



DOUBLE THE FEET ON THE STREET

NZ Walking Conference 2008
4-5 August, Auckland

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Phone number	09 815 2546	Fax Number	
Presentation topic	Walking School Buses in Auckland		
Presentation title	A profile of the WSB Programme in Auckland, the benefits and challenges		
Presentation Style	Presentation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Workshop / Walkshop <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>		
Estimated Time Required	0-10 mins <input type="checkbox"/>	10-20 mins <input type="checkbox"/>	20-30 mins <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Abstract Remit	<p>Walking School Buses (WSBs) have been a very real success story in Auckland, with over 240 WSBs operating each day, safely walking close to 4200 children to and from school every day.</p> <p>Whilst initiated as a strategy to prevent vehicle congestion around schools, and to promote walking a normal mode of transport. It has also proved to be a strategy to address child pedestrian injury and to promote social cohesion within communities.</p> <p>This presentation will profile the research results that show consistently positive outcomes from the programme, including long term behaviour change carrying through for children that have spent their first 3 years of school catching a walking school bus.</p> <p>However one of the challenges for the programme is an unequal distribution in terms of school decile ratings, with the majority of WSBs being in decile 8 and above schools. In order to pro-actively address this issue, ARTA have developed a strategic approach to guide its future work, in order to increase the number of WSBs in low decile schools. The paper will also present the strategic approach that has been developed along with a brief overview of early outcomes in low decile schools.</p>		
Author Profile	<p>The paper will be jointly presented by Sue Kendall and Simon Vincent from the Auckland Regional Transport Authority.</p> <p>Sue Kendall is the Regional Walking School Bus Co-ordinator based in Auckland, and has been involved with Walking School Buses for the last 8 years.</p> <p>Sue first got involved as a parent helping to establish the first Auckland Walking School Bus at her sons school in Mount Albert. In 2003 she was appointed to the role of Regional Co-ordinator and has helped to develop the programme in Auckland over that time.</p> <p>Sue has always had a keen interest in child injury prevention, having previously worked at Safekids and in 2004 completing a Masters of Public Health through the University of Auckland.</p> <p>Simon Vincent is a Walking School Bus Coordinator, promoting and supporting WSB in the Auckland region's low decile schools.</p> <p>Having worked previously in Wellington as a School Travel Planner, Simon is keen to ensure the benefits of walking are recognised and available to all.</p> <p>Simon has a long history of walking himself; as a student, as a grape picker, as a soldier, as a backpacker, as a youth worker and as a commuter. He even met his partner whilst walking through a rain forest in Malaysia.</p>		