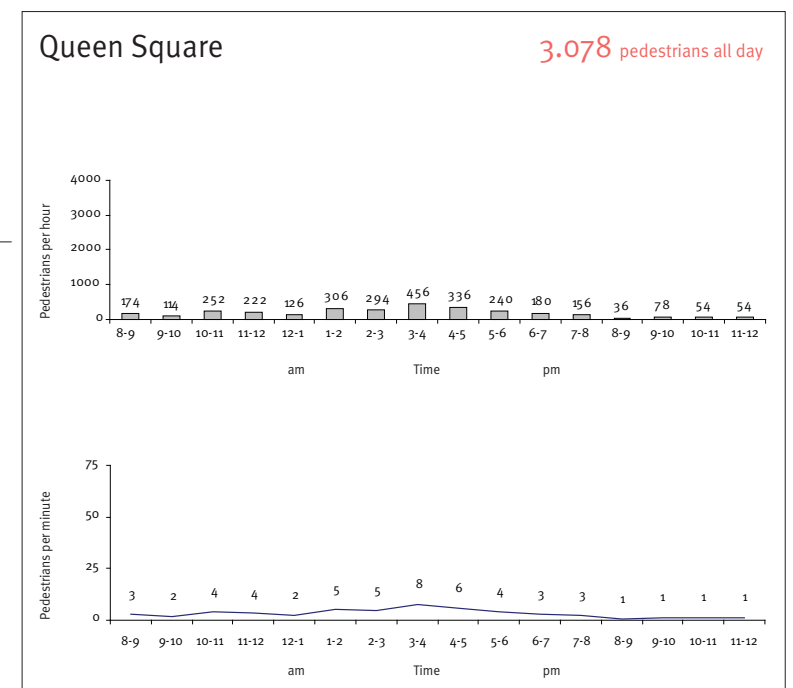
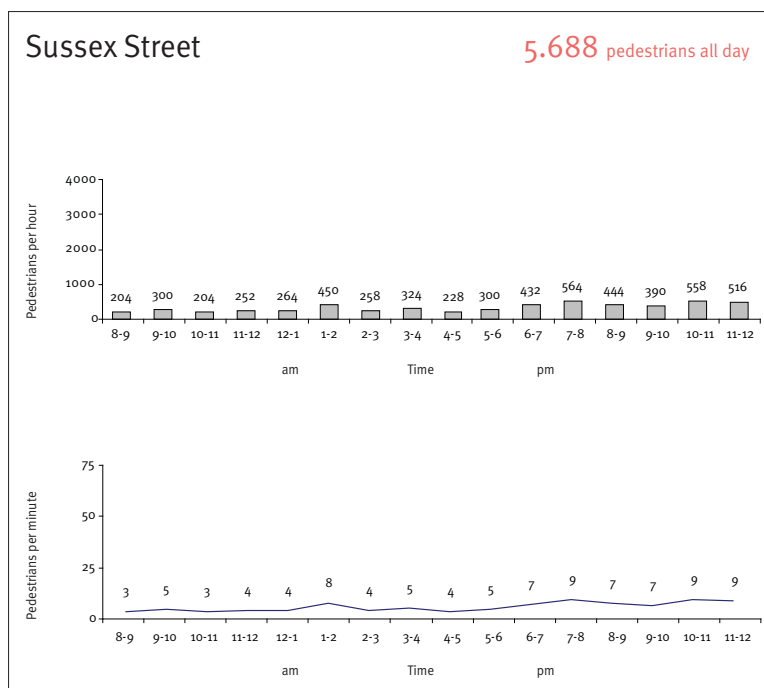
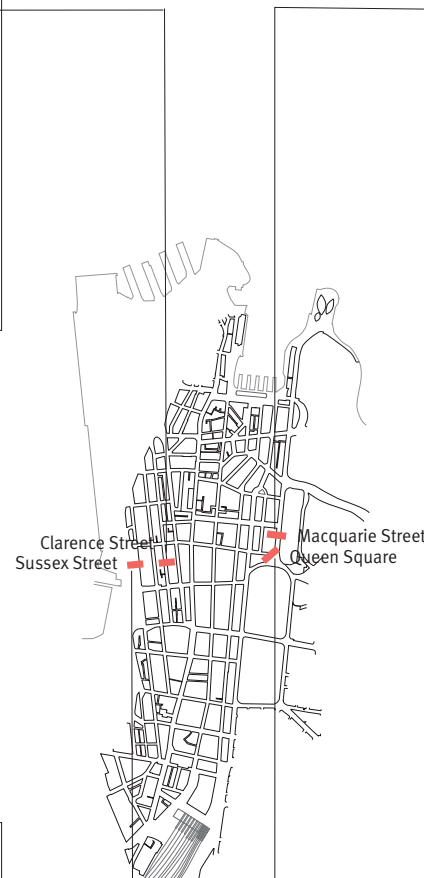
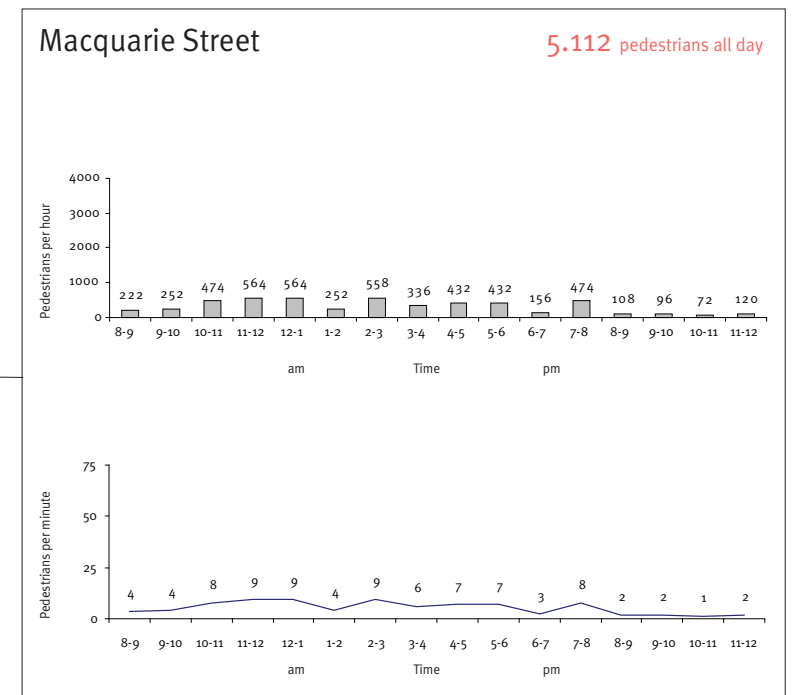
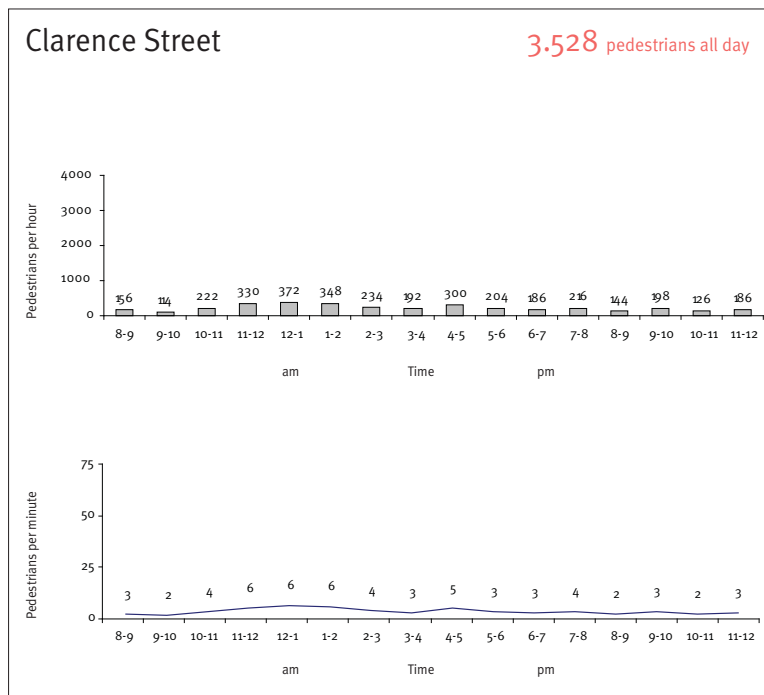
PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

summer saturday 8am - 12pm



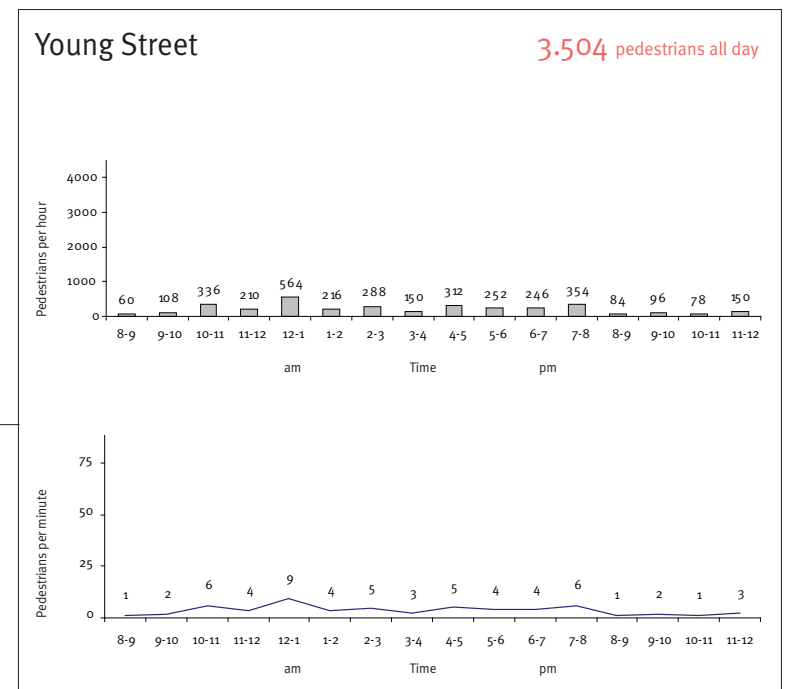
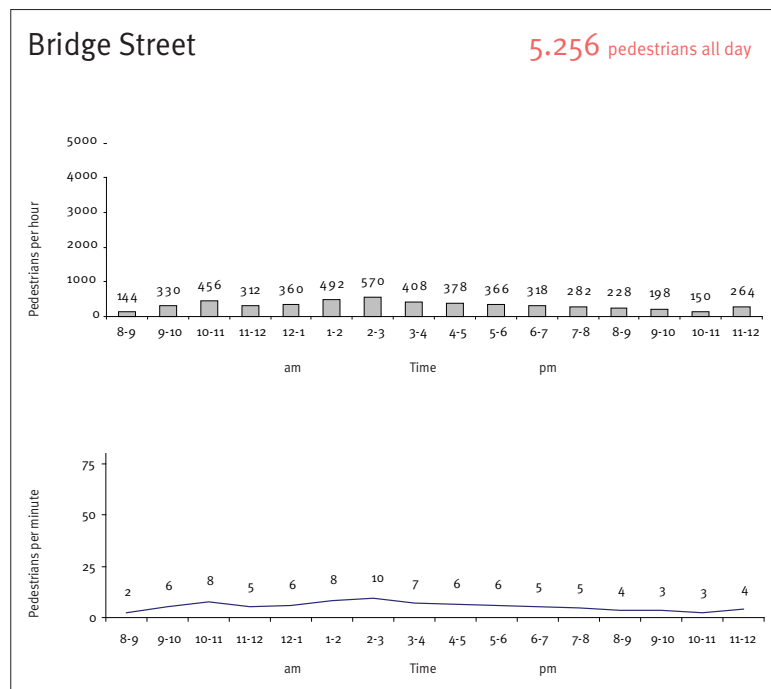
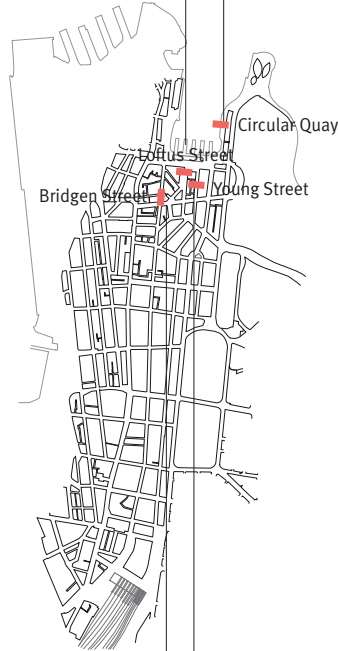
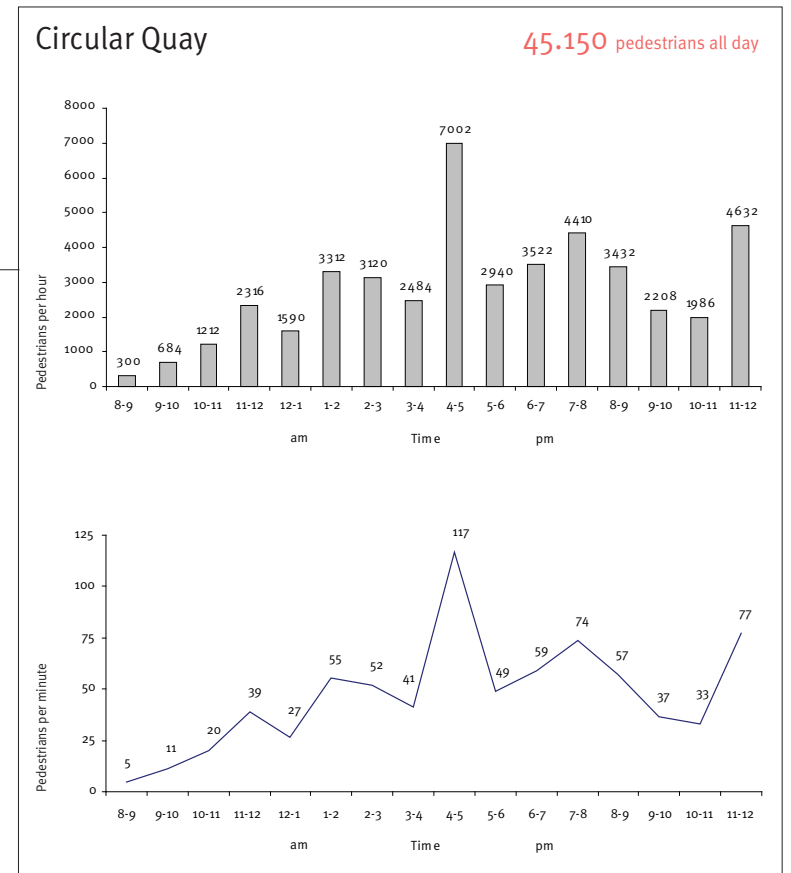
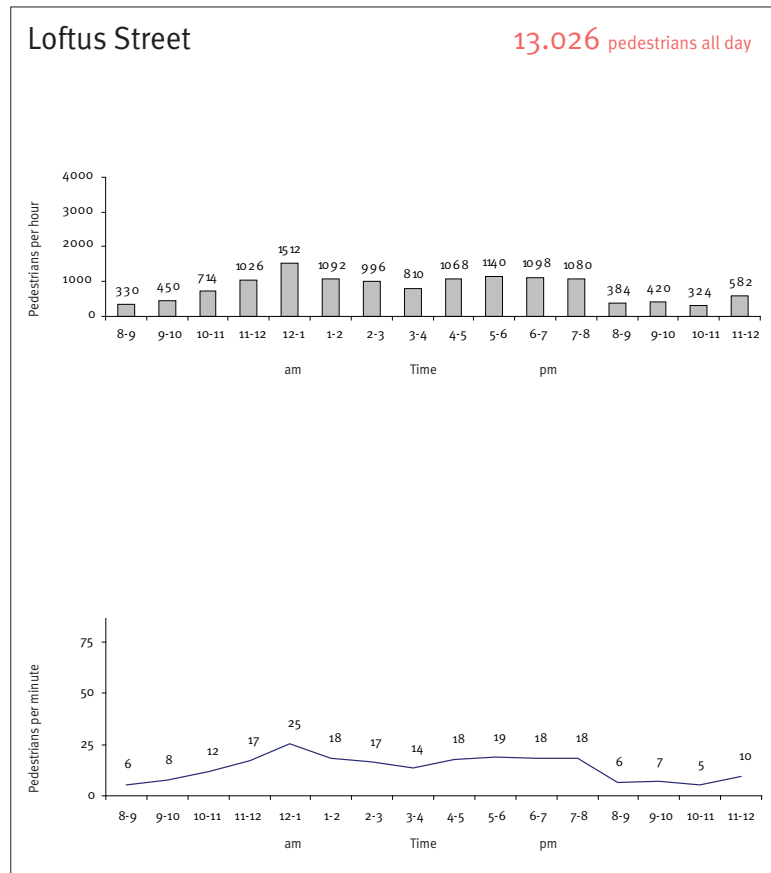
PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

summer saturday 8am - 12pm



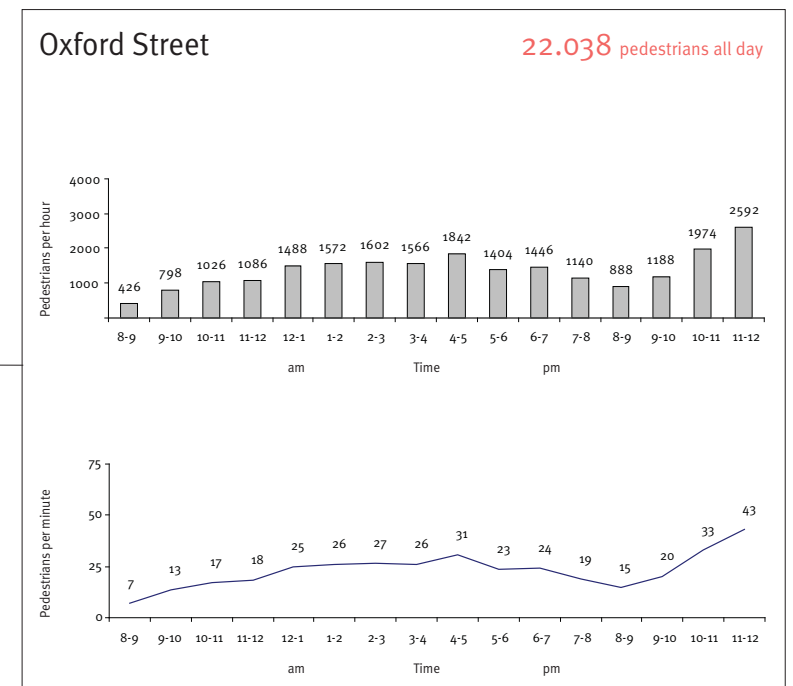
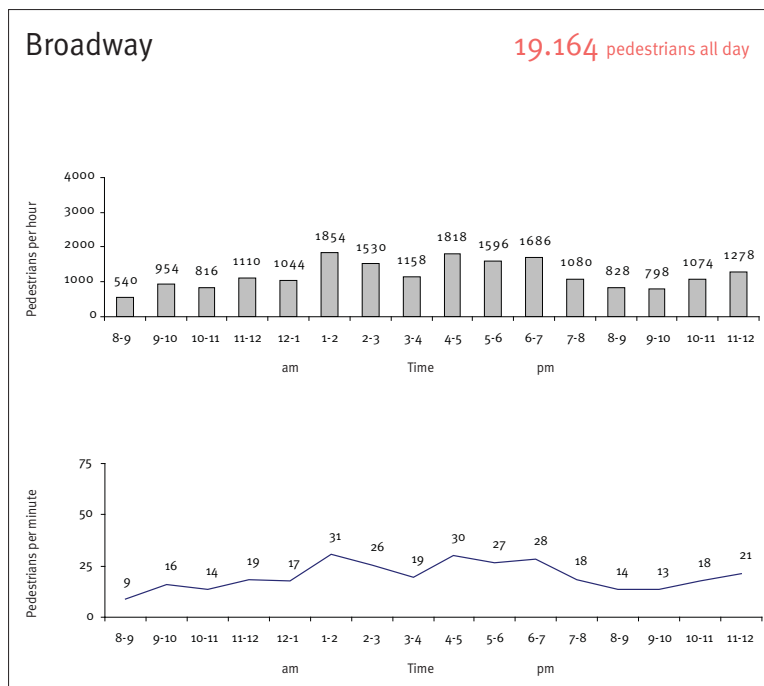
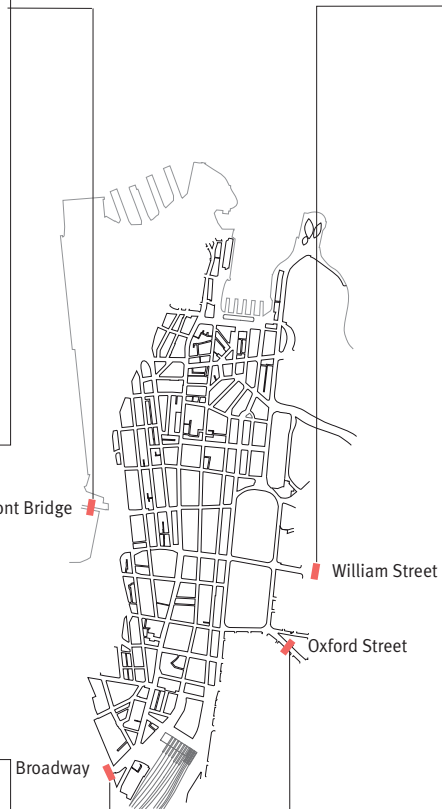
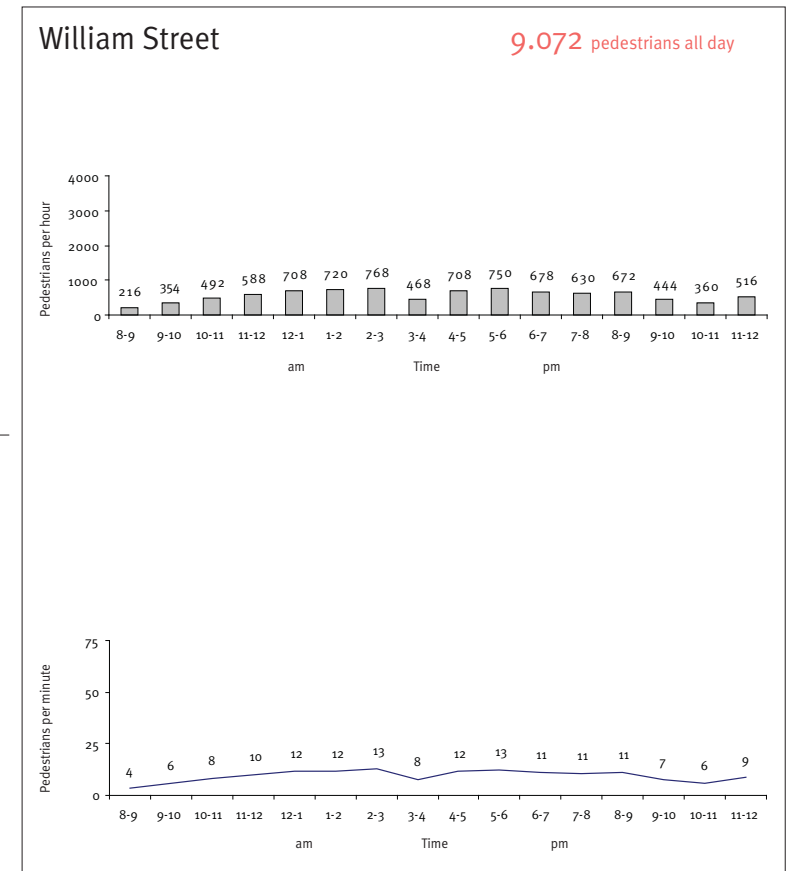
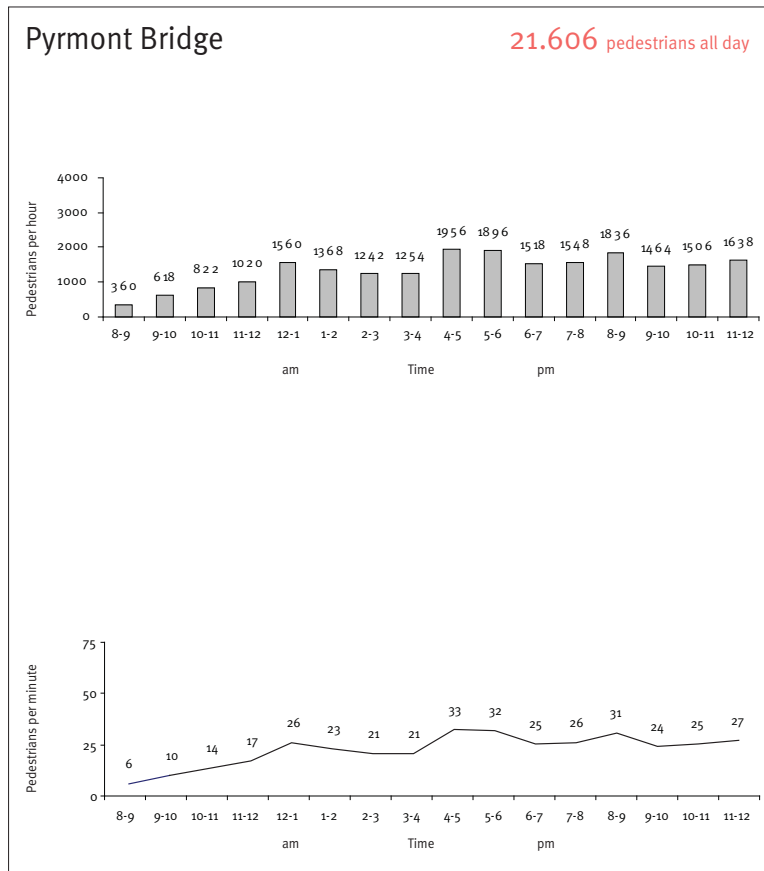
PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

summer saturday 8am - 12pm



PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

summer saturday 8am - 12pm



PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

winter weekday 8am - 6pm

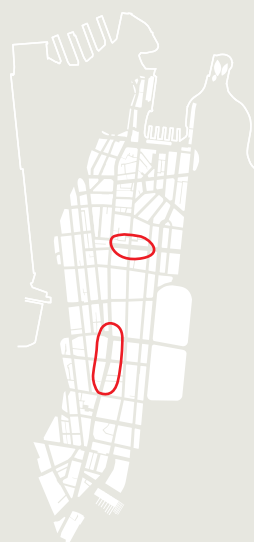
MORE PEDESTRIANS COMPARED TO A SUMMER WEEKDAY
 There is no significant difference between pedestrian volumes during winter and pedestrian volumes during summer. Basically the same pattern is repeating itself during the different seasons and there are only few differences between pedestrian volumes in specific spaces.

winter weekday evening 6pm - 12pm

LOW LEVEL OF EVENING TRAFFIC
 Compared to daytime traffic there is a substantial drop when the evening starts. Shops close between 6pm - 7pm and everybody leaves the City Centre.



SUMMARY
 Winter weekday
 8am - 6pm

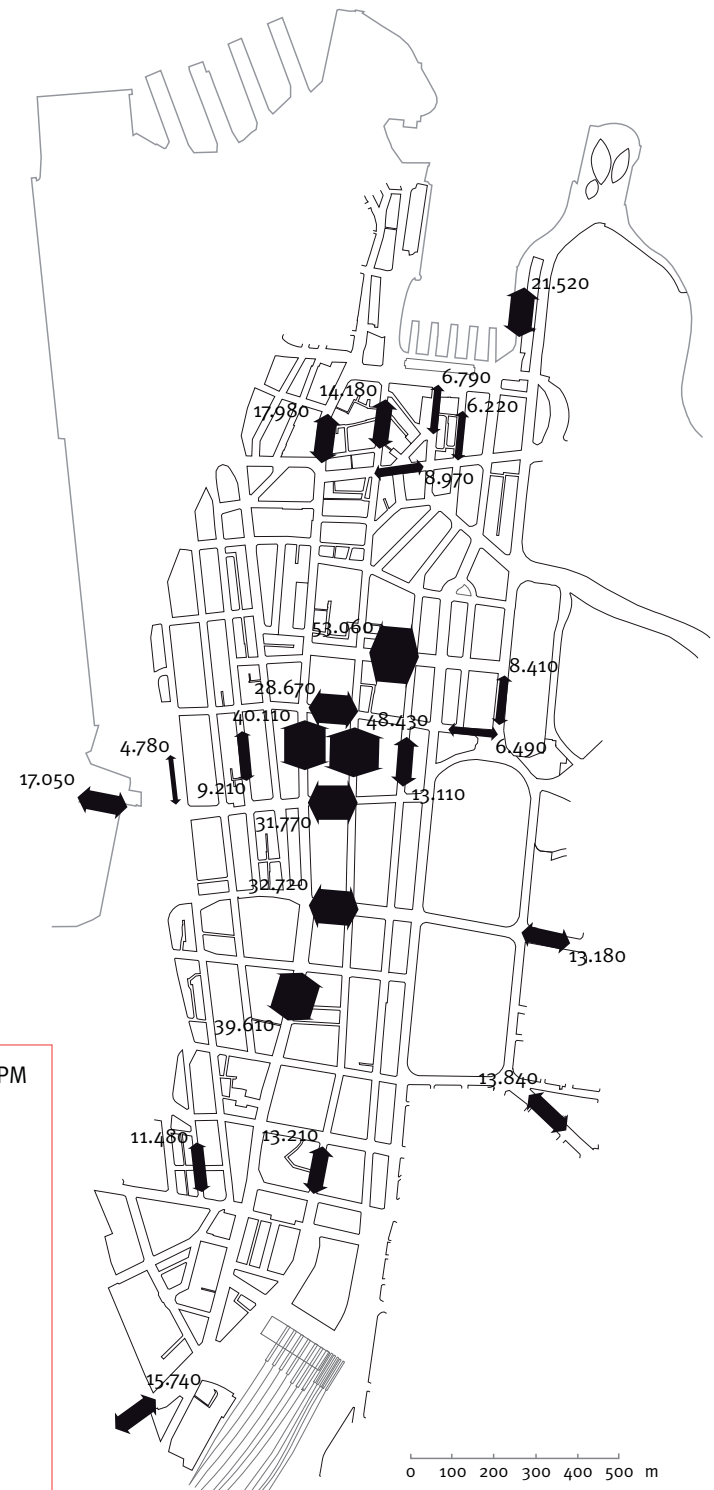
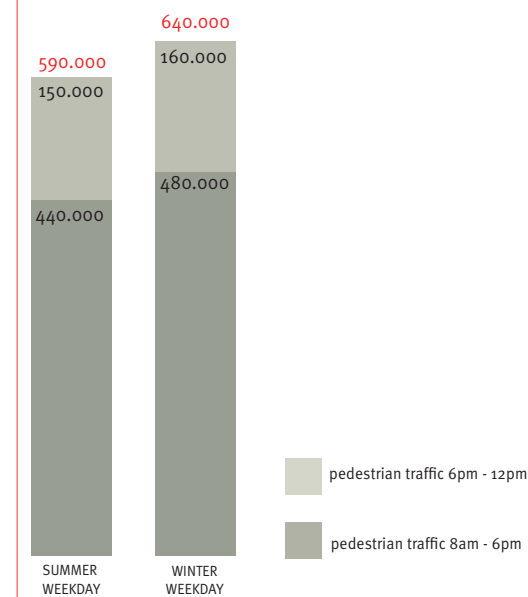


SUMMARY
 Winter weekday evening
 6pm - 12pm



PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC
 WINTER WEEKDAY EVENING 6am - 12pm 2007
 Tuesday the 3rd of July 2007
 Weather: Windy, 17°C

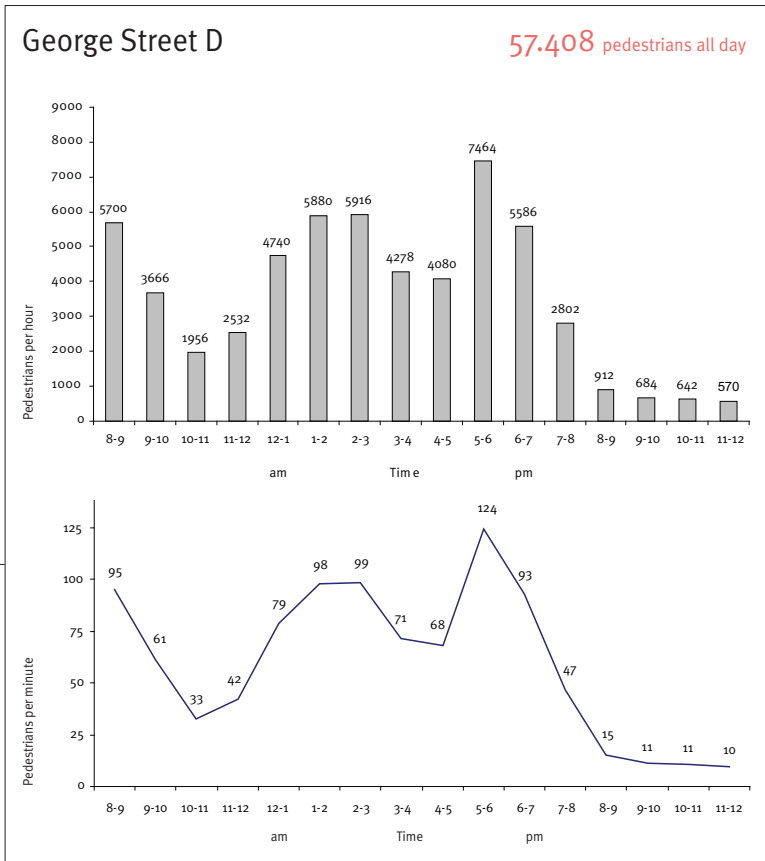
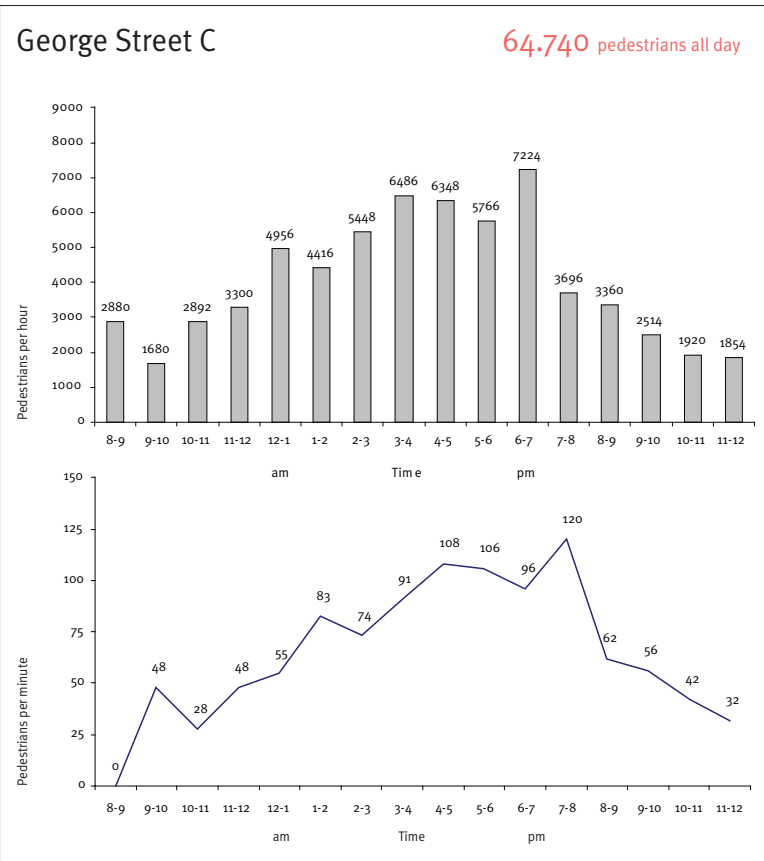
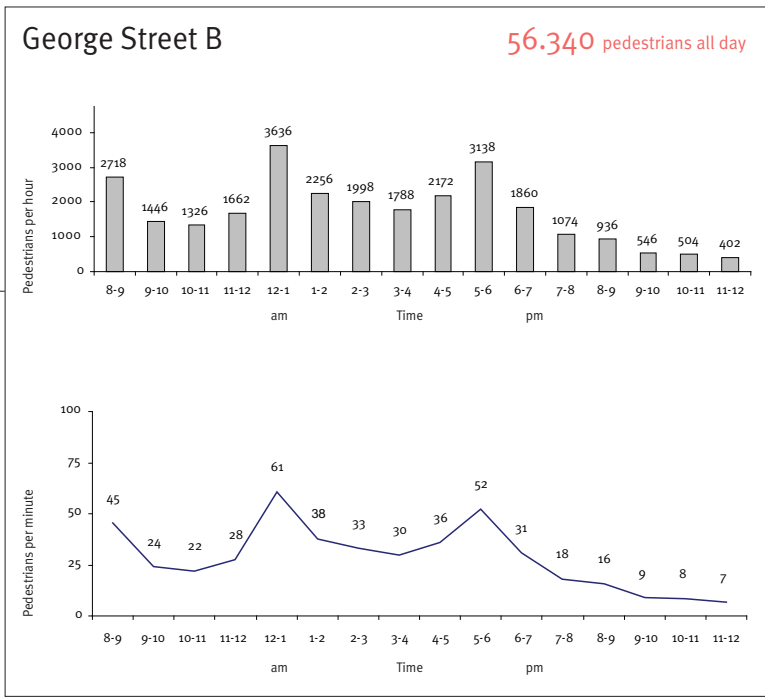
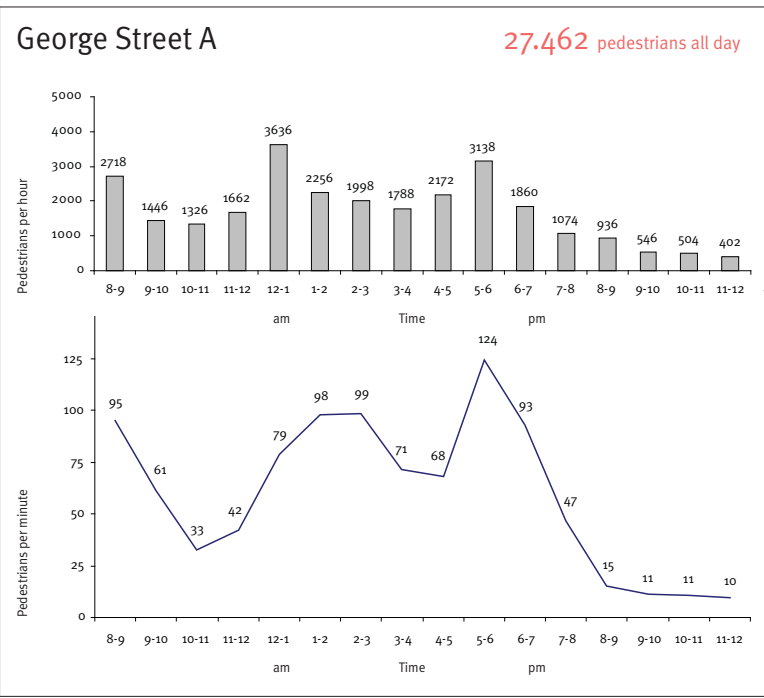
THE NUMBER OF PEDESTRIANS BETWEEN 8AM - 12PM
 - in selected streets



PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC
 WINTER WEEKDAY 8am - 6pm 2007
 Tuesday the 3rd of July 2007
 Weather: Clear skies, windy, 21°C

PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

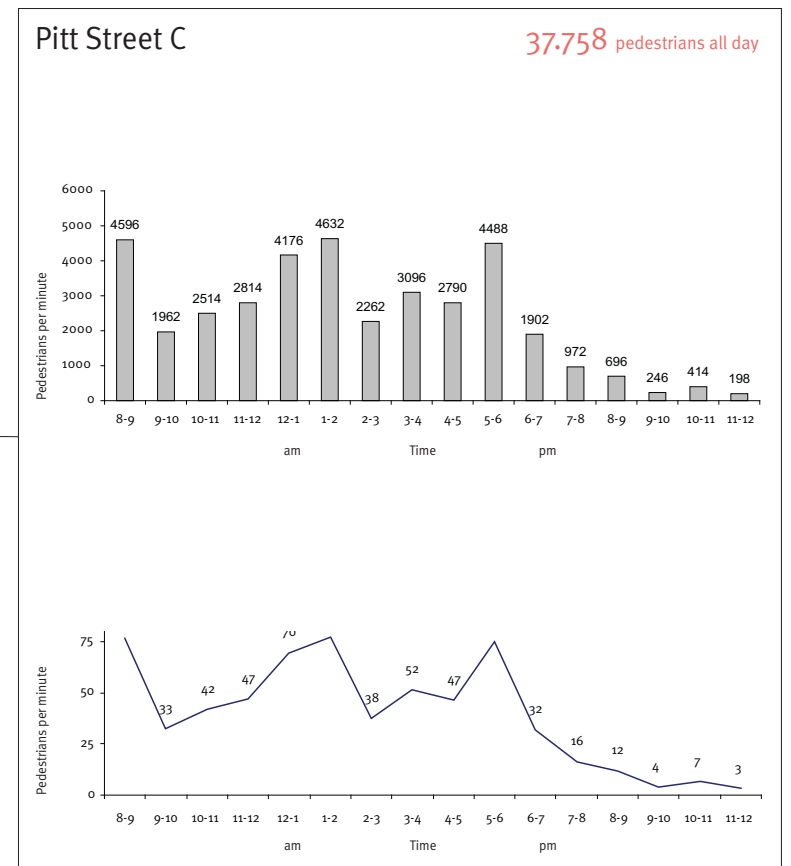
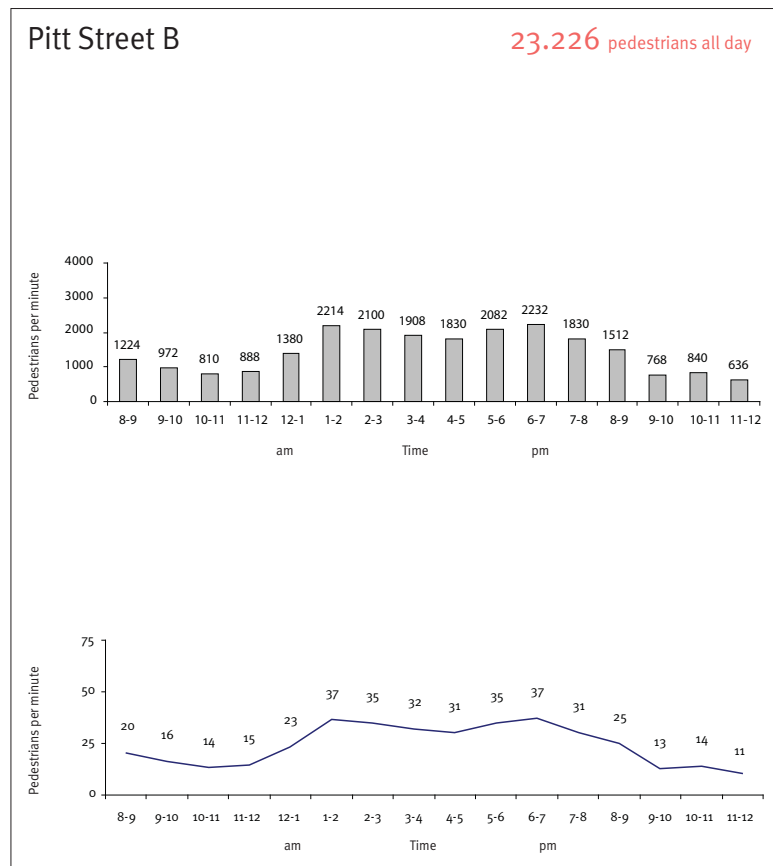
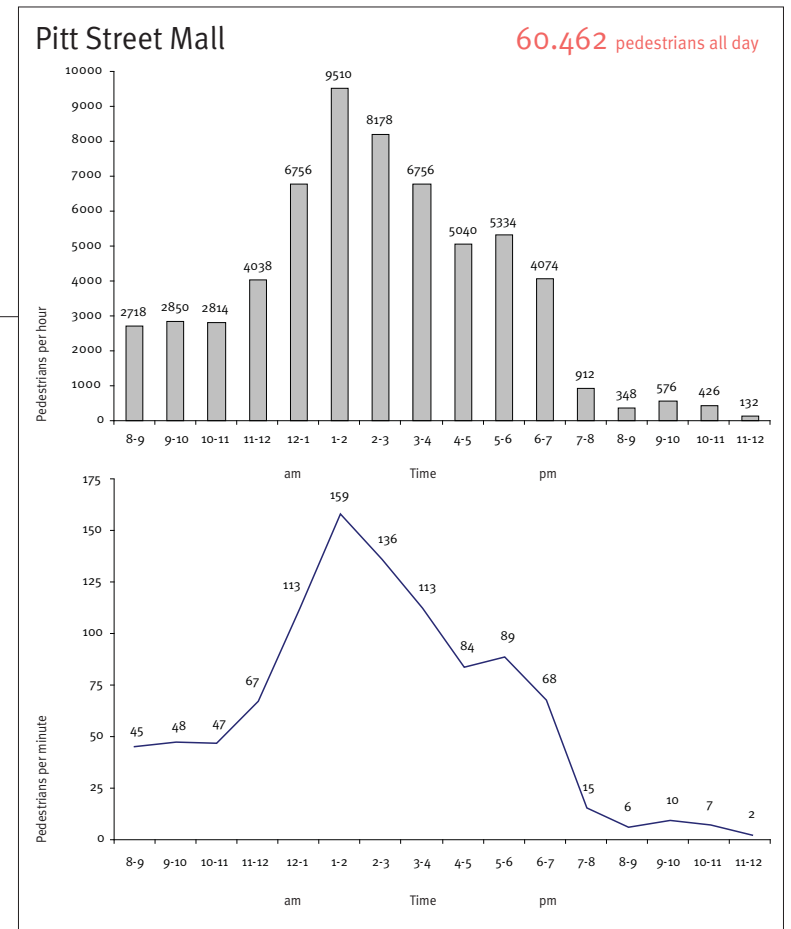
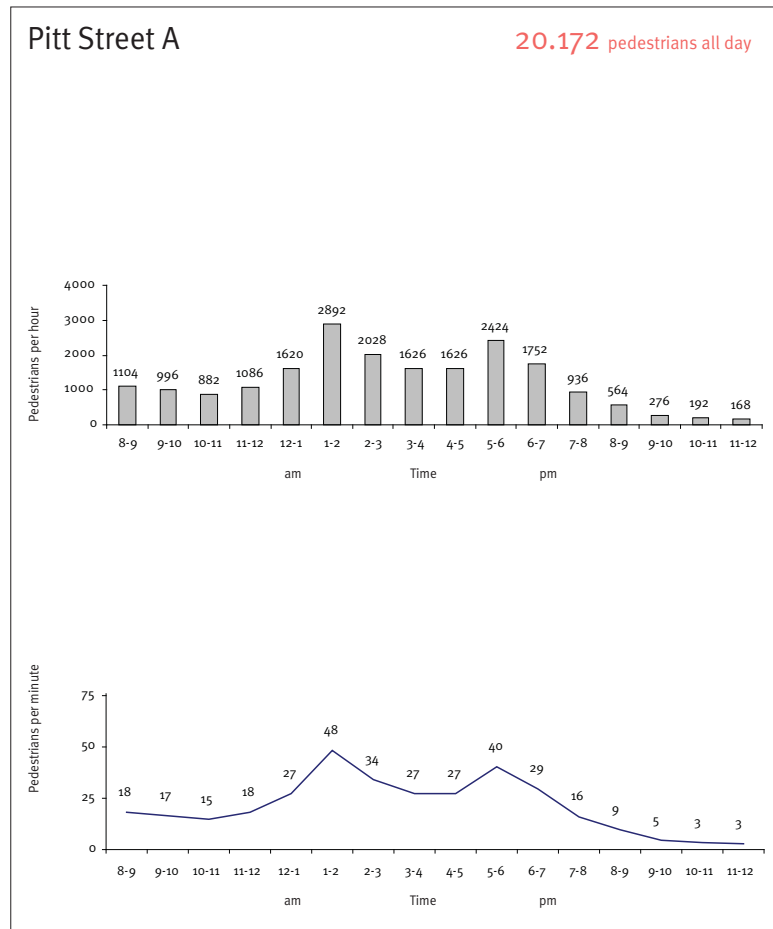
winter weekday 8am - 12pm



Note: George Street D is an extra pedestrian count done on a winter weekday

PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

winter weekday 8am - 12pm



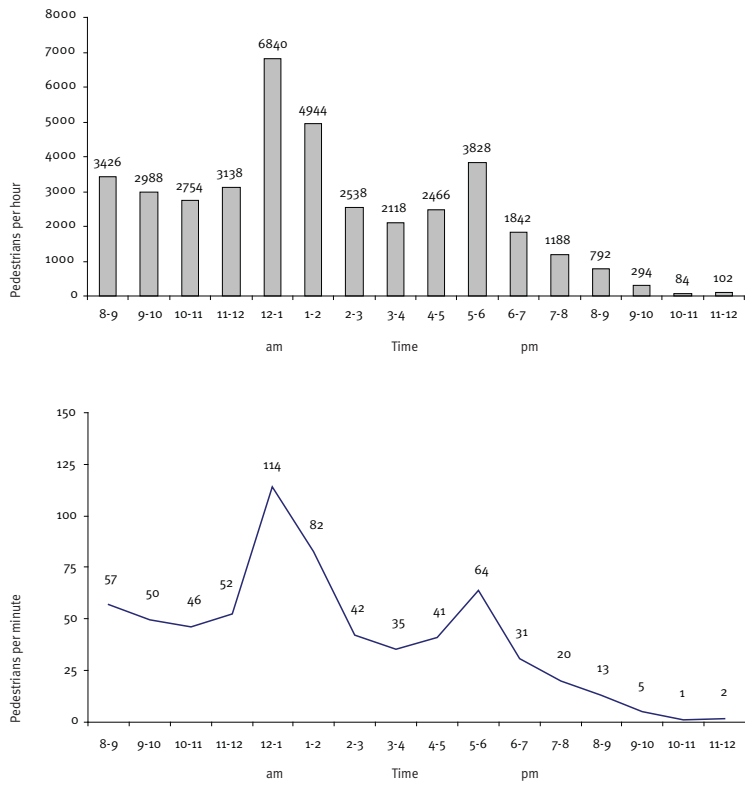
Note: Pitt Street C is an extra pedestrian count done on a winter weekday

PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

winter weekday 8am - 12pm

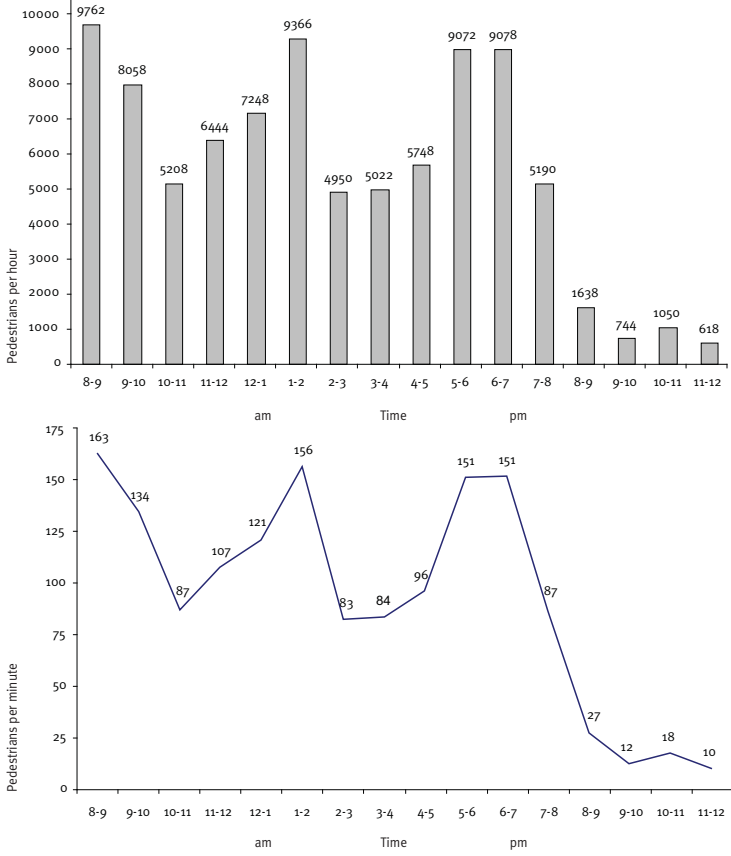
King Street

39,342 pedestrians all day



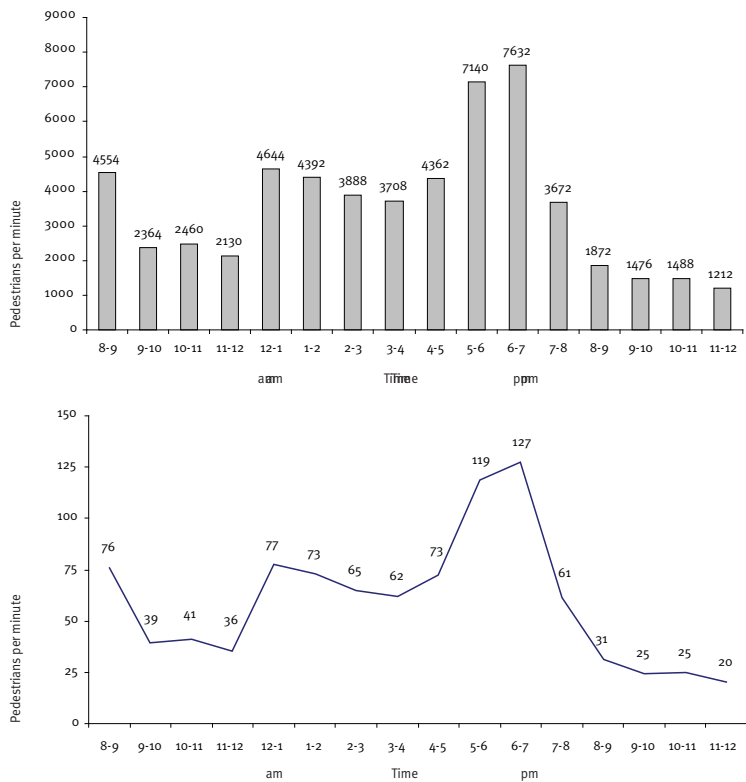
Martin Place

89,196 pedestrians all day



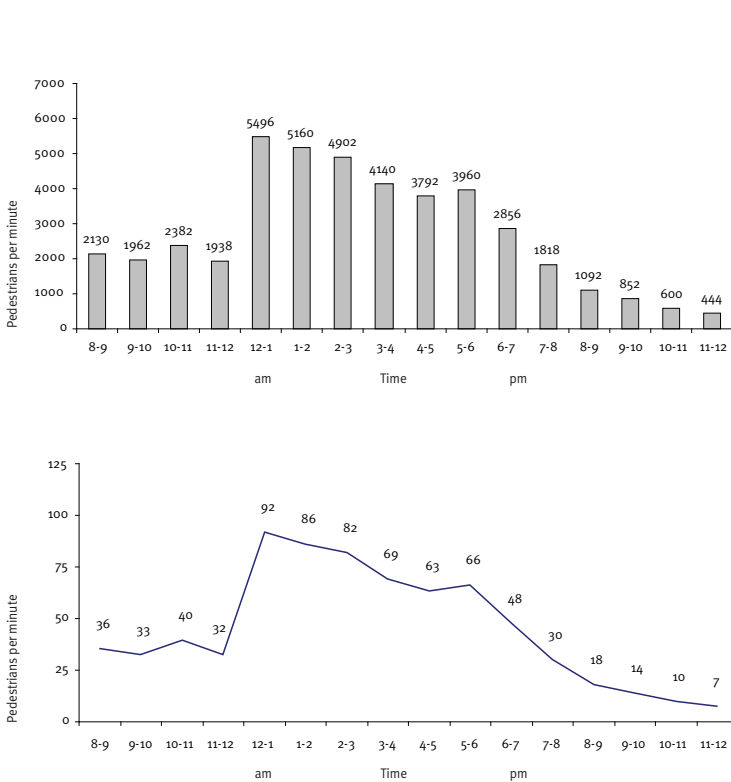
Park Street

56,994 pedestrians all day



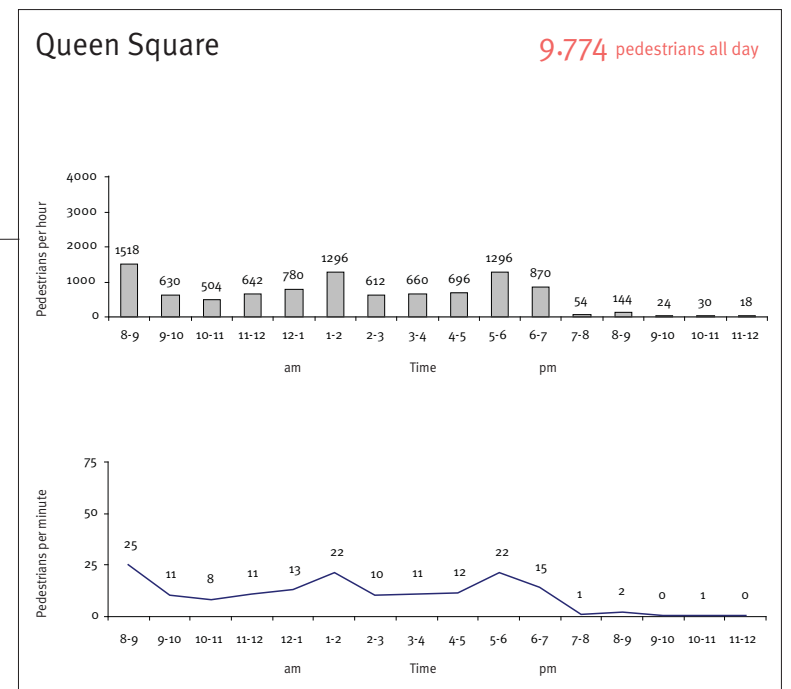
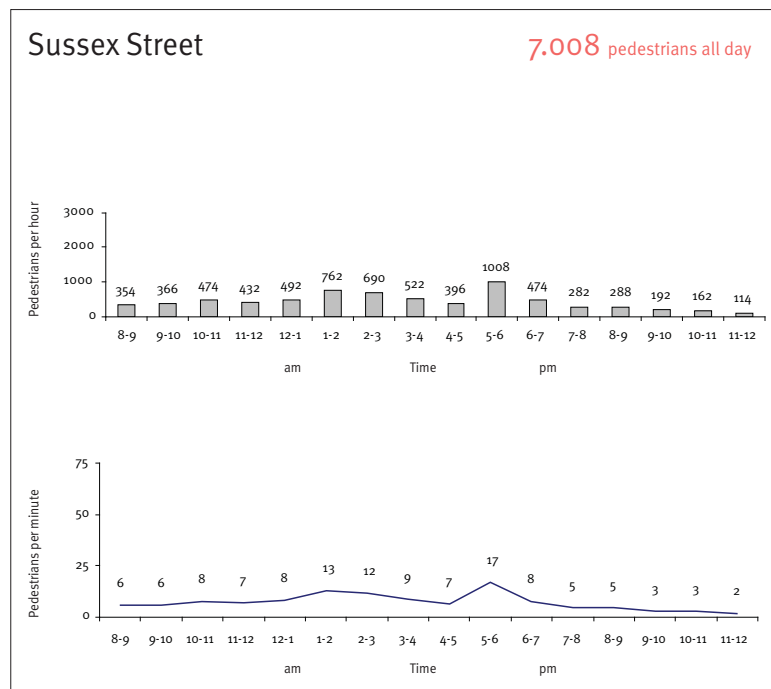
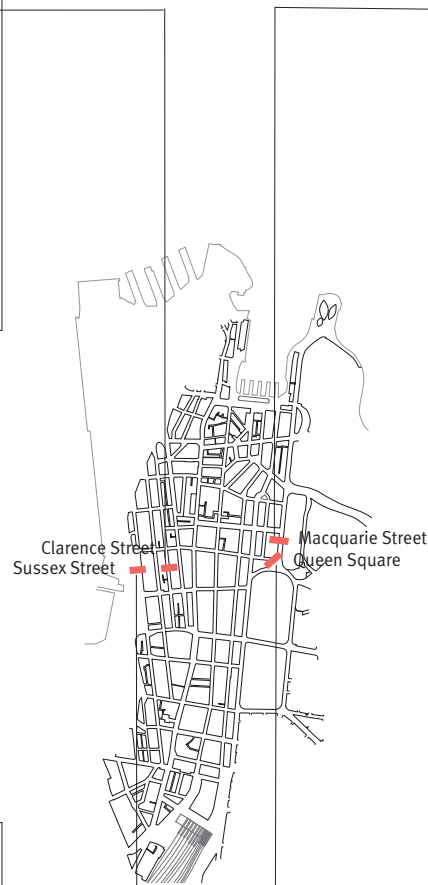
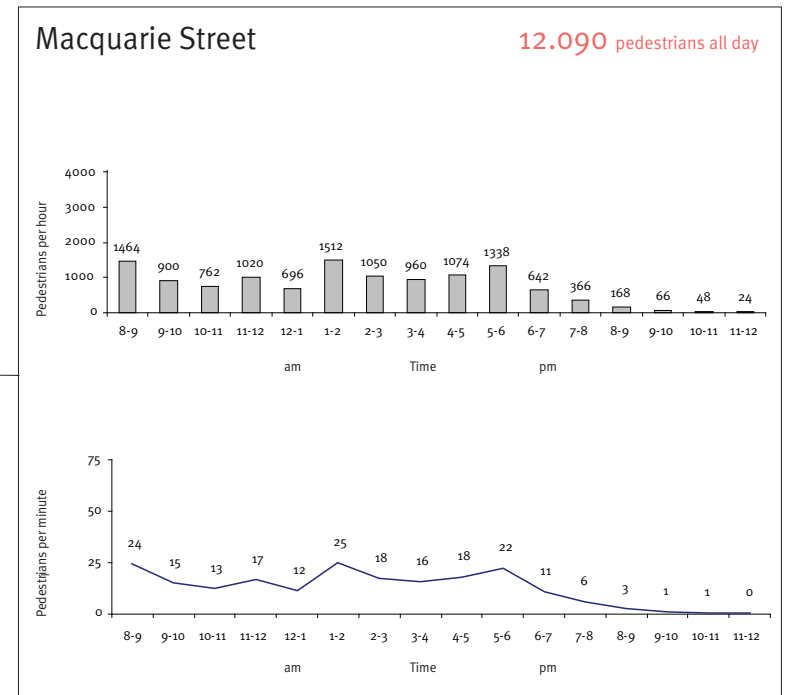
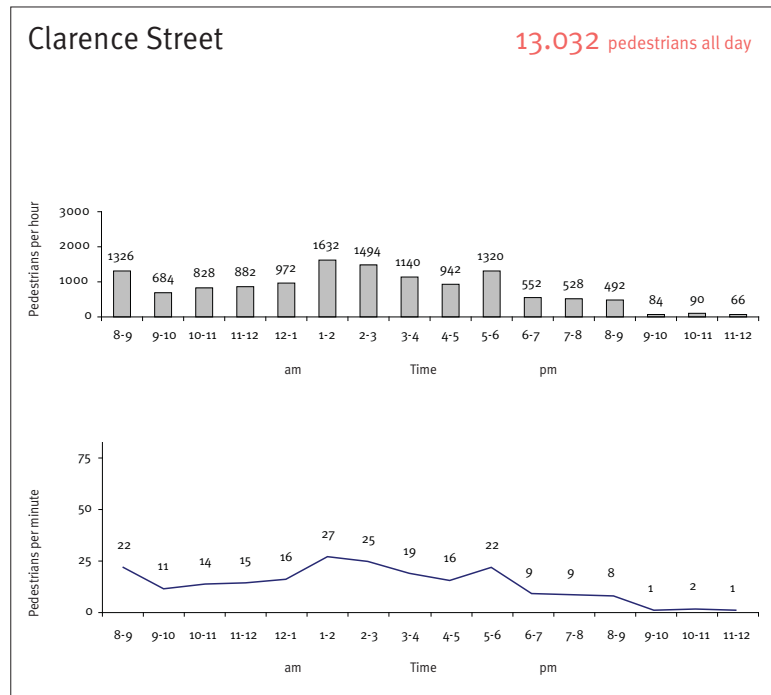
Market Street

43,524 pedestrians all day



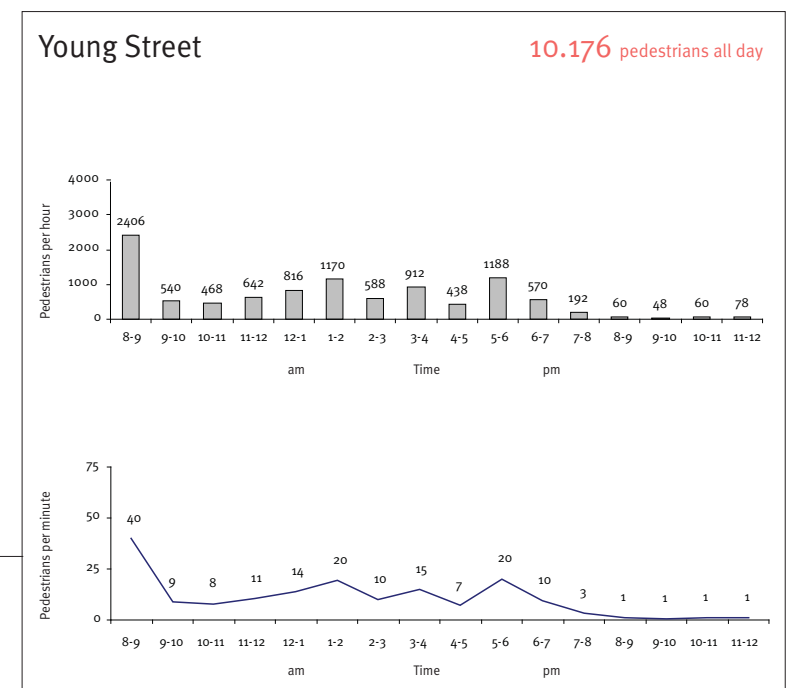
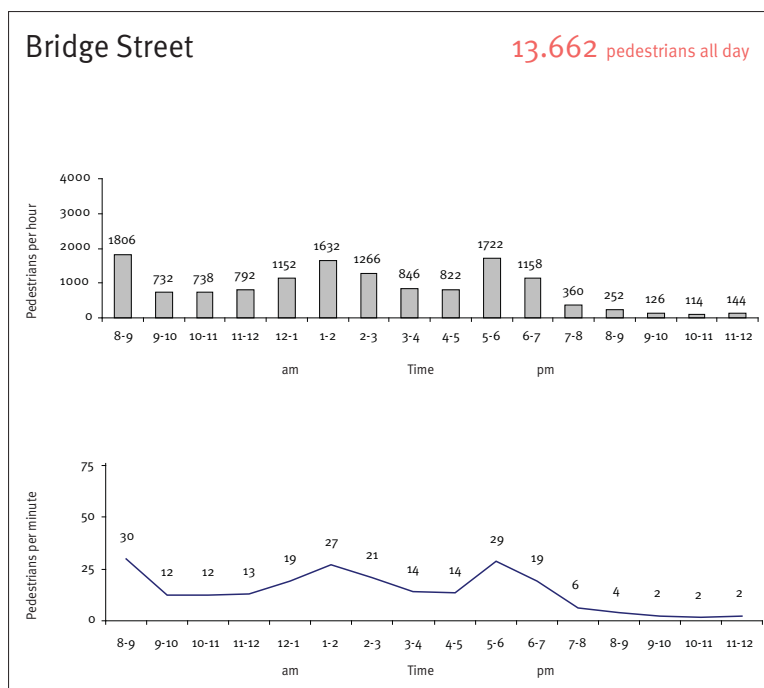
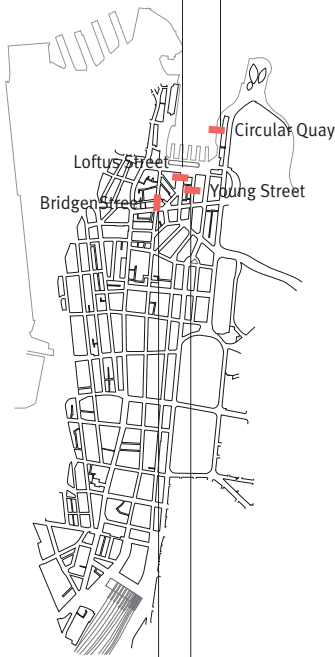
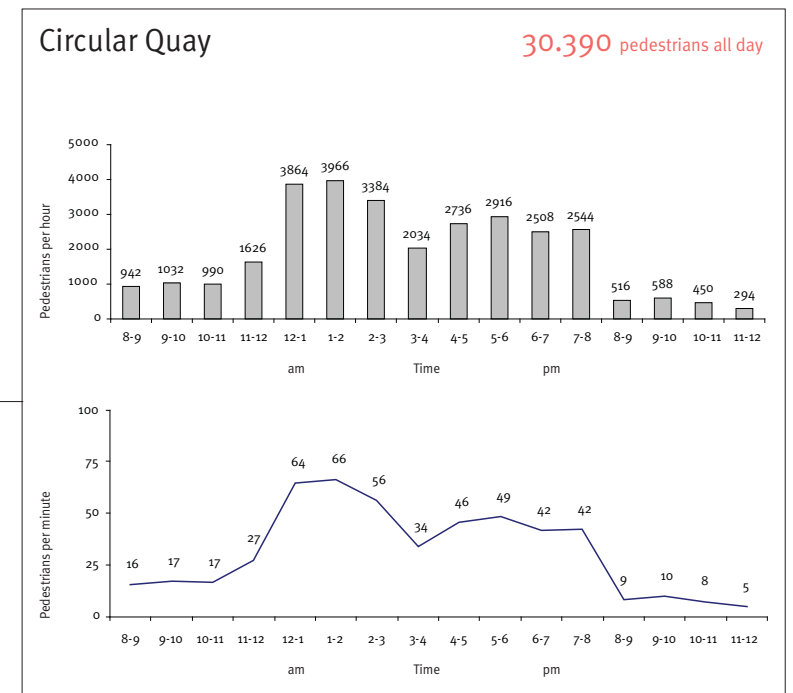
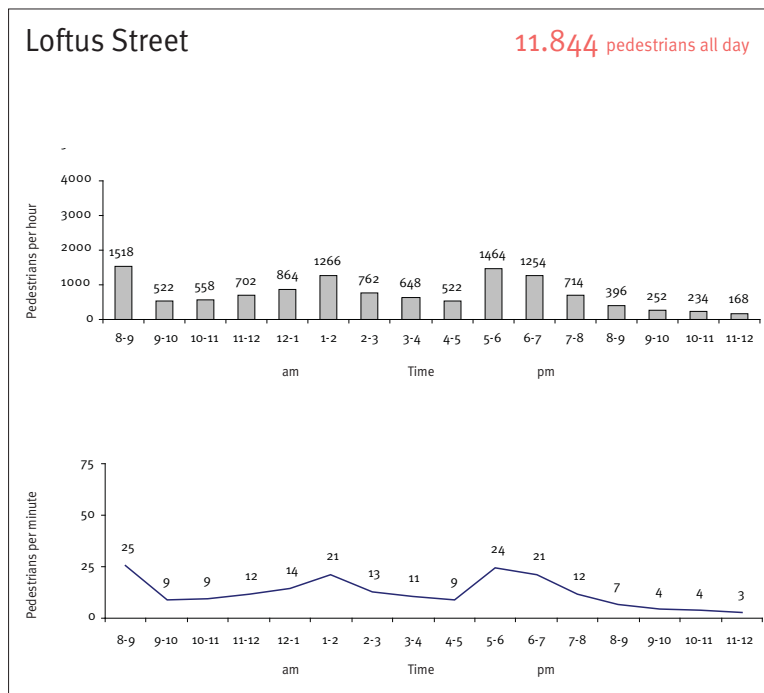
PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

winter weekday 8am - 12pm



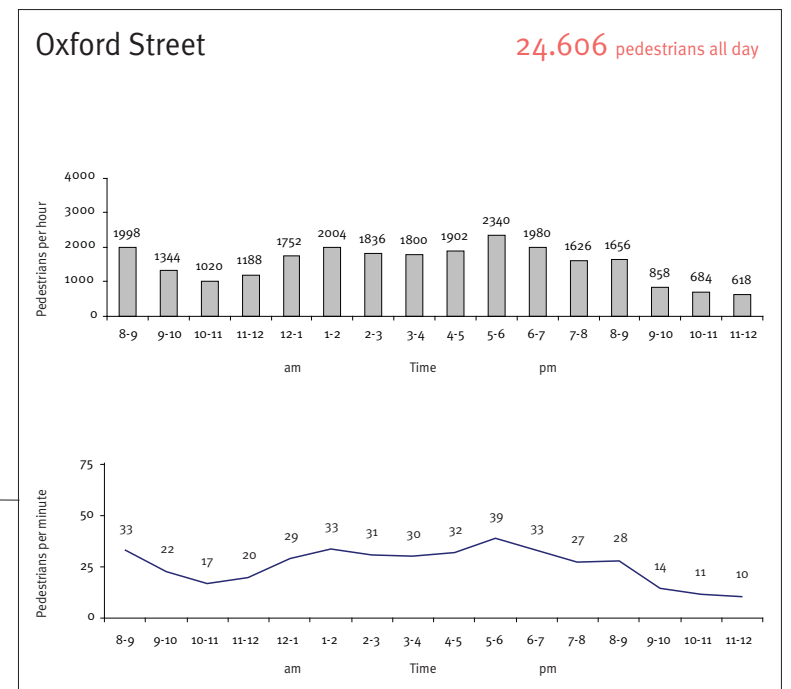
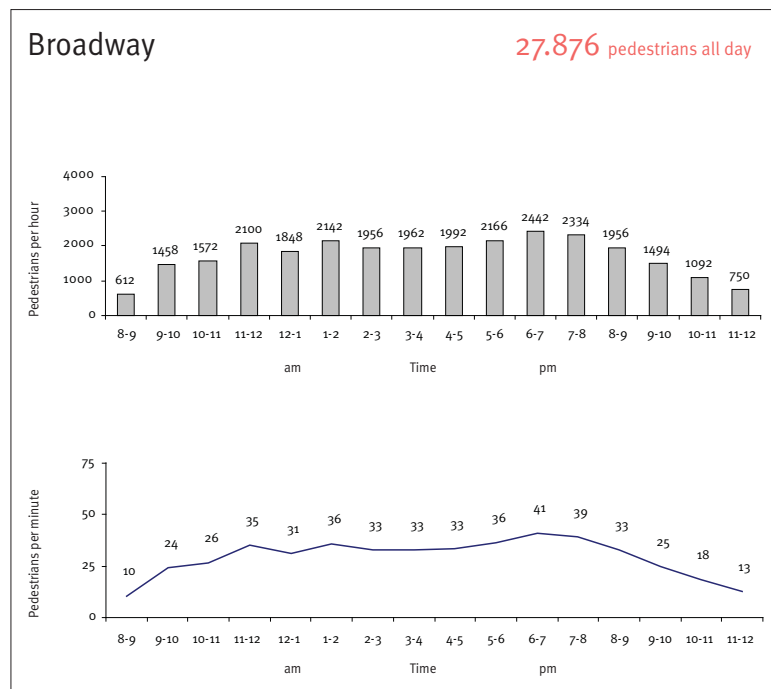
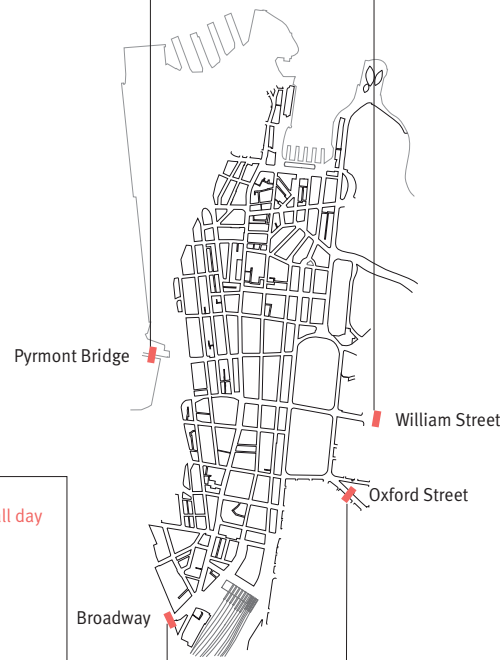
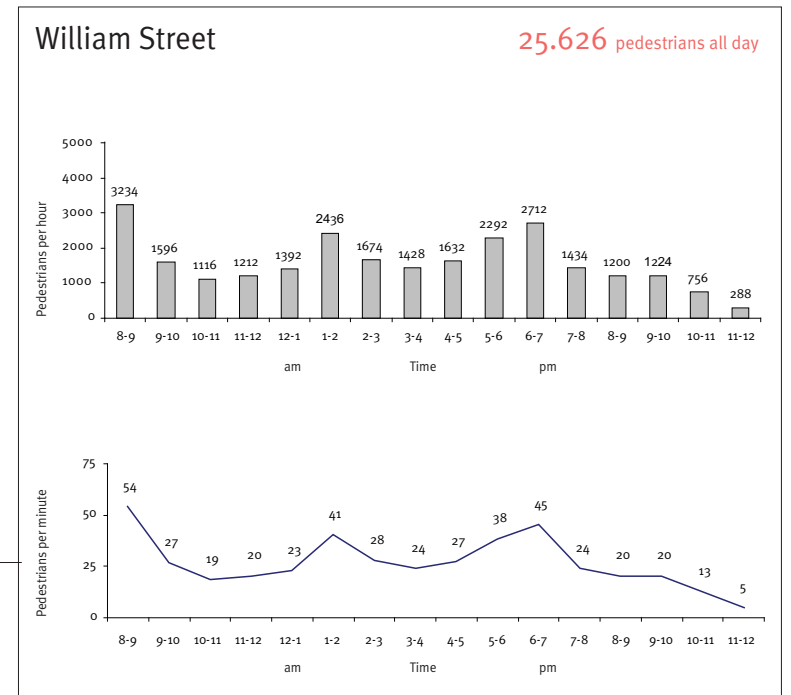
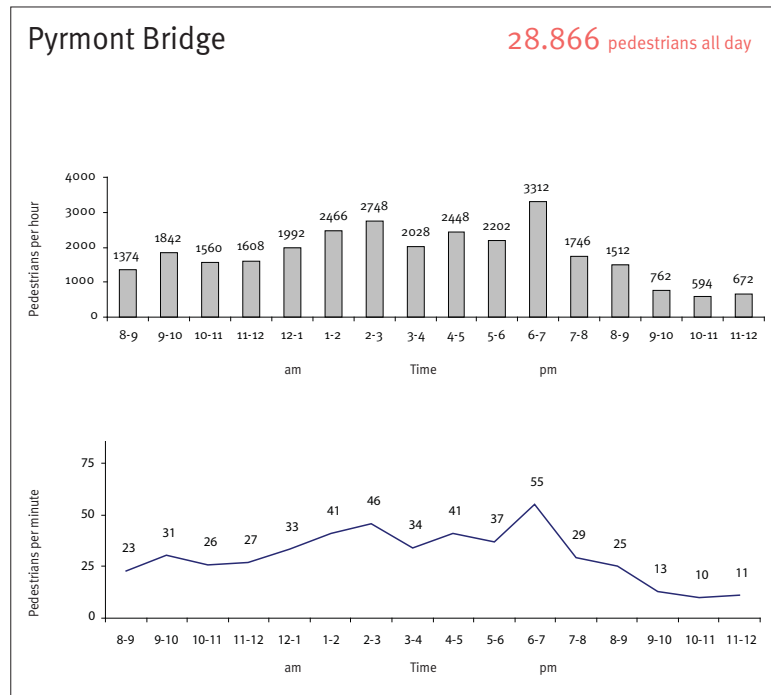
PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

winter weekday 8am - 12pm



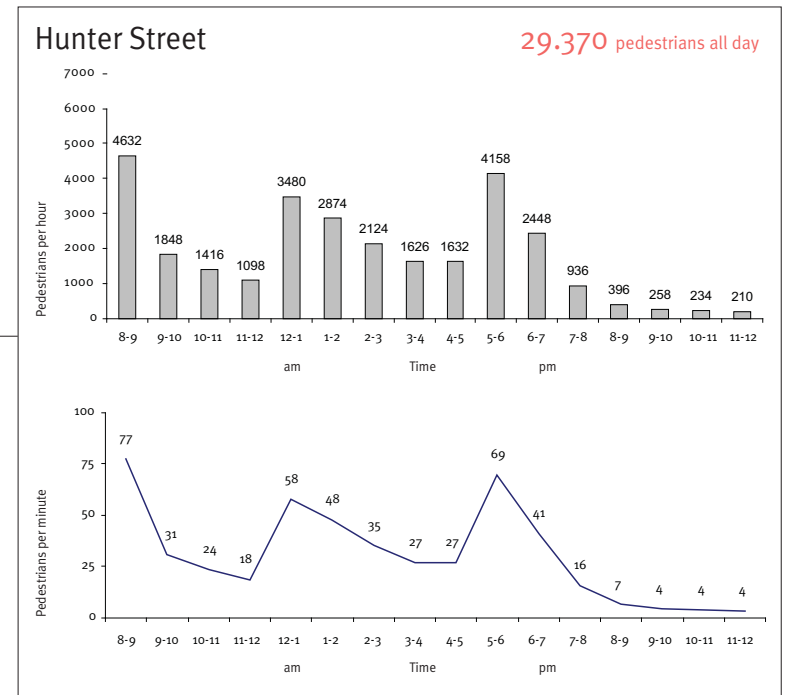
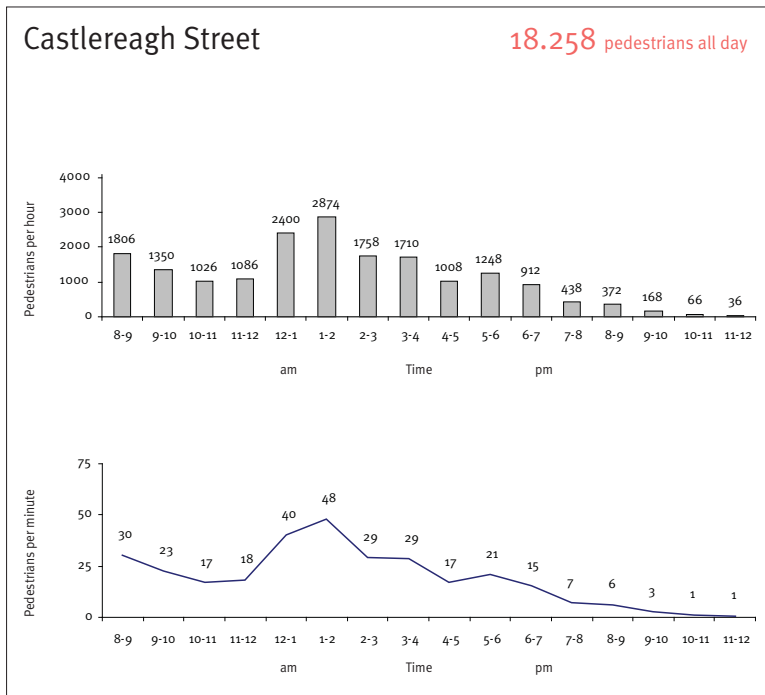
PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

winter weekday 8am - 12pm

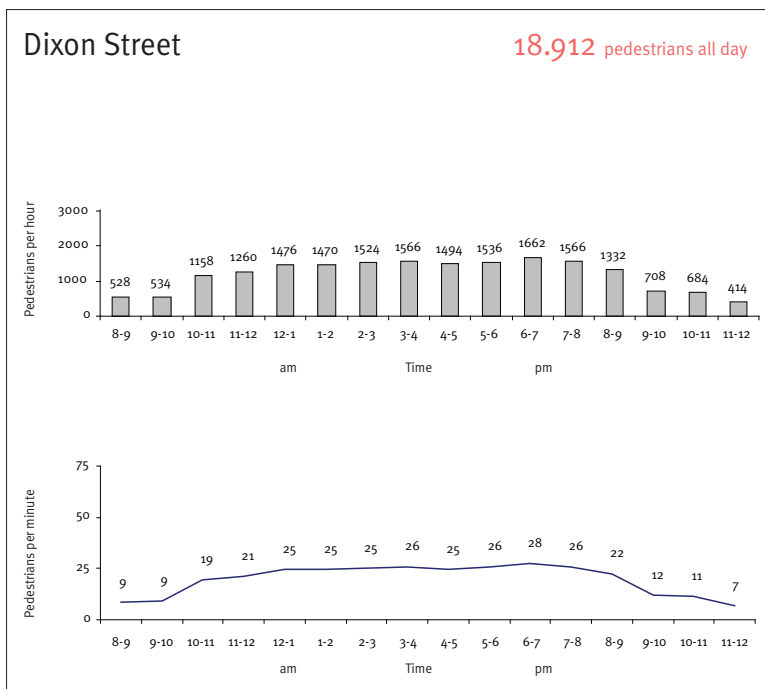


PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

winter weekday 8am - 12pm



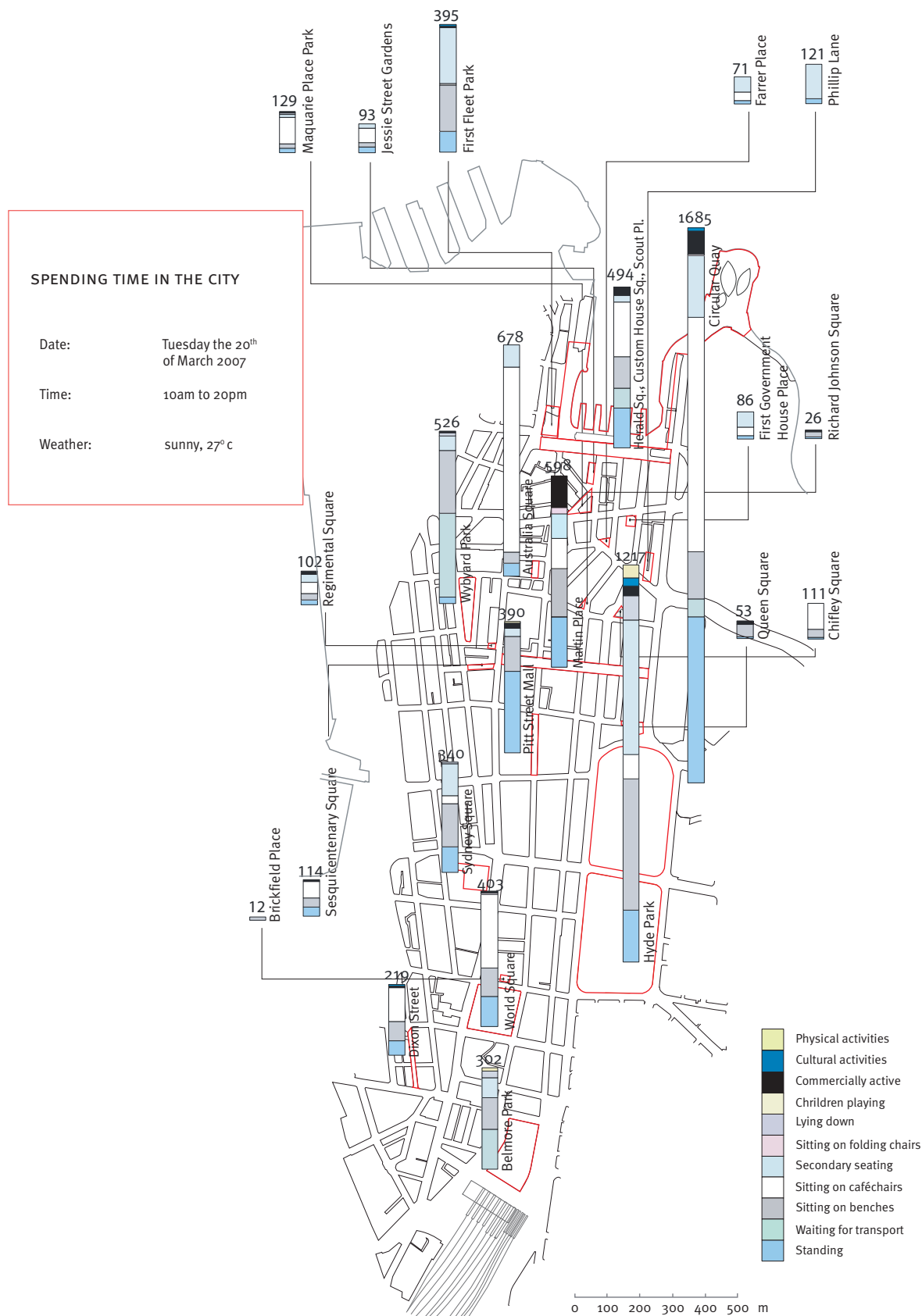
Note: Hunter Street is an extra pedestrian count done on a winter weekday





STATIONARY ACTIVITIES

spending time in the city



SURVEY OF STATIONARY ACTIVITIES

As part of an estimate of the usage and role of the different public spaces, a stationary activity survey was undertaken in a selection of public spaces.

The survey registers the number of people staying in each place in the following categories: - those who are standing, sitting, or lying down as well as those who are engaged in cultural or commercial activities, such as vendors and street artists or children playing.

The survey records both the number of stationary activities over a 10-hour period, as well as the distribution and type of activity. A high number of people engaged in stationary activities tell a story of a city with popular and inviting public spaces. Stationary activities were recorded in 23 locations in the City Centre between 10am and 8pm.

In the period between 12am and 4pm there is an average of 9115 activities in all of the spaces surveyed.

People sitting on public benches:	22%
People sitting at outdoor cafés:	30%
People standing:	26%
Children playing:	0,05%

The map is showing the average number of activities found between 12pm and 4pm on a selection of the surveyed locations. Or in another way: If an aerial photo was taken at any time between 12pm and 4pm this is the number of persons which is likely to be found in the photo.

STATIONARY ACTIVITIES

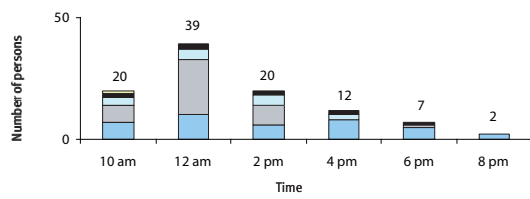
Average number of stationary activities in selected spaces found at any time in the period between 12am and 4pm on a summer weekday.

STATIONARY ACTIVITIES

summer weekday 10am - 8pm

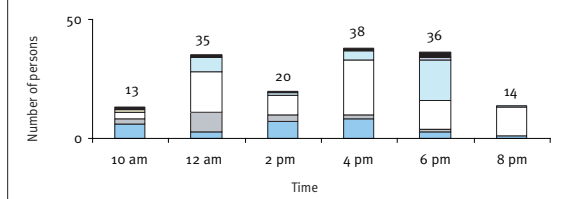
Farrer Place

100 activities
(registered at selected times)



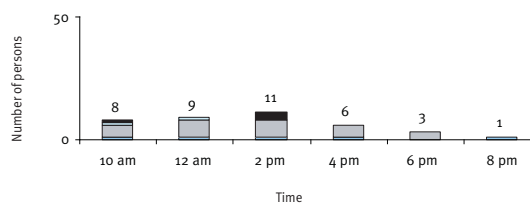
Jessie Street Gardens

156 activities
(registered at selected times)



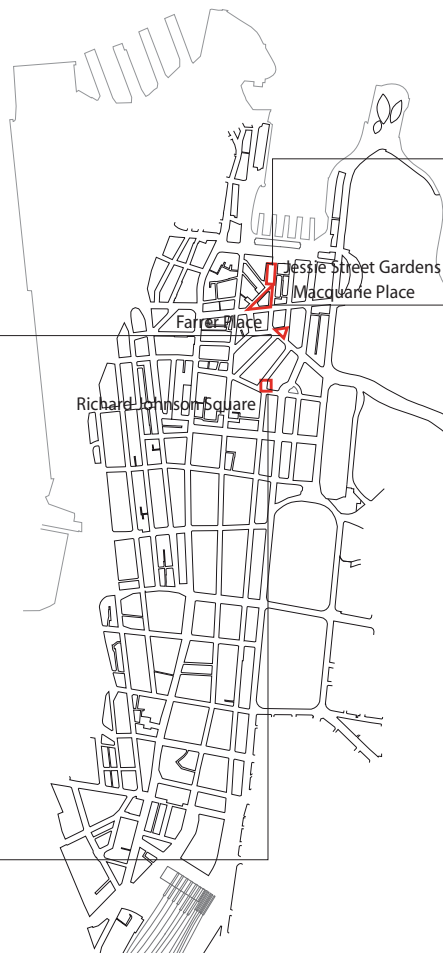
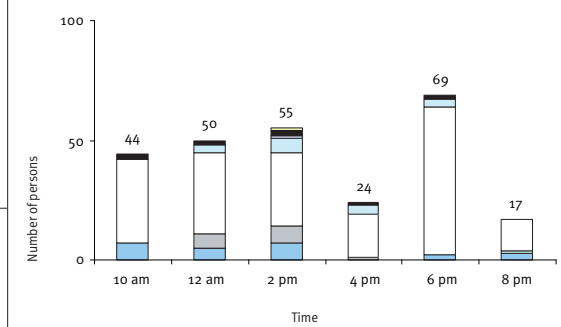
Richard Johnson Square

38 activities
(registered at selected times)



Macquarie Place

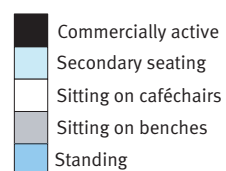
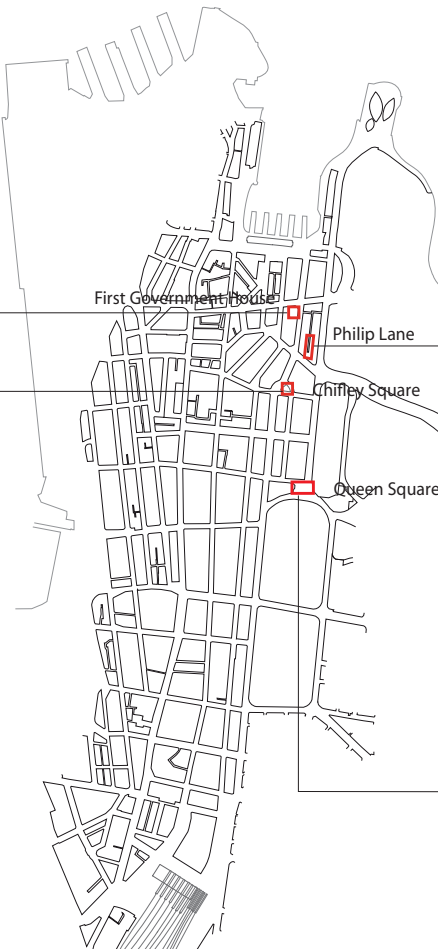
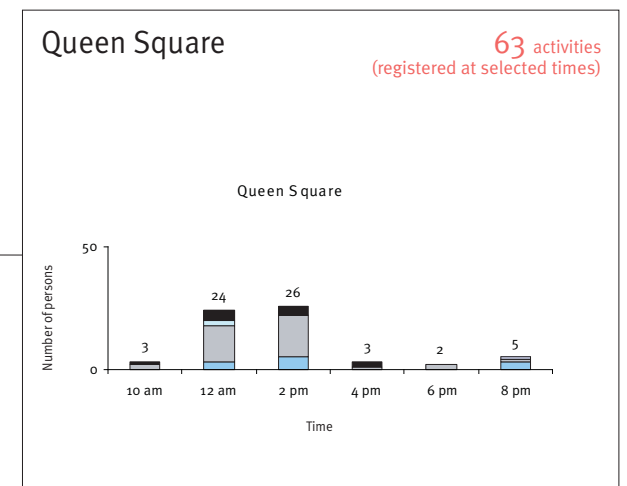
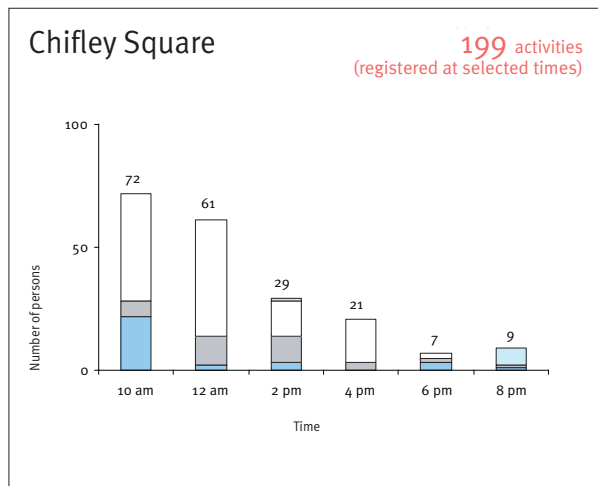
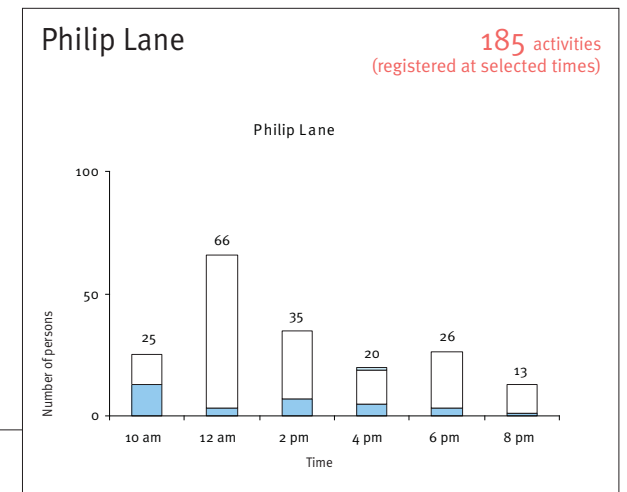
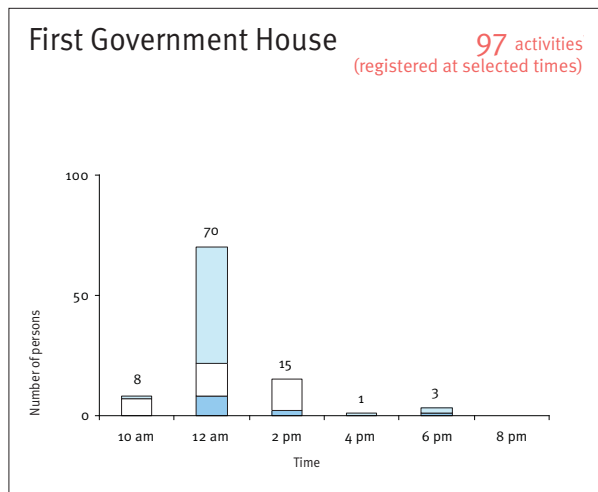
259 activities
(registered at selected times)



- Physical activities
- Commercially active
- Children playing
- Lying down
- Secondary seating
- Sitting on caféchairs
- Sitting on benches
- Waiting for transport
- Standing

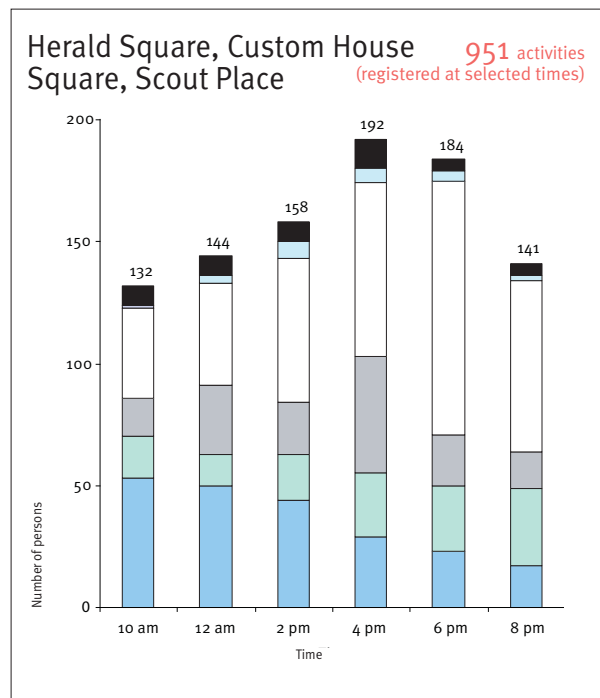
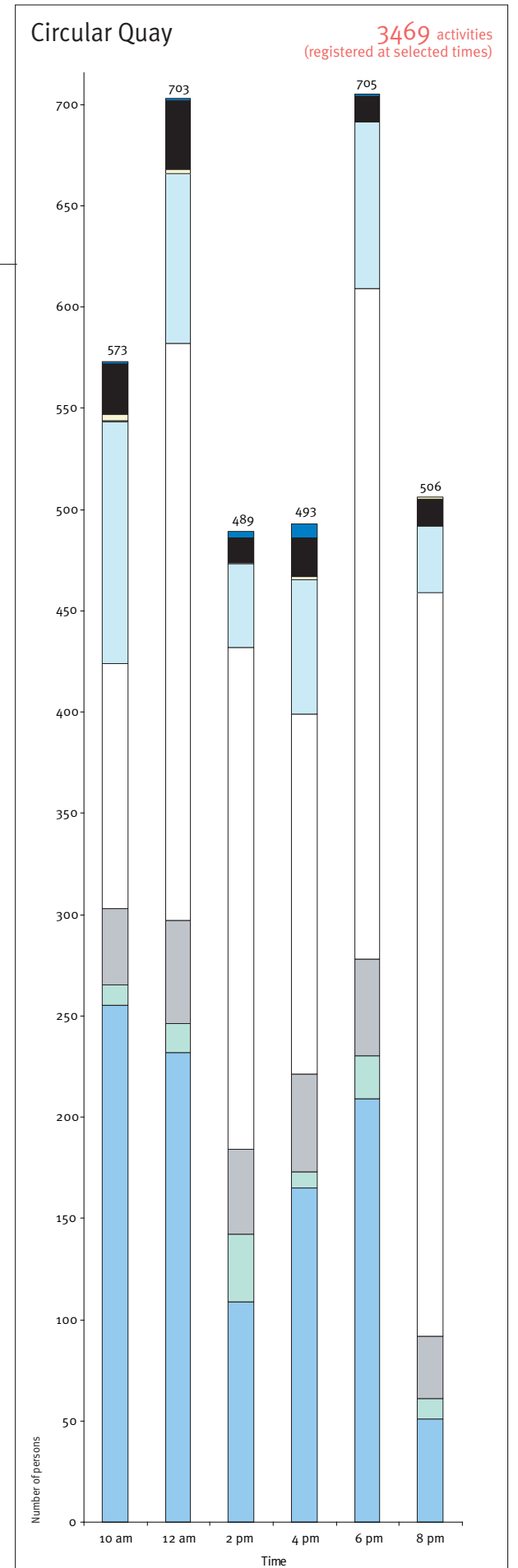
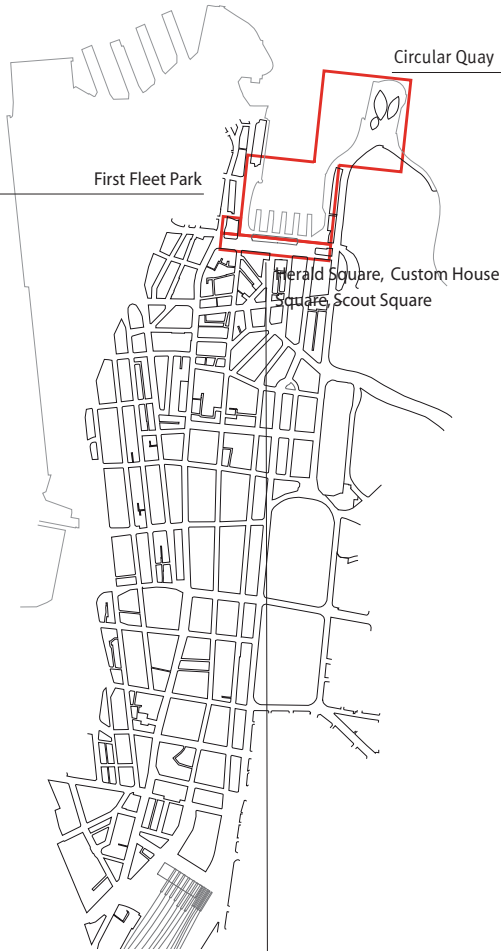
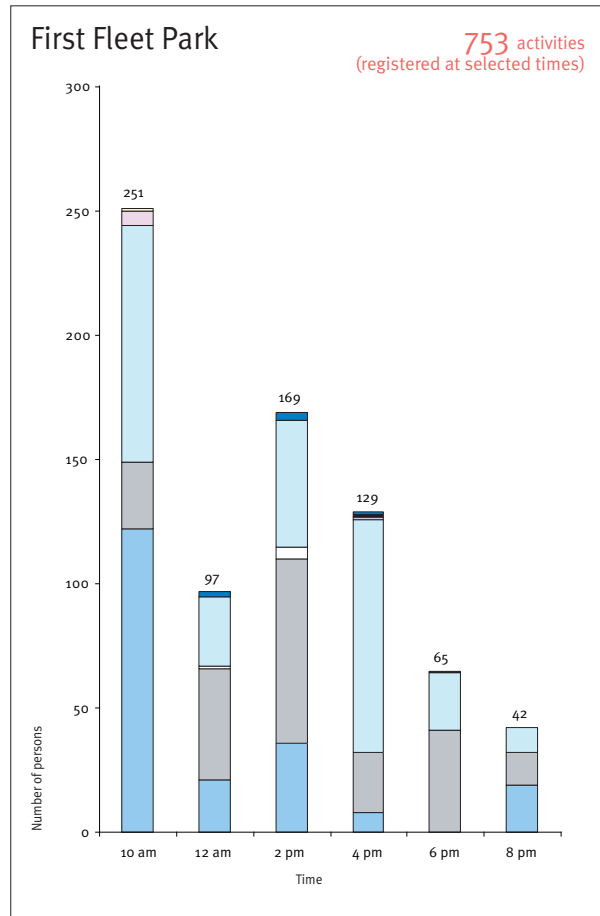
STATIONARY ACTIVITIES

summer weekday 10am - 8pm



STATIONARY ACTIVITIES

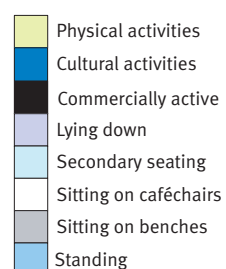
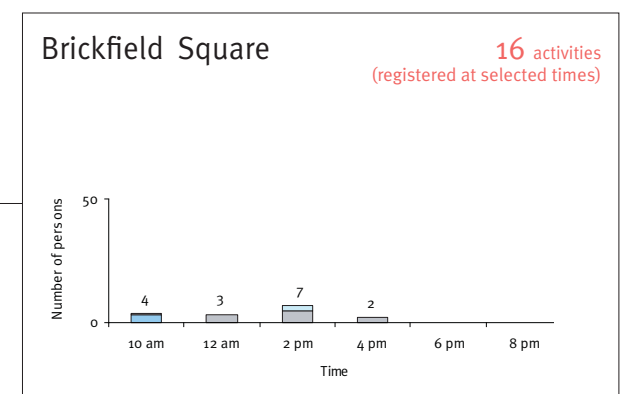
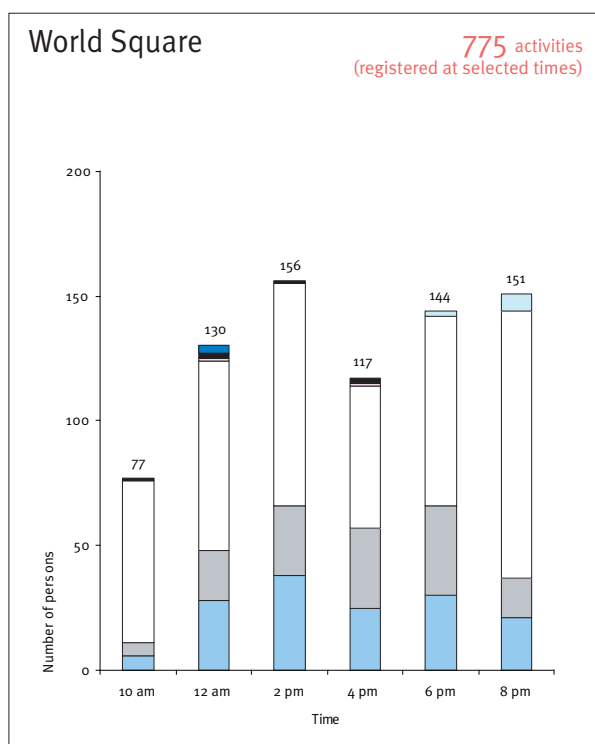
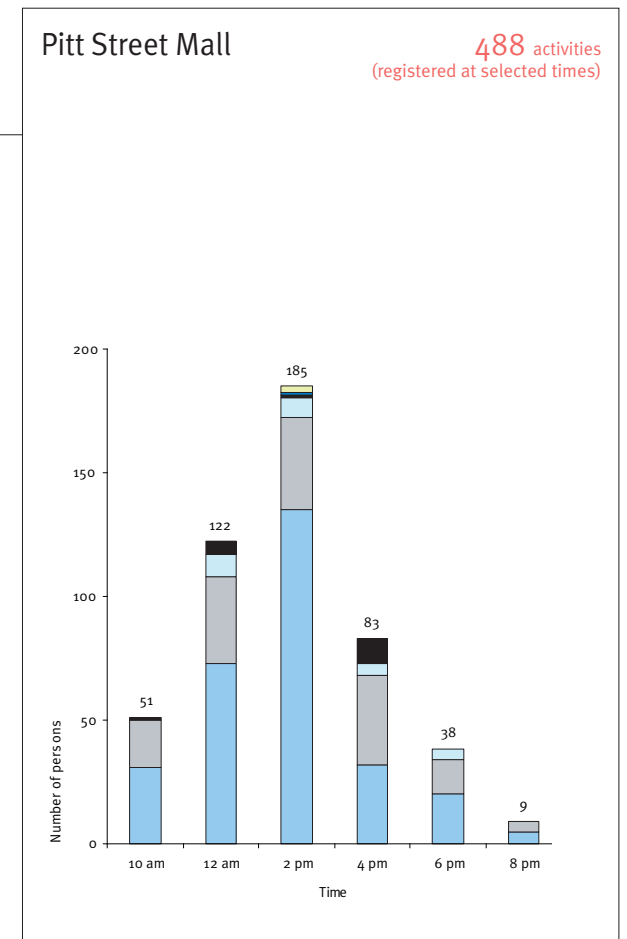
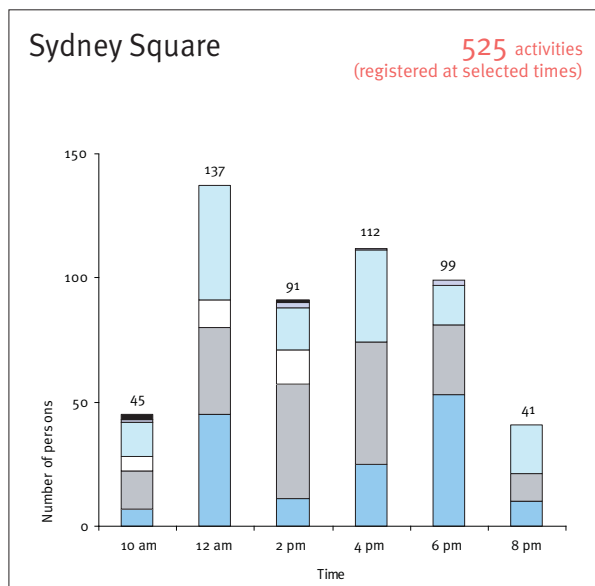
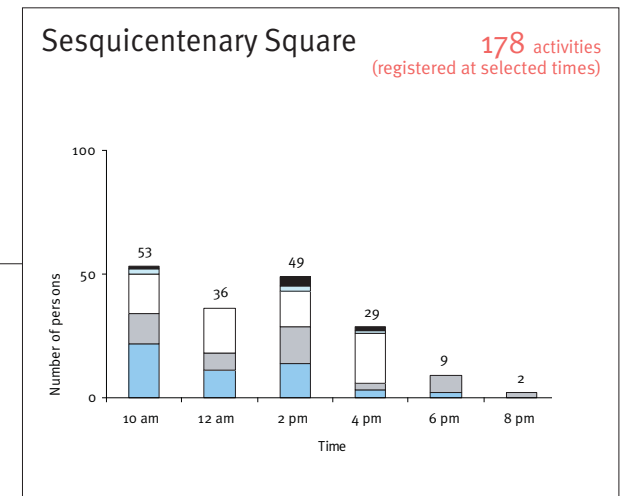
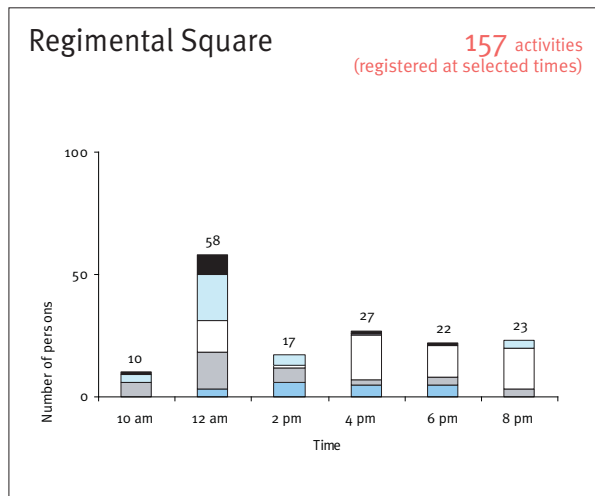
summer weekday 10am - 8pm



- Physical activities
- Cultural activities
- Commercially active
- Children playing
- Lying down
- Sitting on folding chairs
- Secondary seating
- Sitting on caféchairs
- Sitting on benches
- Waiting for transport
- Standing

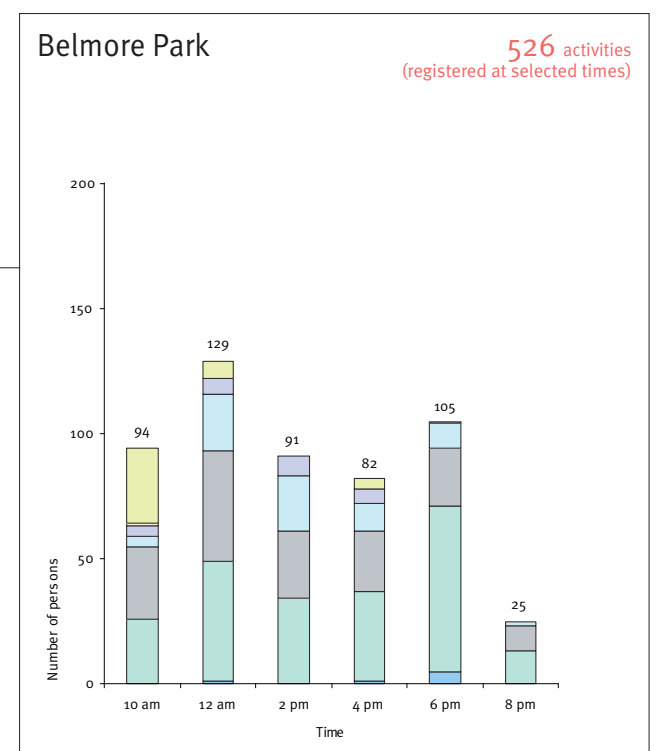
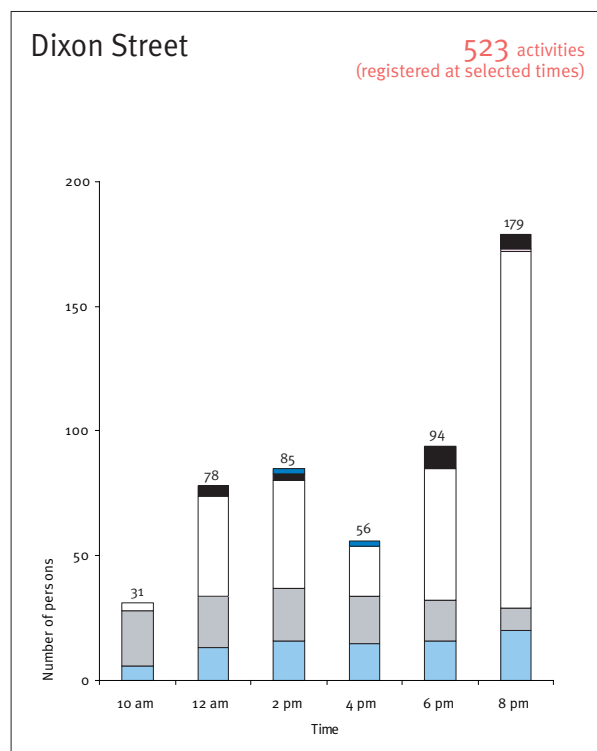
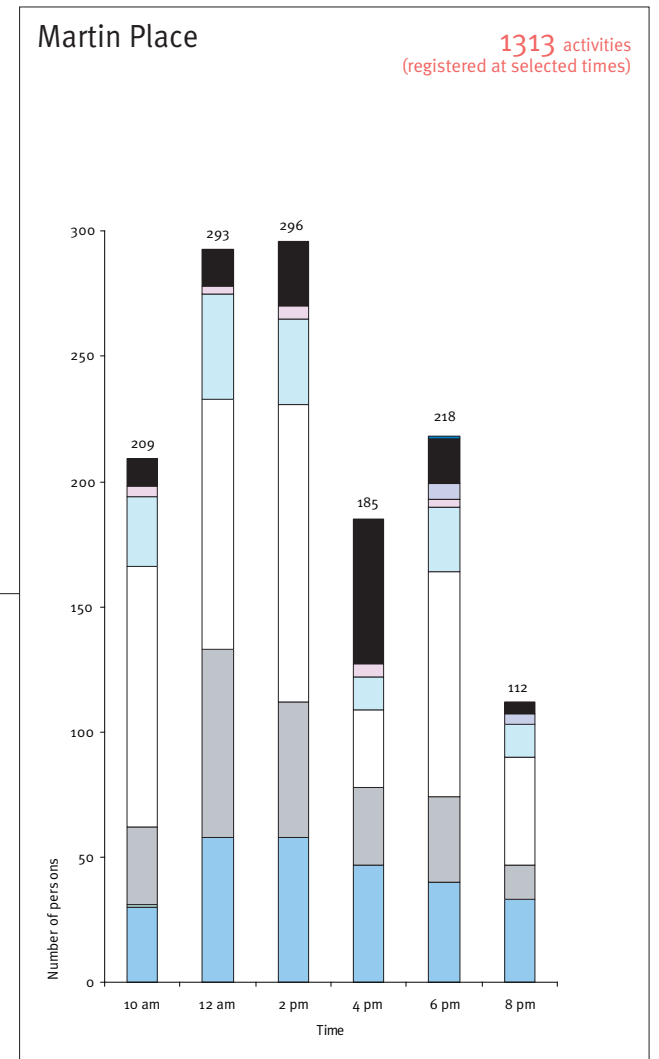
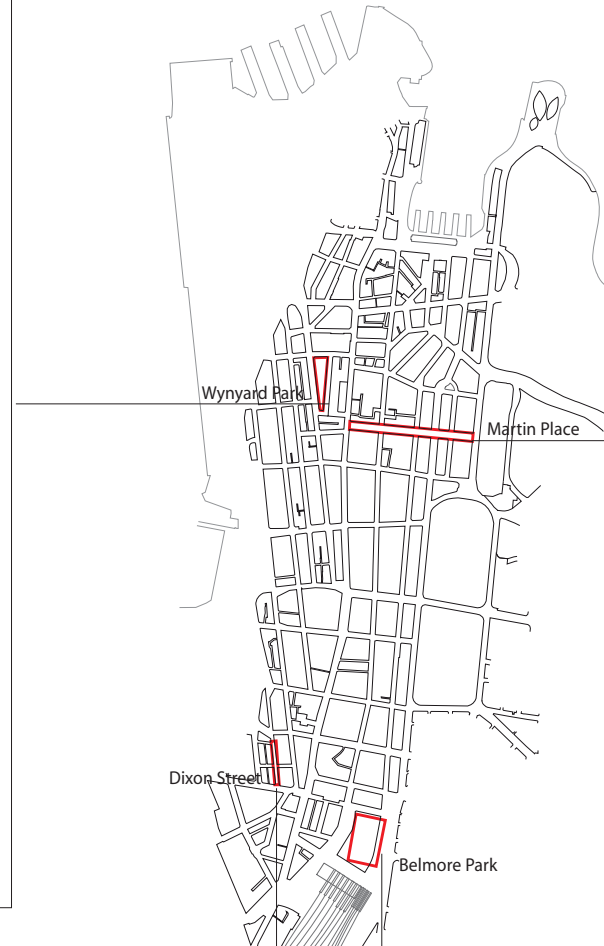
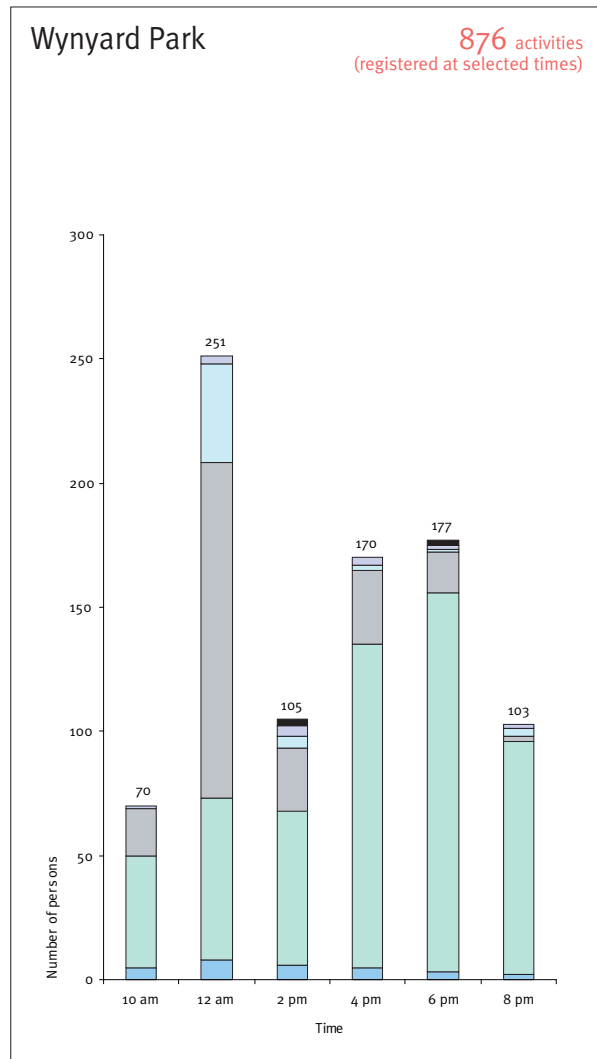
STATIONARY ACTIVITIES

summer weekday 10am - 8pm



STATIONARY ACTIVITIES

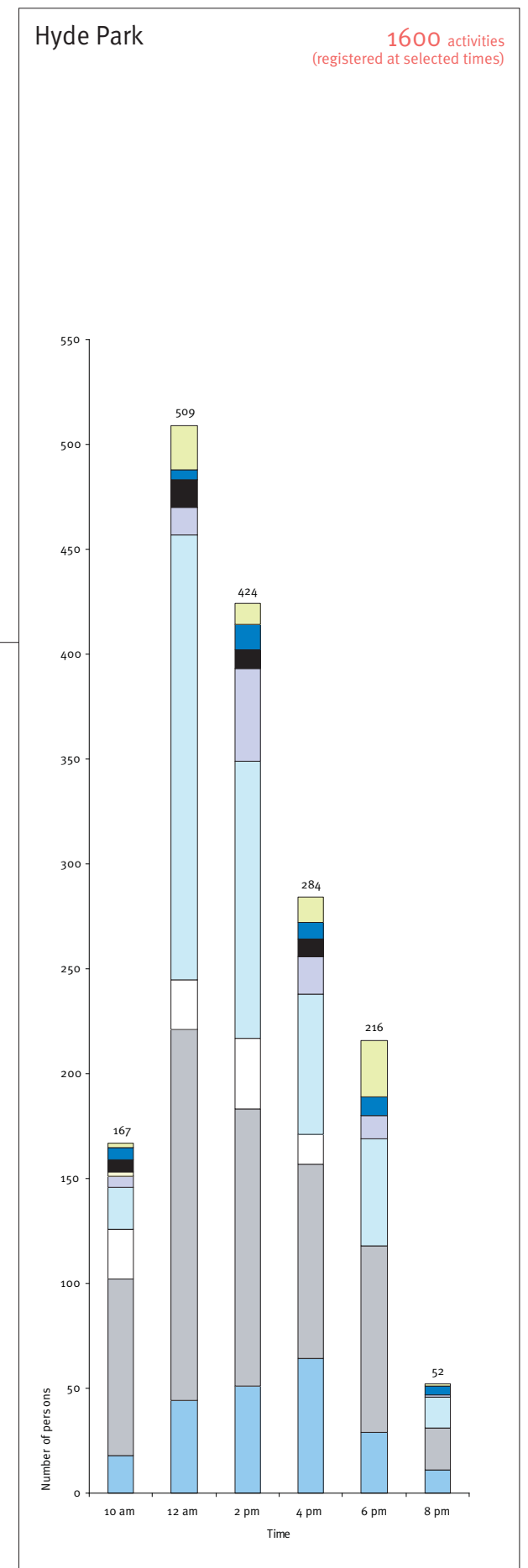
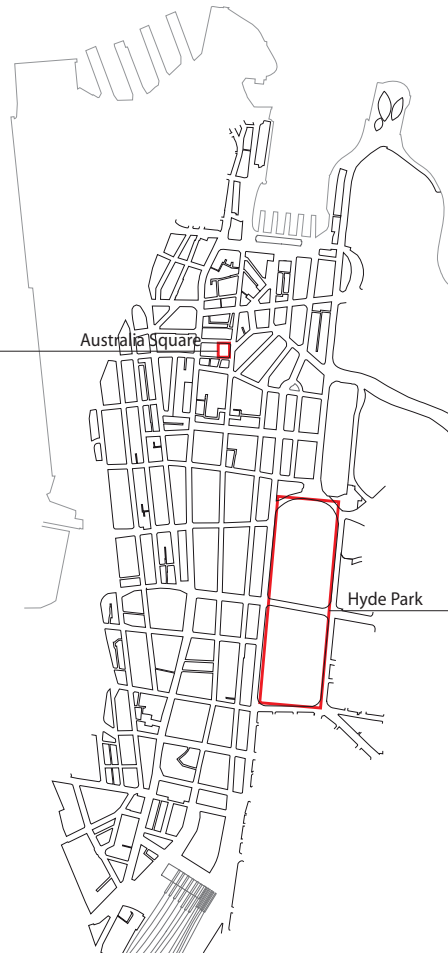
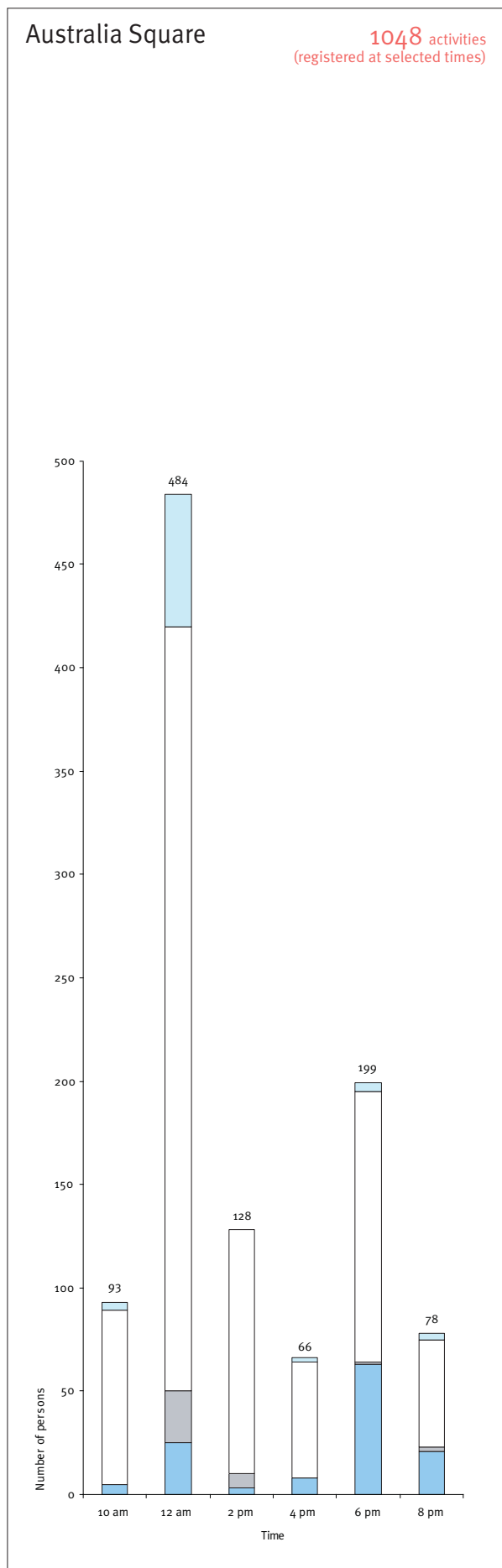
summer weekday 10am - 8pm



- Physical activities
- Cultural activities
- Commercially active
- Children playing
- Lying down
- Sitting on folding chairs
- Secondary seating
- Sitting on caféchairs
- Sitting on benches
- Waiting for transport
- Standing

STATIONARY ACTIVITIES

summer weekday 10am - 8pm

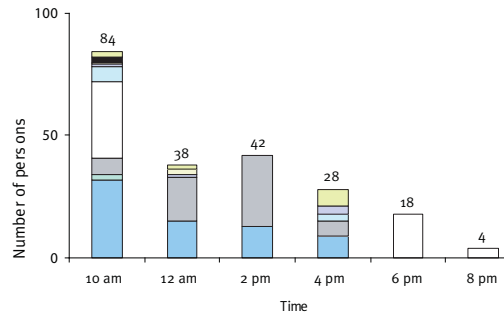


STATIONARY ACTIVITIES

winter weekday 10am - 8pm

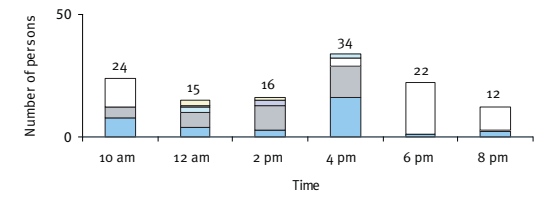
Farrer Place

214 activities
(registered at selected times)



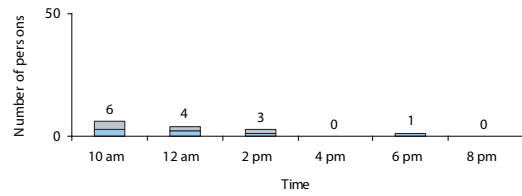
Jessie Street Gardens

123 activities
(registered at selected times)



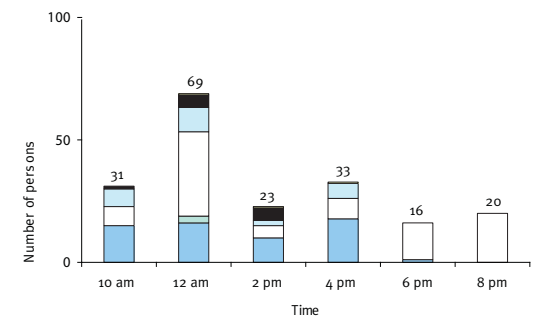
Richard Johnson Square

14 activities
(registered at selected times)



Maquarie Place

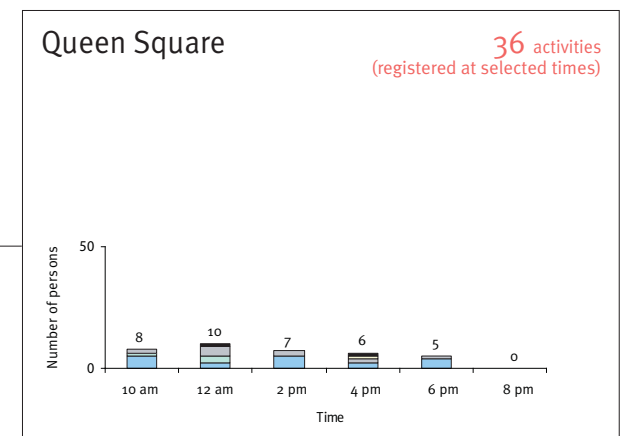
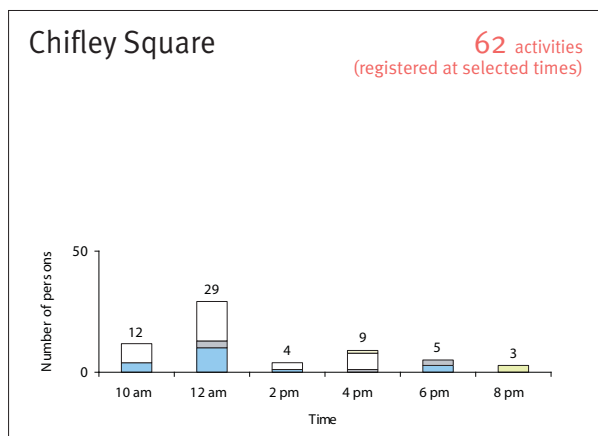
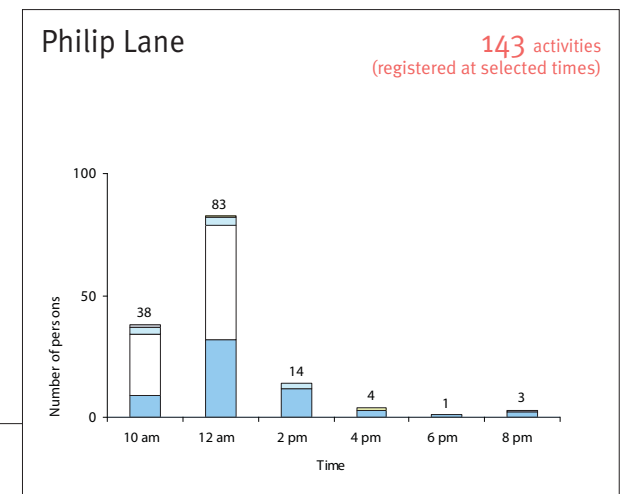
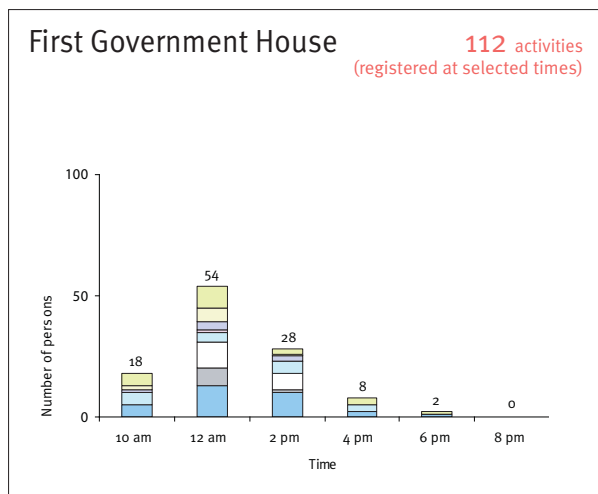
192 activities
(registered at selected times)



- Physical activities
- Commercially active
- Children playing
- Lying down
- Secondary seating
- Sitting on caféchairs
- Sitting on benches
- Waiting for transport
- Standing

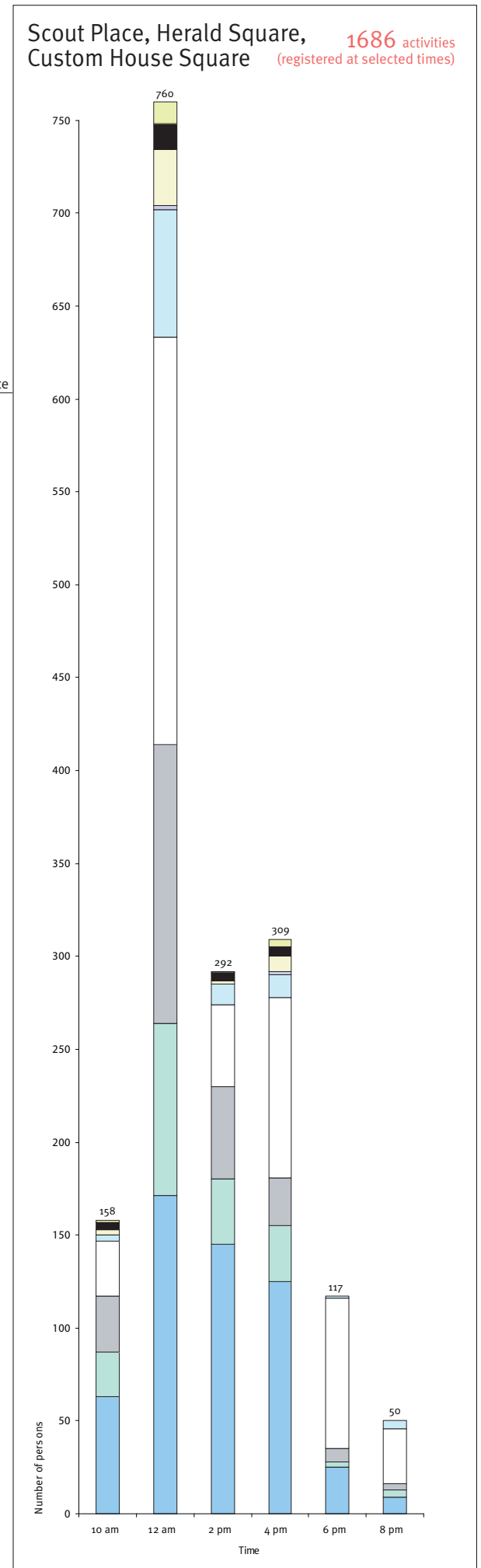
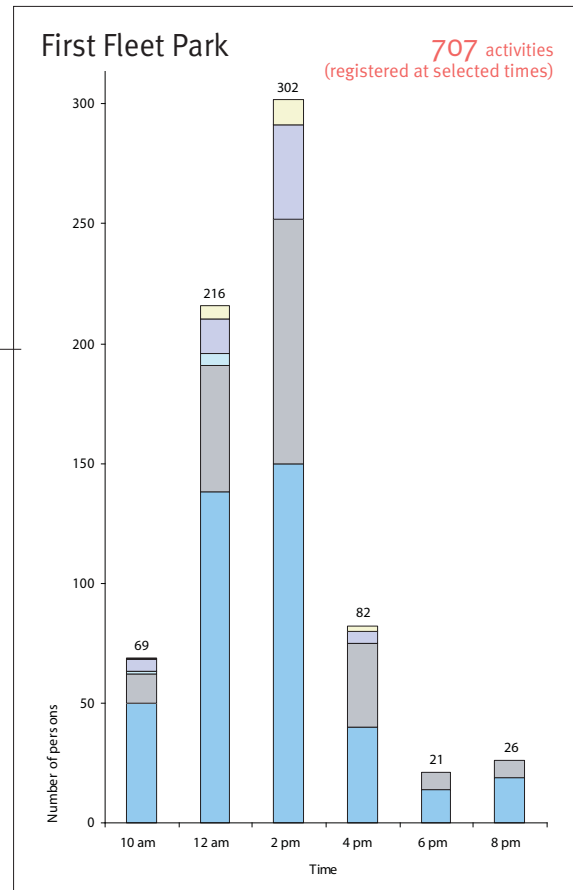
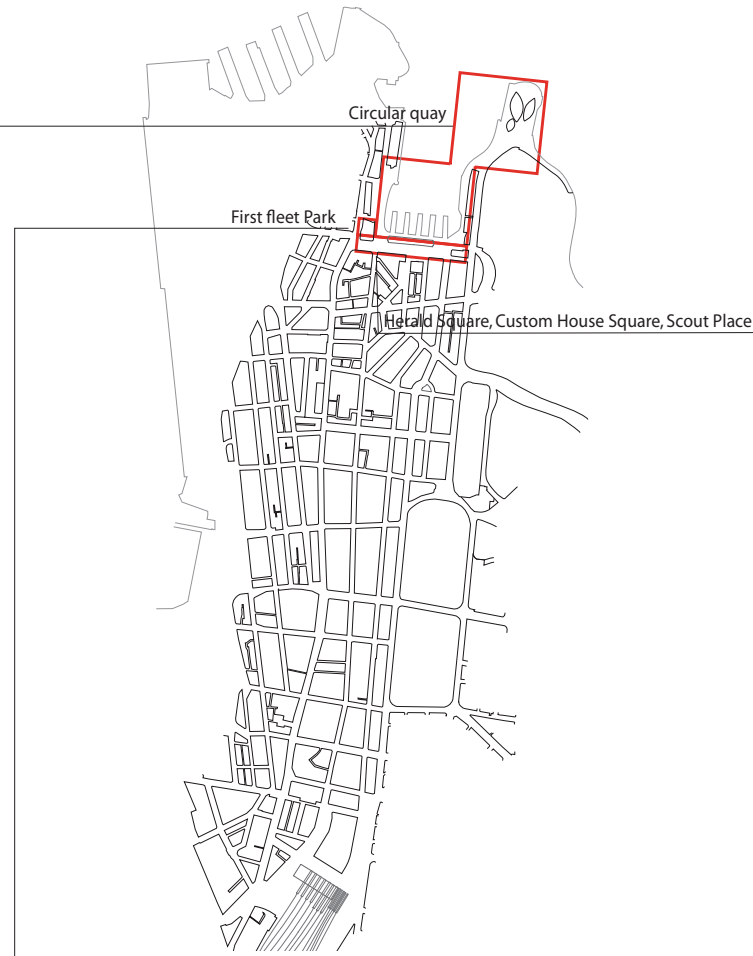
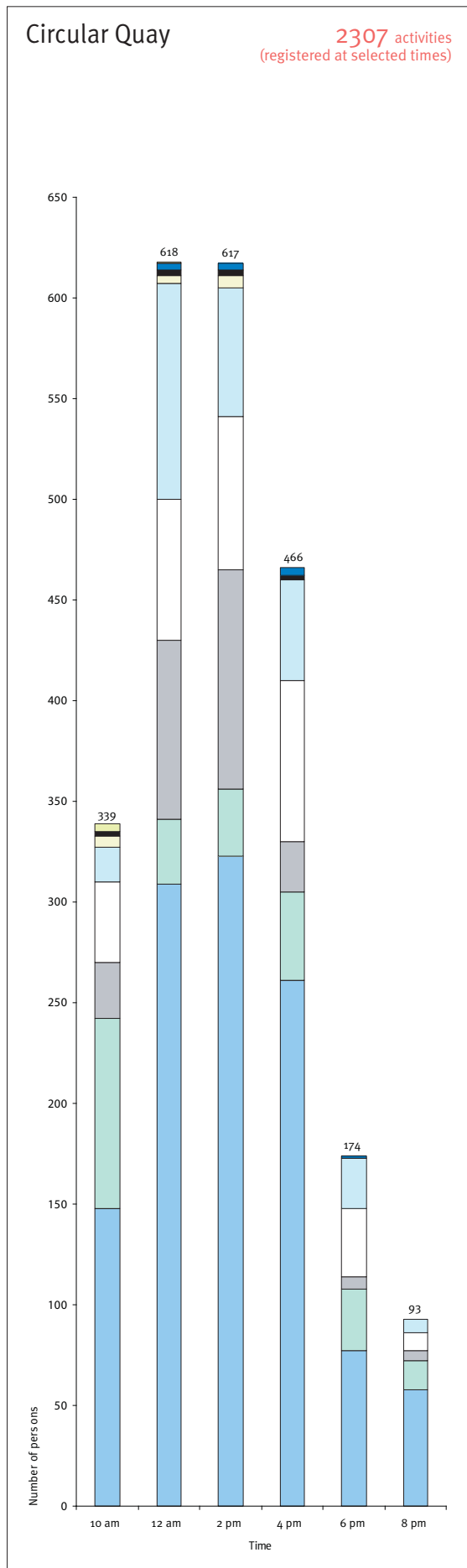
STATIONARY ACTIVITIES

winter weekday 10am - 8pm



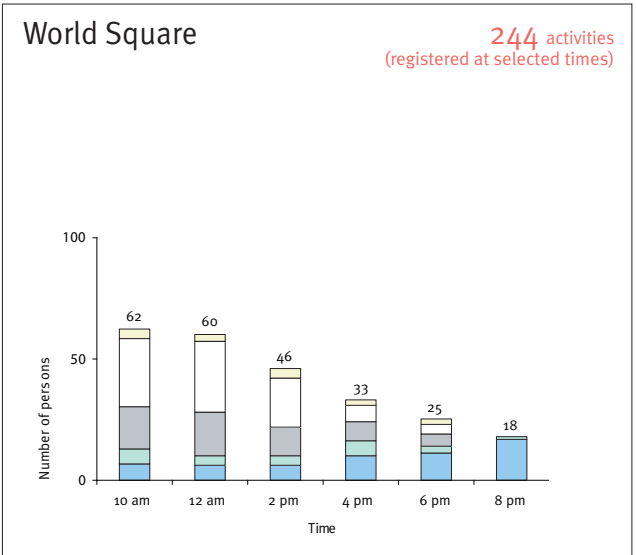
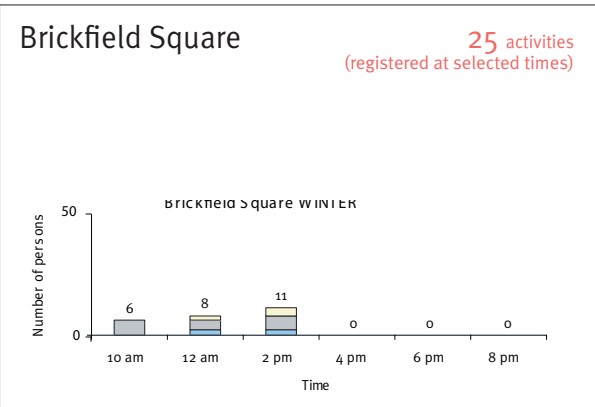
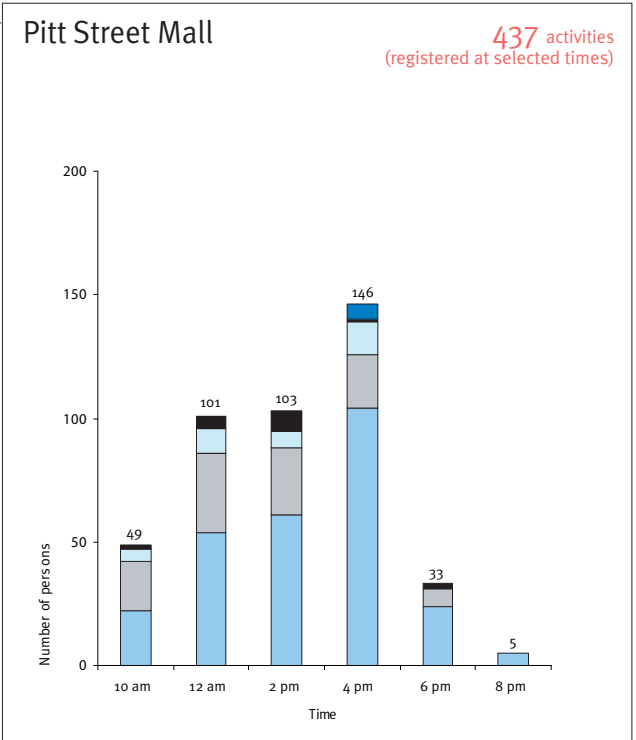
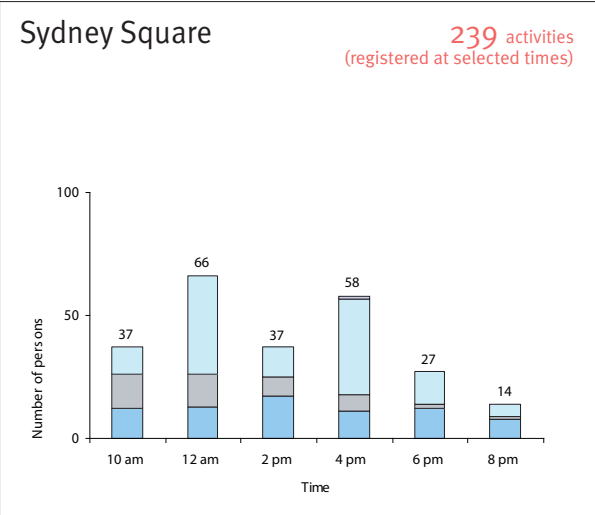
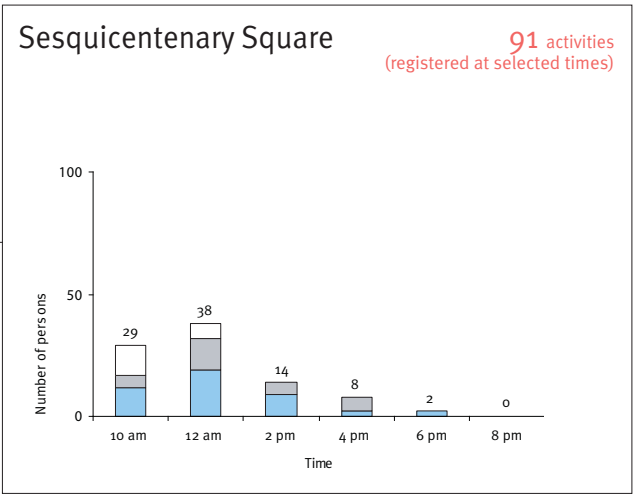
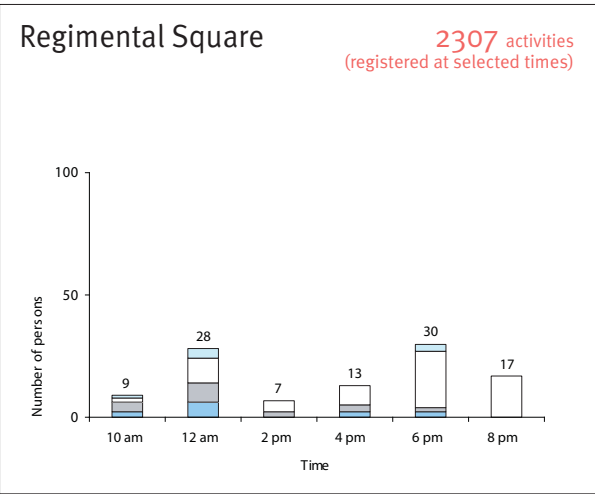
STATIONARY ACTIVITIES

winter weekday 10am - 8pm



STATIONARY ACTIVITIES

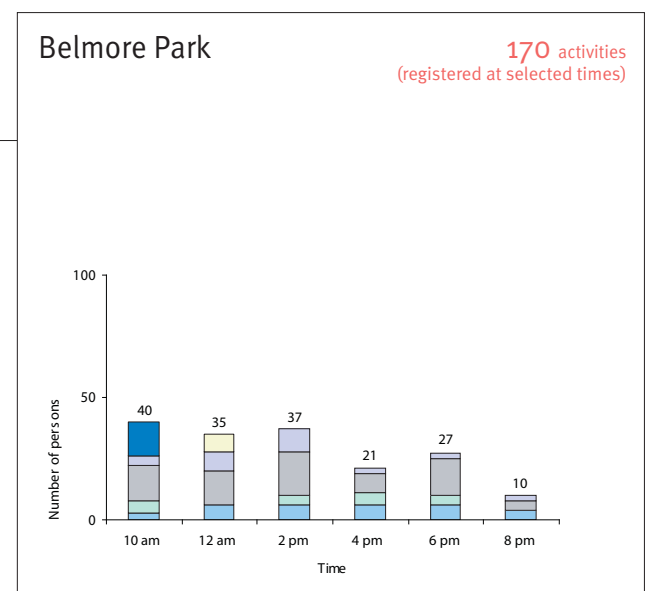
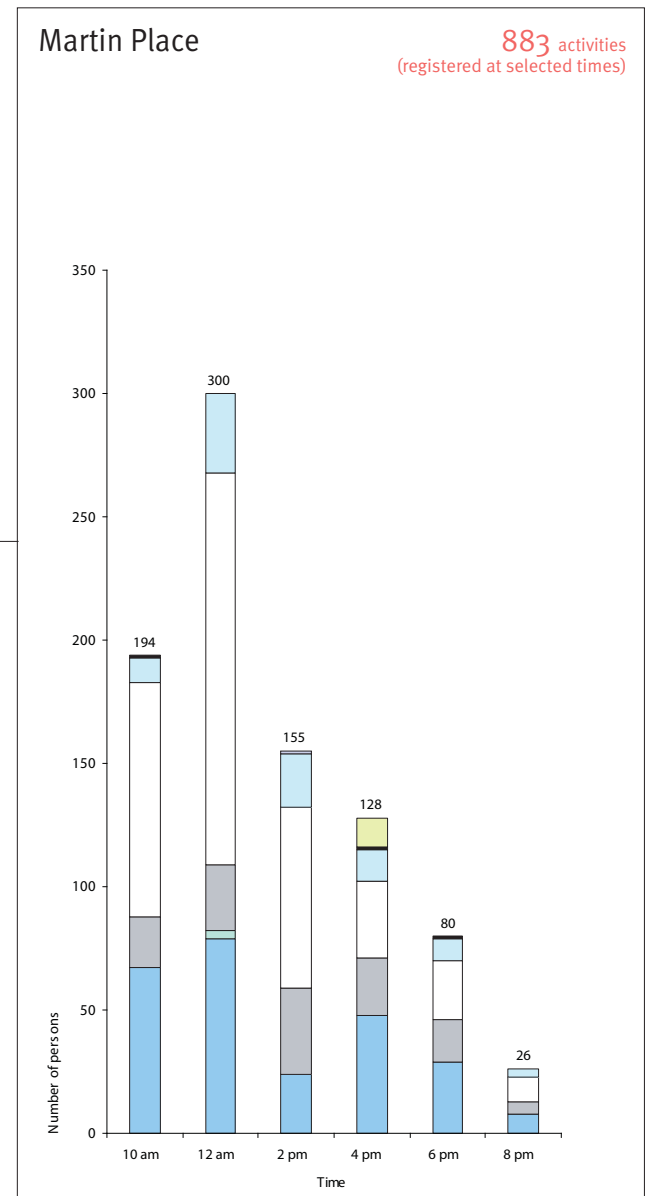
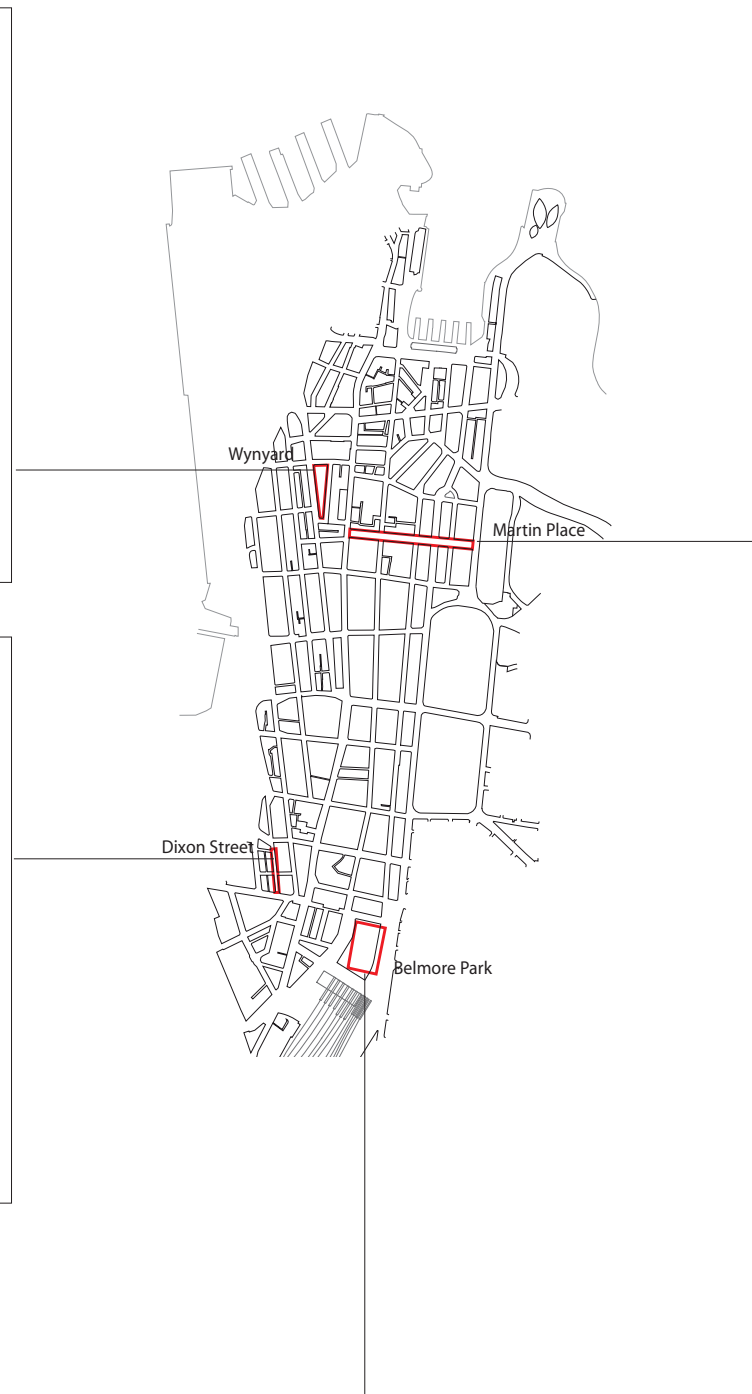
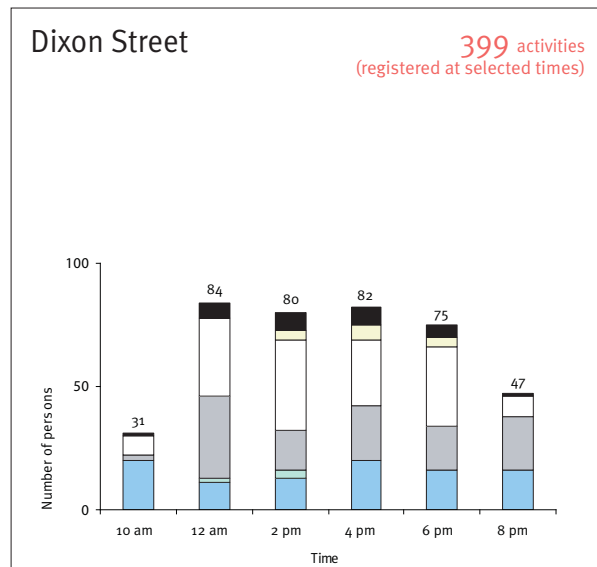
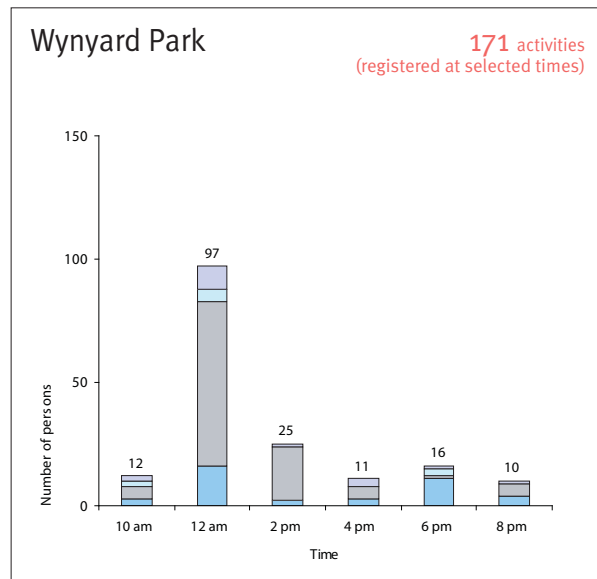
winter weekday 10am - 8pm



- Physical activities
- Cultural activities
- Commercially active
- Children playing
- Lying down
- Secondary seating
- Sitting on caféchairs
- Sitting on benches
- Waiting for transport
- Standing

STATIONARY ACTIVITIES

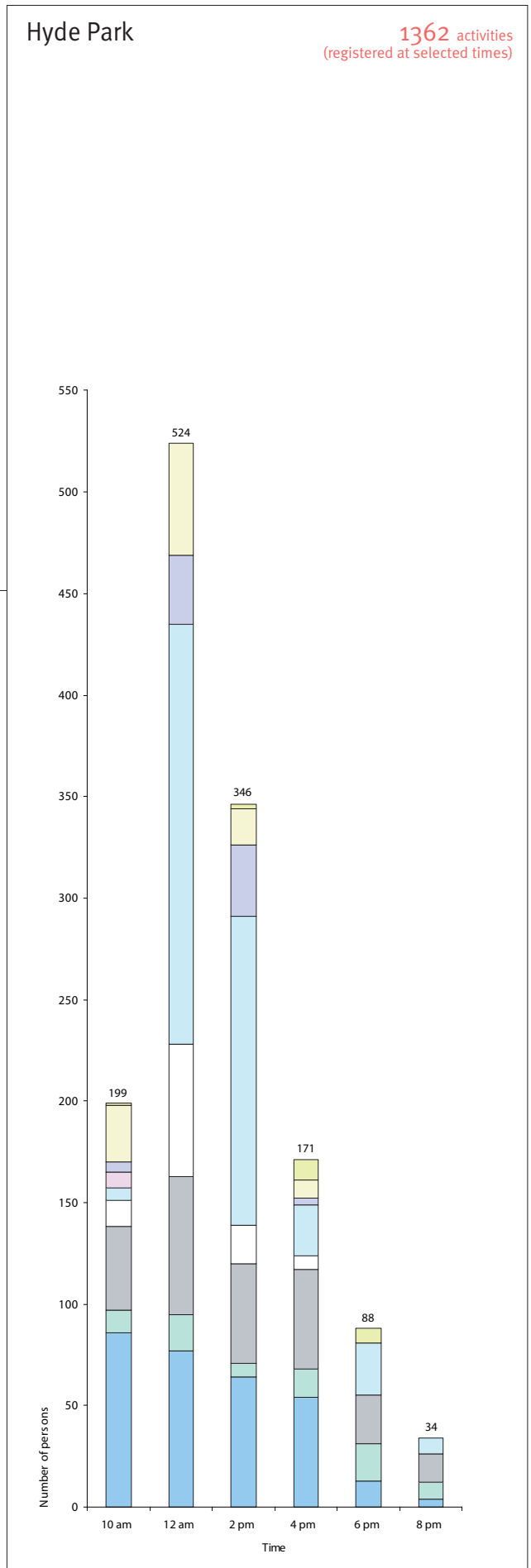
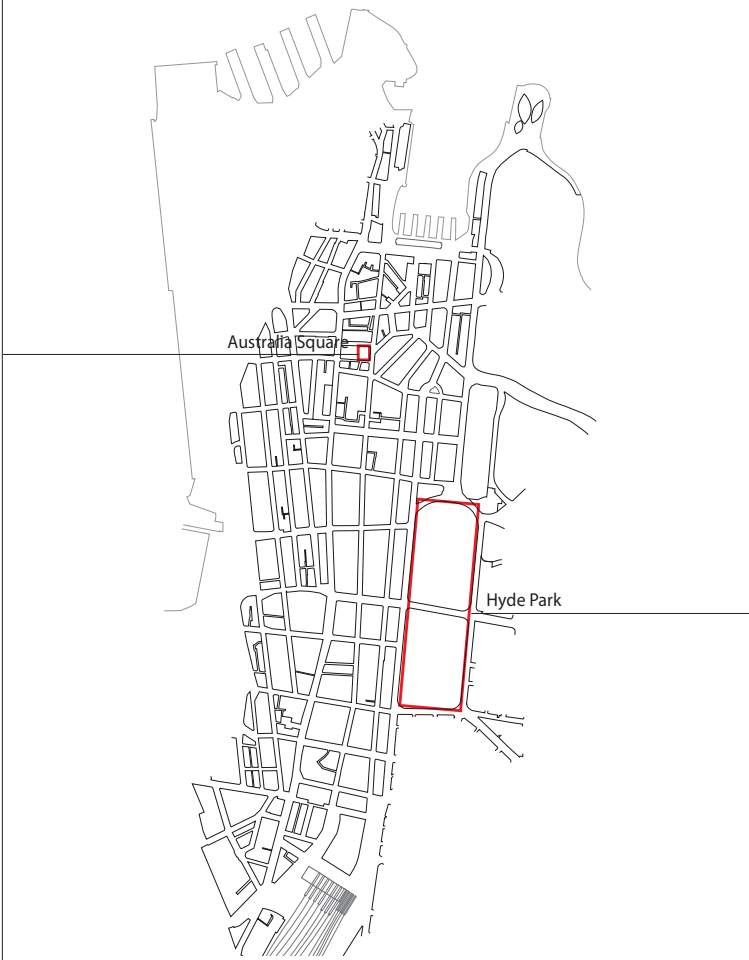
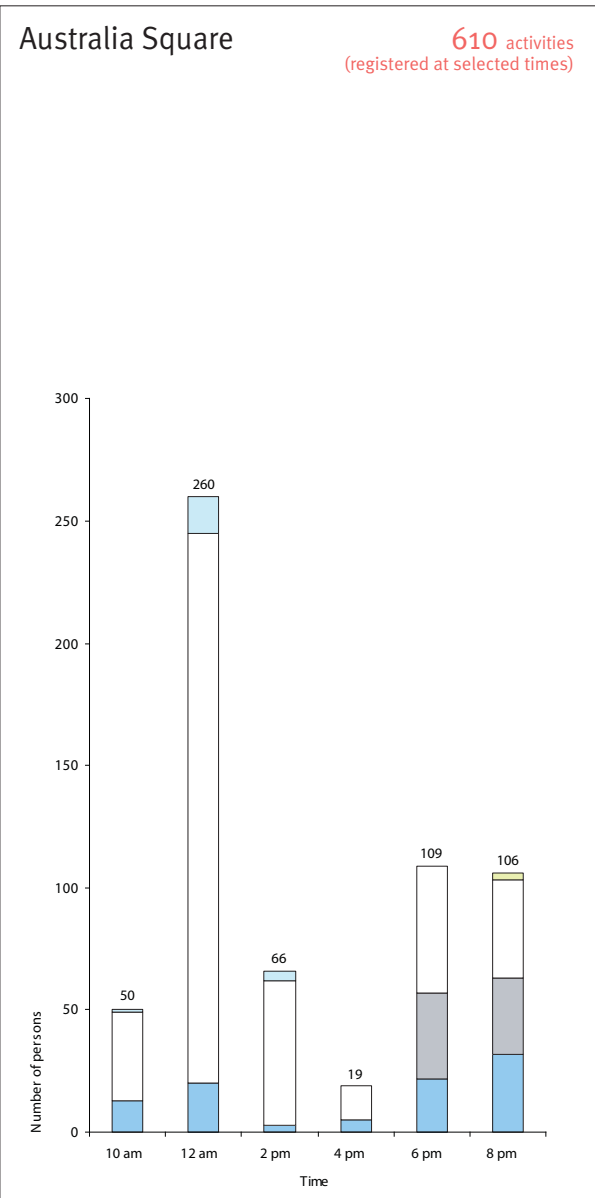
winter weekday 10am - 8pm



- Physical activities
- Cultural activities
- Commercially active
- Children playing
- Lying down
- Secondary seating
- Sitting on caféchairs
- Sitting on benches
- Waiting for transport
- Standing

STATIONARY ACTIVITIES

winter weekday 10am - 8pm



- Physical activities
- Children playing
- Lying down
- Sitting on folding chairs
- Secondary seating
- Sitting on caféchairs
- Sitting on benches
- Waiting for transport
- Standing



AGE DISTRIBUTION

absent user groups

LOW DIVERSITY IN AGE AND GENDER

Age and gender surveys were performed in the summer and winter 2007 on a selection of streets to determine how the public realm is used by males and females and different age groups. The selected streets and places were Circular Quay, Dixon Street, George Street (Bathurst /Wilmot) and Pitt Street Mall.

11AM - MIDMORNING

Children (0-14 years) had their peak presence at this time of day. The children were mostly found at Circular Quay. Young people (15-30 years) constitute 51% of all pedestrians at 11am. The lowest number of young people was registered at Circular Quay.

The group of elderly is best represented at 11am where seniors (above 65 years of age) make up 20% of all pedestrians on Dixon Street. At this hour the elderly avoid the overcrowded situation which arises later in the day.

9PM - EVENING

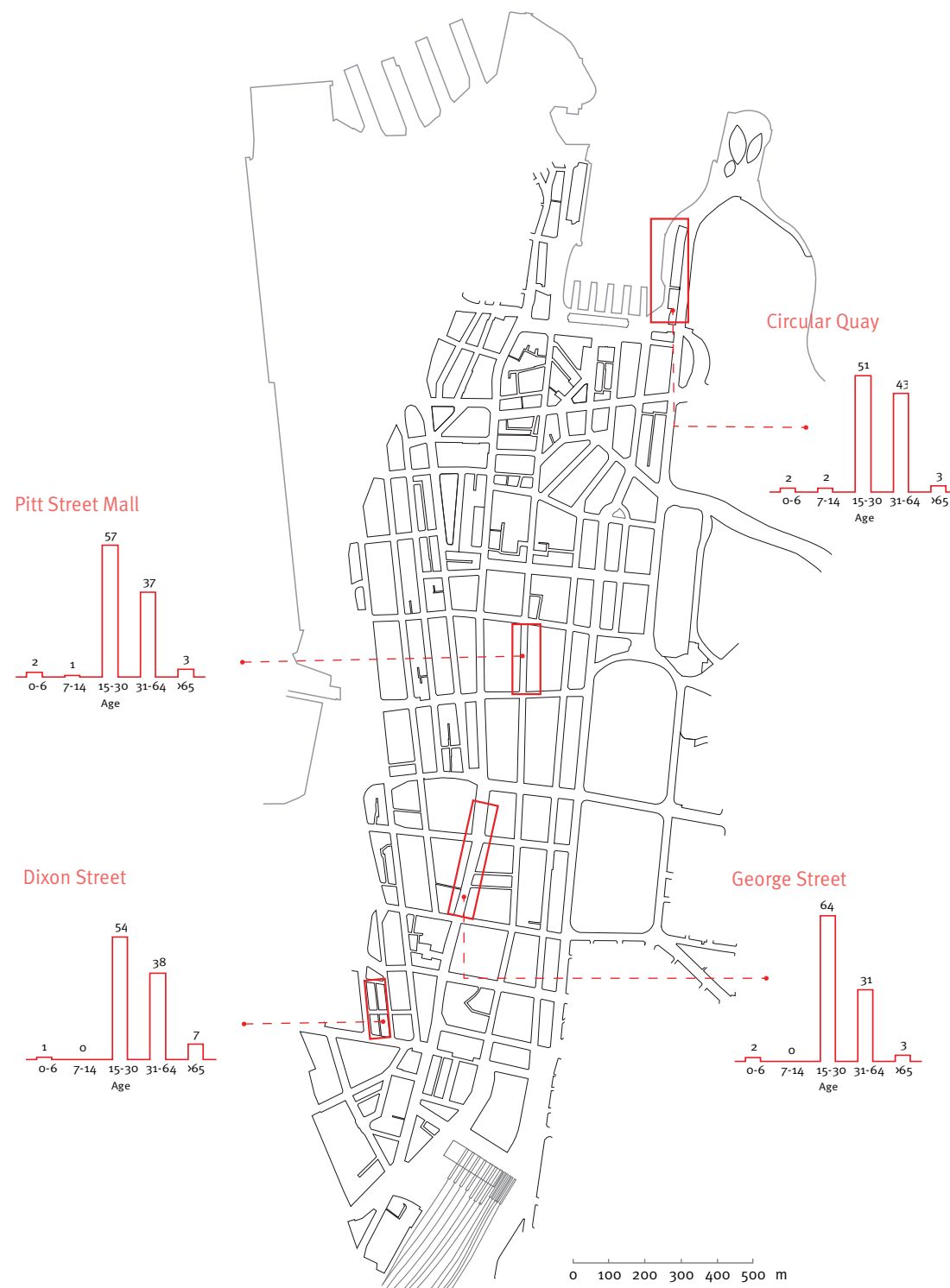
Children (0-14 years) have disappeared from all streets. Young people (15-30 years) are the most dominant. Of all pedestrians on Pitt Street Mall 68% are between 15 and 30 years. At 9pm this group is dominated by young males (39%). The elderly (> 65 years) are absent.

WHO ARE THE PEOPLE USING SYDNEY'S CITY CENTRE

The average of all people recorded on a summer weekday on Circular Quay, Pitt Street mall, George Street and Dixon Street.

Children (0-14 years):	3%
Young people (15-30 years):	57%
Middle-aged (30-65 years):	37%
Elderly (> 65 years):	3%

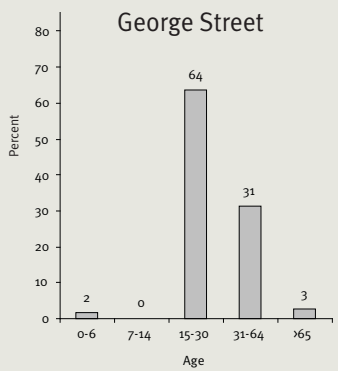
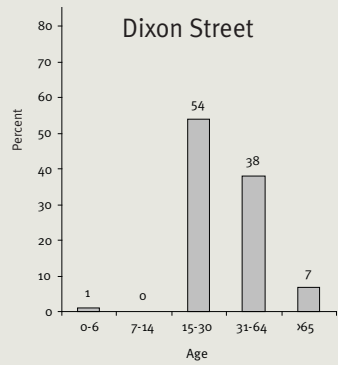
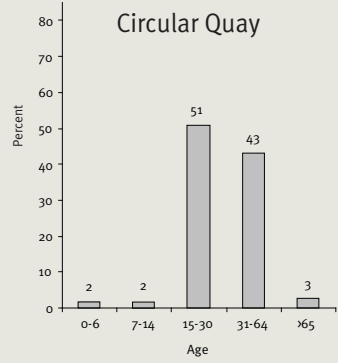
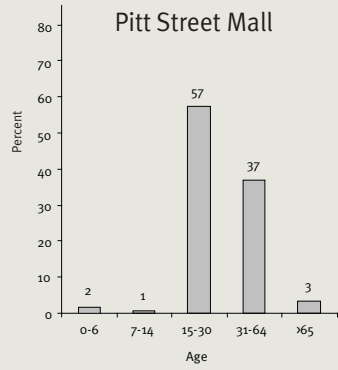
The survey illustrates a City Centre primarily inhabited by young people. Children and the elderly are poorly represented.



AGE DISTRIBUTION IN THE CITY CENTRE

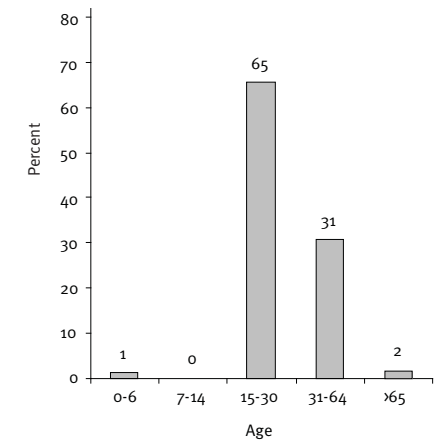
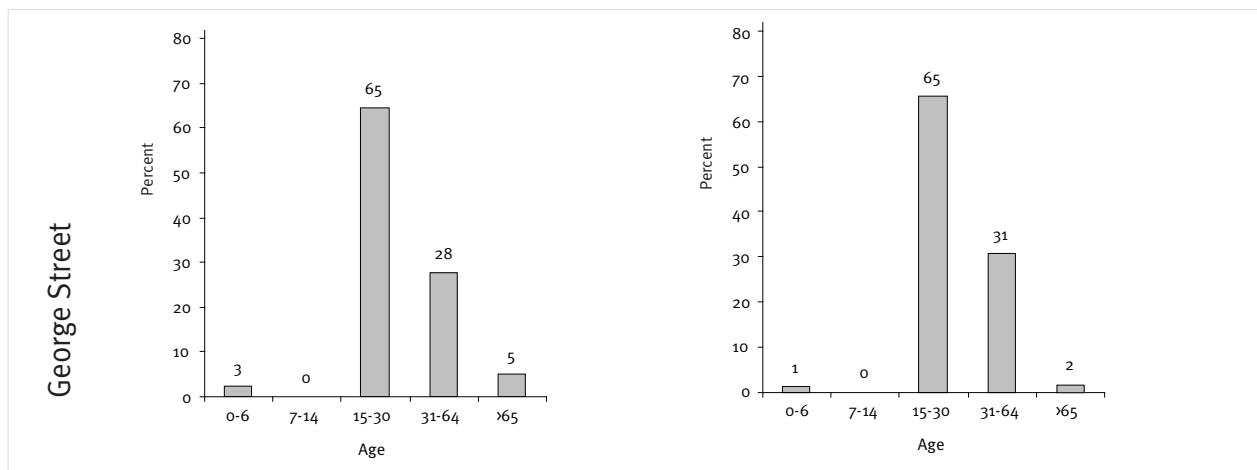
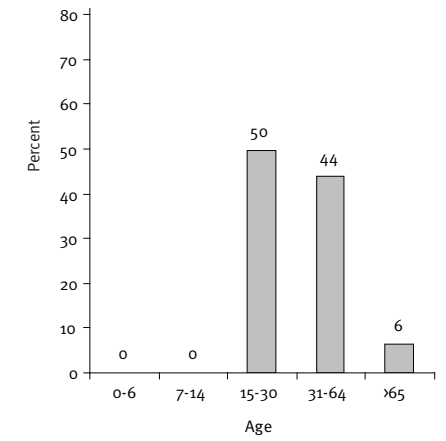
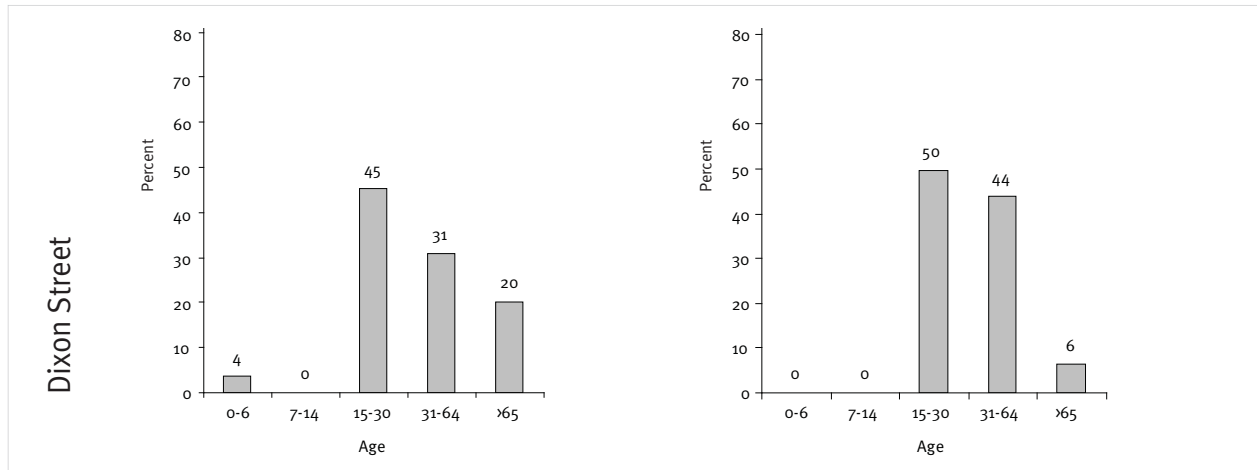
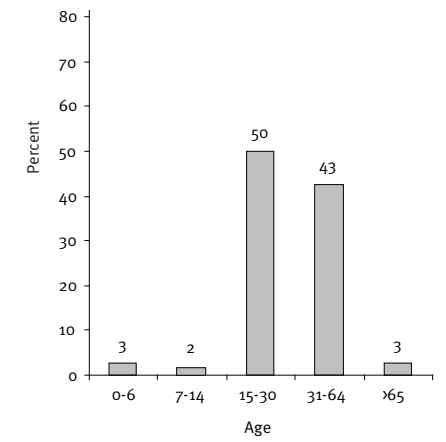
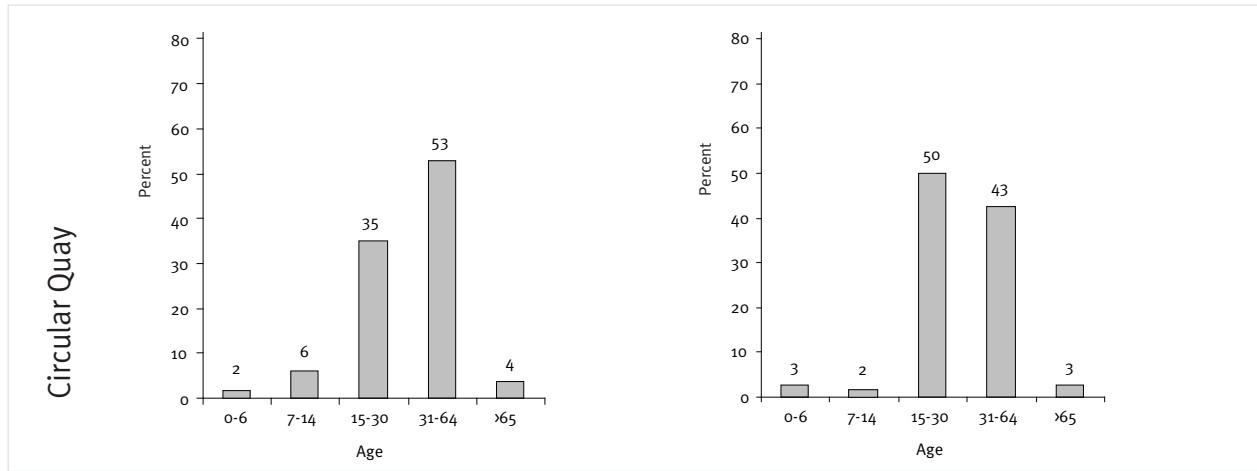
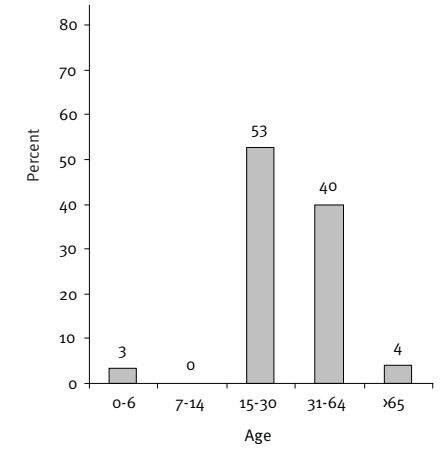
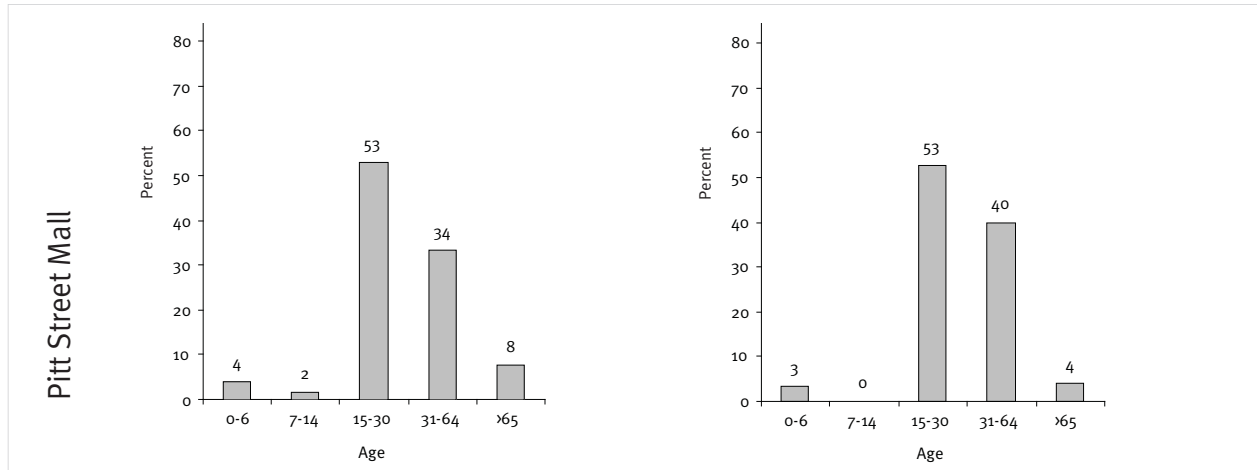
Recordings made on a summer weekday at Circular Quay, Pitt Street Mall, George Street and Dixon Street. The graphs show the average age distribution between 11am - 9pm at each recording place.

summer weekday
average between 11am - 9pm

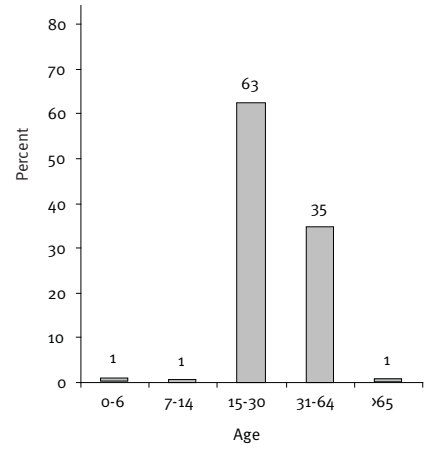


11am

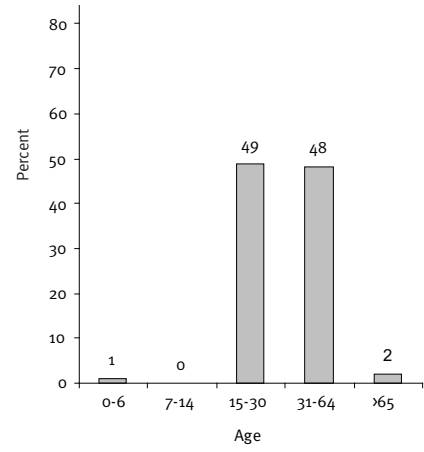
1pm



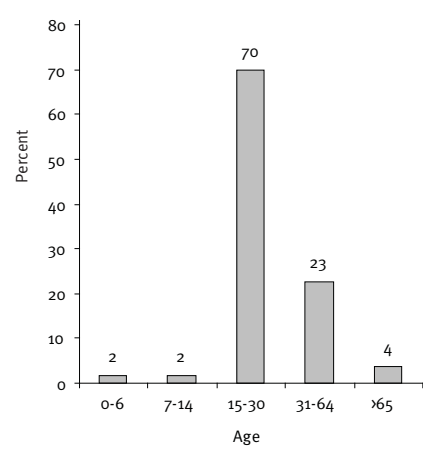
3pm



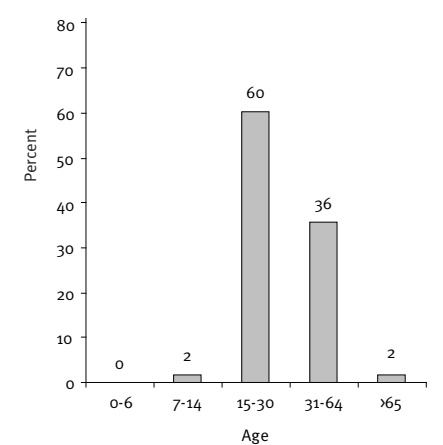
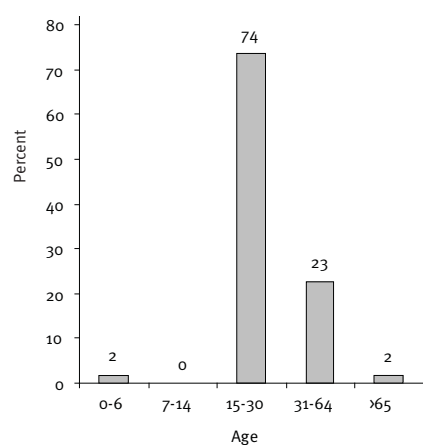
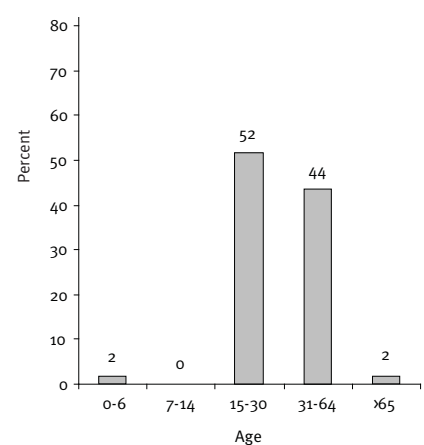
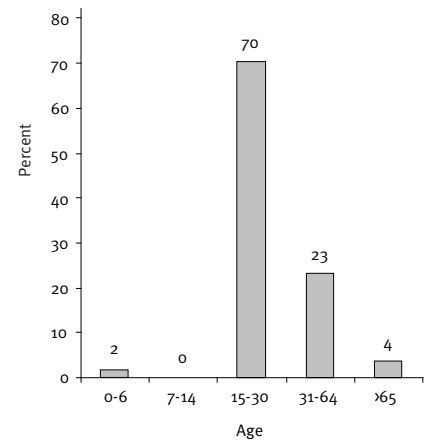
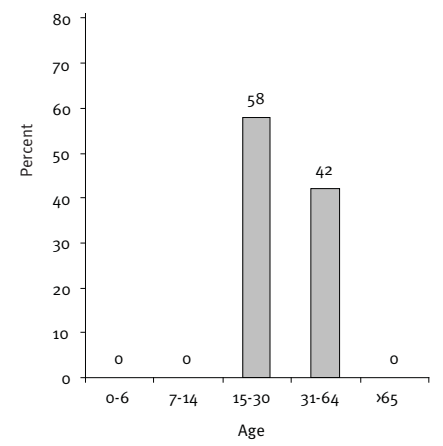
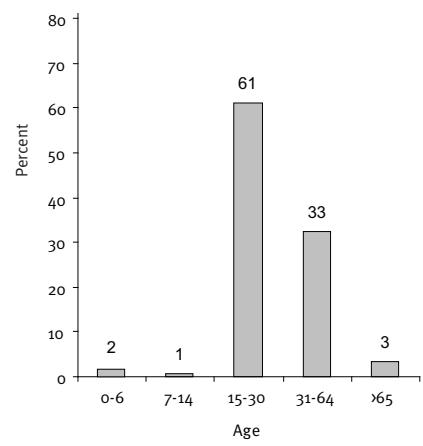
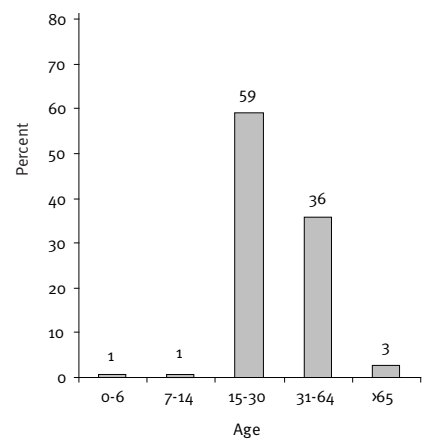
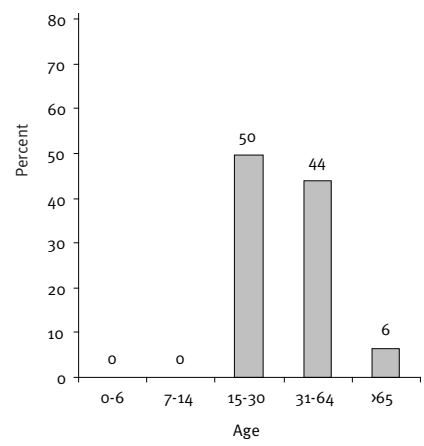
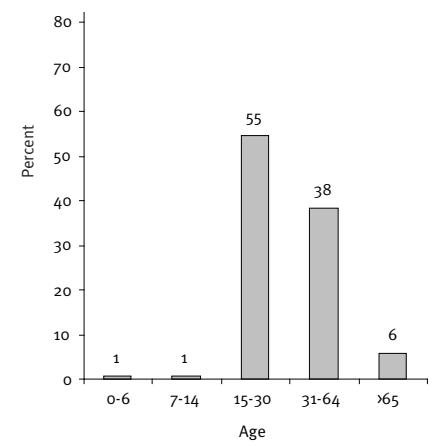
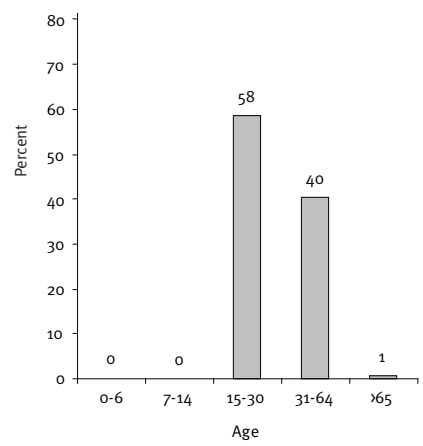
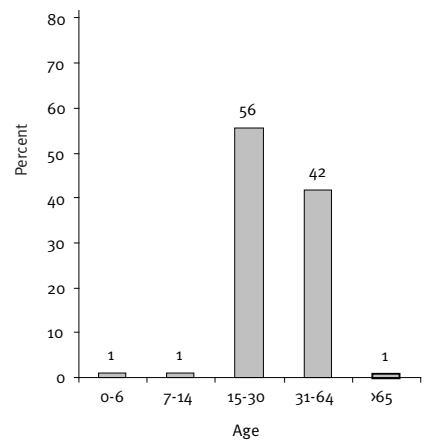
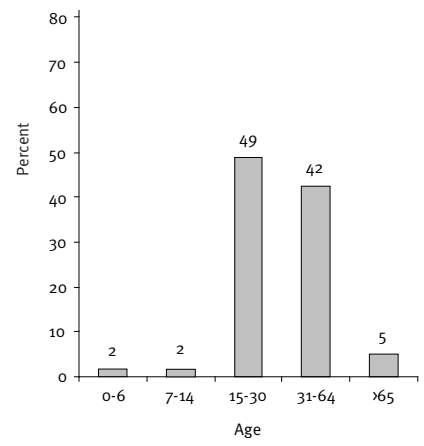
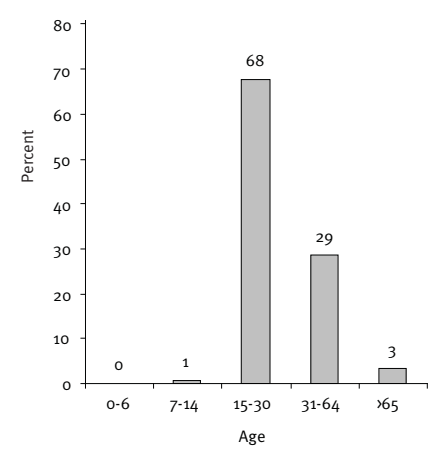
5pm



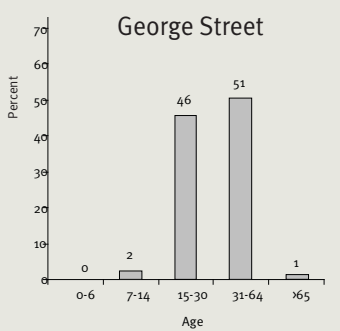
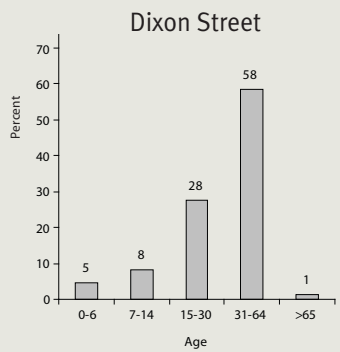
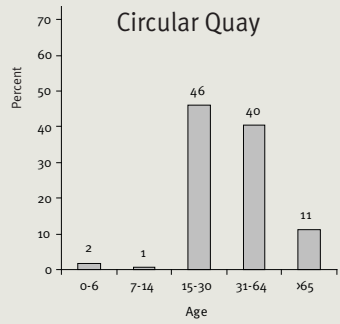
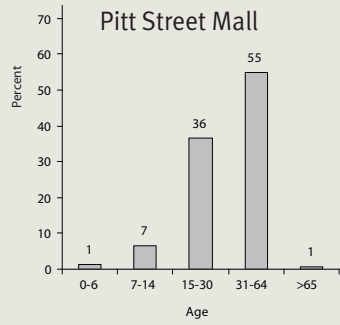
7pm



9pm



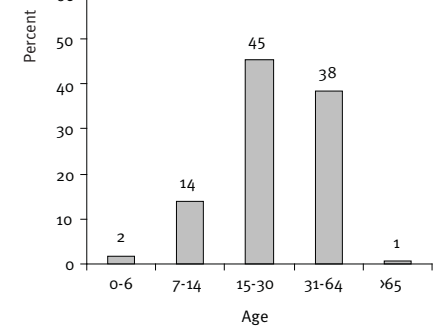
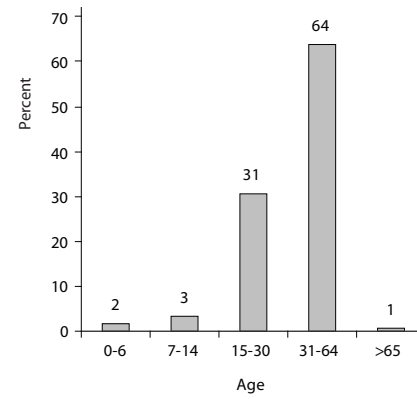
winter weekday
average between 11am - 9pm



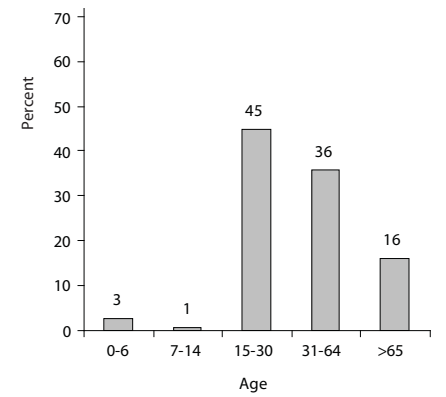
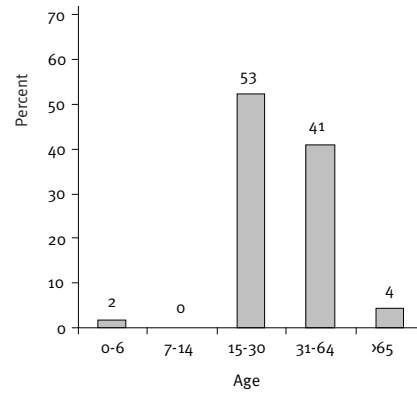
11am

1pm

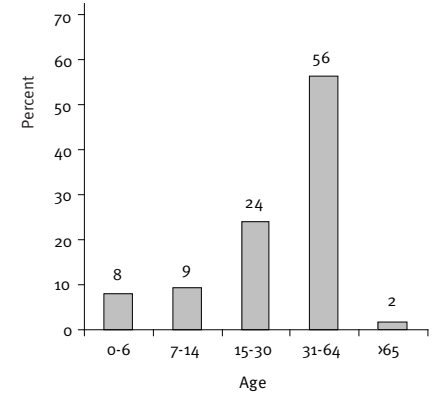
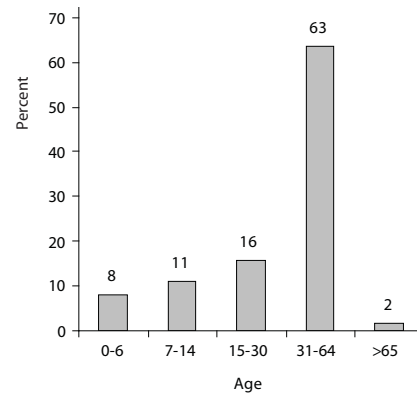
Pitt Street Mall



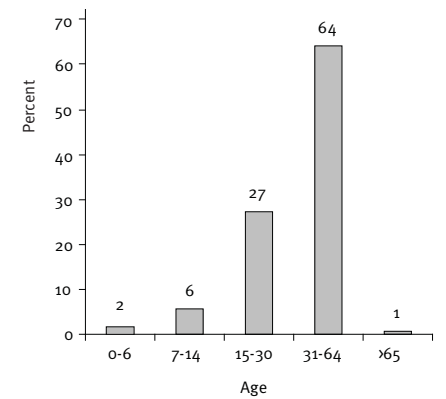
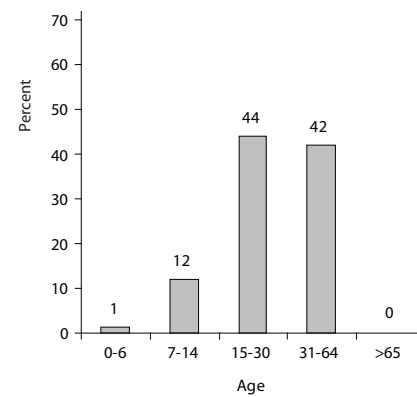
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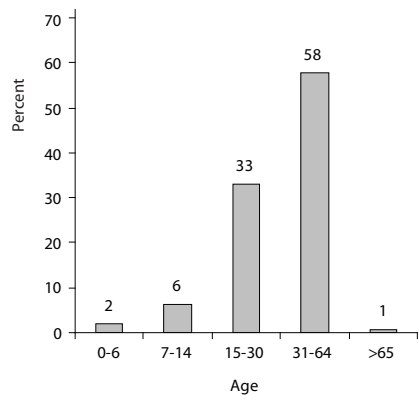
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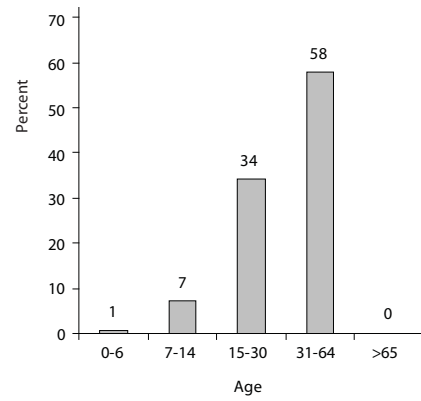
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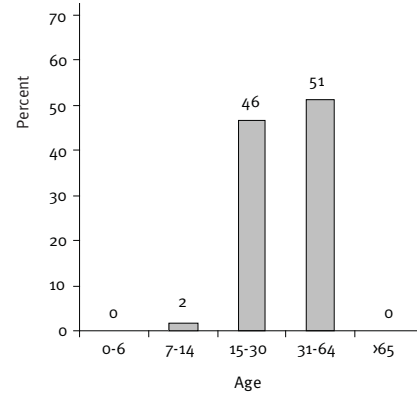
3pm



5pm



7pm



9pm

