



# Keeping them Safe

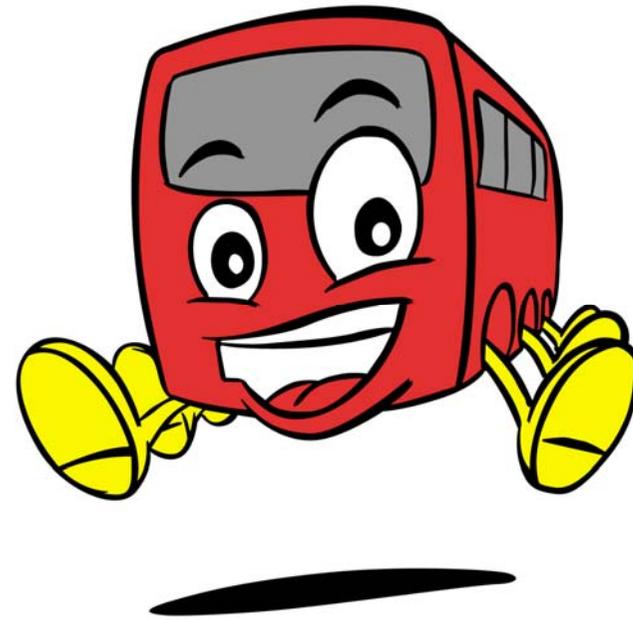
Carol Murray  
Road Safety Co-ordinator



NORTH SHORE CITY

# Walking School Buses (WSB) Safety is Paramount

**If the children are not safe  
WSBs will not be sustainable.**



## Overview

- Safety issues involved when setting up a WSB.
- Difficulties that face a volunteer workforce.
- Initiatives at North Shore City to deal with these difficulties.
- WSB sustainability.



# WSB Statistics

- 2001
- 28 out of 45 primary schools operate WSBs
- 72 WSB routes
- Over 1200 children
- Around 500 volunteers
- 550 less cars at school gates due to WSBs



# Safety Issues Involved When Setting Up A WSB



# Safety Audit of the Route

- Undertaken by traffic engineer, road safety co-ordinator and a parent from the WSB.
- Copy of the audit is given to the parent co-ordinator.
- Volunteers need to maintain the safety of their route(s).



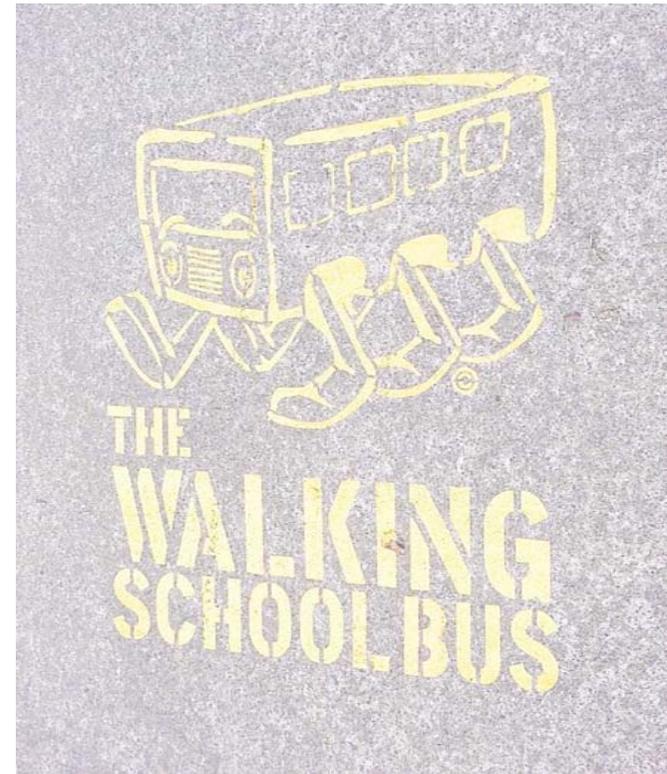
# Police Education Officer Involvement

- A police education officer walks the route with parents and children.
- Police education officers teach road safety to children in schools.

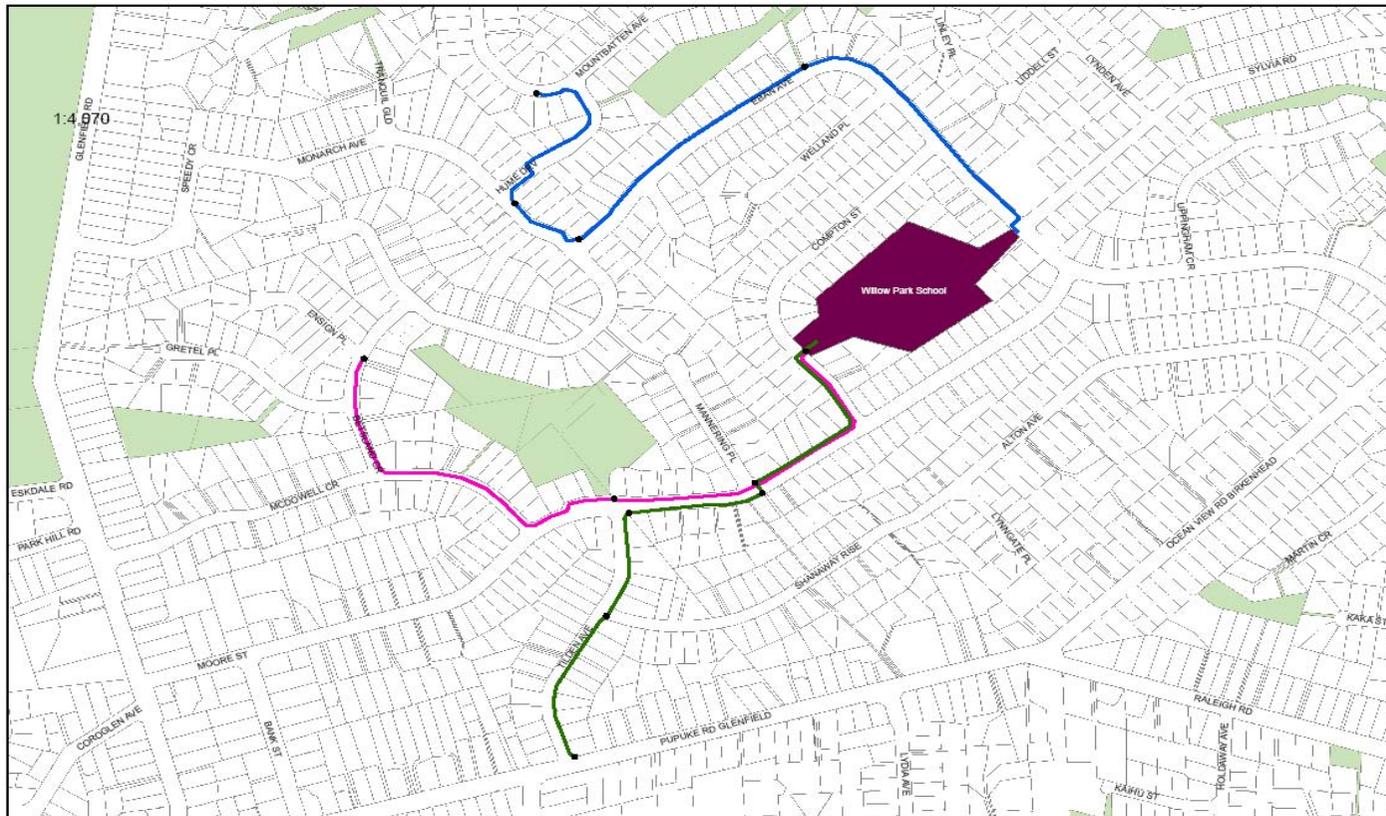


# Bus Stops

- NSCC installs and maintains bus stops (stencil on footpath).
- Used for a number of purposes:
  - Bus stop
  - Mark out the route
  - Crossing points



# Electronic Mapping of Routes



- Funding Application to Auckland Regional Transport Authority (ARTA) - \$1500



# Difficulties That Face A Volunteer Workforce

- **However, once all the work to set up a WSB has been completed and the information has been passed on to the volunteers, ensuring WSBs remain sustainable is another issue.....**



# Why....?

- Little chance for council to communicate with volunteers.
- The WSB volunteer work force is fluid.
- Routes may become inactive for a period of time.
- Volunteers need reminding to maintain the safety of their routes.
- New volunteers do not always receive complete information from the others.
- Changes to routes.



# **WSB Safety Initiatives at North Shore City Council**



# North Shore WSB Network Meetings (2002)

- Introduce new parents to the wider WSB community.
- They don't have to recreate the wheel.
- Longer term volunteers share experiences.
- Act as a motivator for new and existing volunteers.
- Networking continues after via email.
- Has helped to create a North Shore WSB community.
- Most importantly these meetings help to maintain safety standards.



# (Informal) North Shore WSB Newsletter (2003)

- Staying in touch with volunteers.
- A3 poster size goes to the school.
- Conveying safety messages.
- Information sharing.
- Collecting statistics.
- Communicating with principals of WSB schools.
- Also helps to create a North Shore WSB community.



## NORTH SHORE NEWSLETTER NO. 24 July 2006

THE WINNER OF OUR FIRST ROAD SAFETY WSB COMPETITION IS - Caitlin Dravitski who is 9 years old from room 24 at Murrays Bay School. See over for more photos.

### CONGRATULATIONS CAITLIN



Sneaky driveways are hidden by hedges, fences and other things resulting in footpaths not always being as safe as we think they are. If you have sneaky driveways on your WSB route it is important to encourage children to look and listen for cars coming out.

WSB NETWORK MEETING - the next meeting will be on Friday 1 September 11.30 am - 1.30 pm at the Community Board Room, 2 The Strand, Takapuna. Lunch is provided and RSVPs are essential.

SAFETY REMINDERS - It is a good idea to review safety issues every six months:

1. WSB ROAD SAFETY GUIDELINES - have all new drivers been given a copy of these guidelines?
2. FLYER TO ADVISE A WSB PASSES THIS WAY - it is a good idea to do a mailbox drop of this flyer along each WSB route every 6 months.
3. RATIO of 1 parent to 8 children - while there may be odd days when you exceed this ratio due to unforeseen circumstances, I strongly recommend that buses do not operate over the ratio on a regular basis. Rather than exceed 1:8, begin a waiting list until extra drivers can be found.
4. HIGHLIGHTER JACKETS - a reminder to all drivers and conductors that highlighter jackets should always be worn when operating a WSB.
5. CHANGE OF ROUTES - all changes to routes require a safety audit of the new part of the route.
6. MAINTAINING SAFETY ON ROUTES - NSCC Actiongrams are an easy way to maintain WSB routes, or call Actionline 486 8600. Vegetation that has grown again over the footpath, broken footpaths or anything that you consider to be a safety issue should be reported. Don't forget to say that the hazard is on a WSB route.

WE NEED YOUR HELP - North Shore City Council is currently gathering information to formulate a Walking Strategy. As WSB volunteers, we feel your input regarding your experiences of walking and the environment will be valuable. There is one main question we would like feedback on: What are the 3 (or more) biggest issues for you as a pedestrian either with the WSB or walking in general? It is expected that you will talk about footpath conditions, road signs, vegetation and road safety. Please contact Isy Kennedy 486 8585 ext 8005 with your issues, and provide suggestions, and area names if applicable. Contact email [isy.kennedy@northshorecity.govt.nz](mailto:isy.kennedy@northshorecity.govt.nz)

WSB BUS STOPS - a reminder that if you want them repainted you will need to let me know.

I SHALL BE ON LEAVE - until Wed 9 August if you have any urgent safety issues please contact Helen Whittal ext 8891 otherwise contact Actionline 486 8600

PROBLEMS OR QUERIES - please do not hesitate to contact me. Stories/photos to share? Please forward to me via email

Carol Murray, Road Safety Co-ordinator, NSCC, Private Bag 93500, Takapuna.  
Ph: 486 8600 Fax: 486 8510 Cellphone: 027 2954998 Email: [carol.murray@northshorecity.govt.nz](mailto:carol.murray@northshorecity.govt.nz)



# Health & Safety Workshop – ARTA (2004)

- Run in conjunction with ARTA.
- The *Health & Safety in Employment Act 1992* also covers volunteers.
- Volunteers also fill out a ‘Hazard Identification Register’.



# Annual Road Safety Workshop – PEO (2005)

- “How to” walk with a group of children.
- Council staff - footpath maintenance, call centre, traffic engineer.
- Feedback from volunteers show that there is a real need for this type of workshop.



# Social Events

- Networking.
- Parents talking about their children and sorting out their WSB issues.
- Contribute to WSB sustainability.



# Christmas Morning Tea Chipmunks Playland (2003)



# WSB Family Fun Day (2005)





# WSB Family Fun Day Picnic

For all Walking School Bus families and friends  
 Bring a picnic along on Sunday November 19, 11.00am - 2.00pm  
 Western Springs park, Motions Rd entrance  
 (by children's playground), Grey Lynn.

**Clowns** Lolly scramble  
 Walking School Bus game  
**Bouncy** castle  
 Prizes and **more**

For more information please contact your local Road Safety Coordinator:

Auckland City Council	379 2020	Papakura District Council	295 1300
Franklin District Council	(09) 237 1300	Rodney District Council	0800 426 5169
Manukau City Council	262 5104	Waitakere City Council	836 8000
North Shore City Council	486 8600		

For wet weather cancellation listen to News Talk ZB Cancellation Service.



# 2 New Initiatives

(2006)

- Communicating via the newsletter with WSB children.
- Competition – road safety
- Same safety messages as PEOs.

## WSB Kids Competition - Sneaky Driveways



Footpaths are not always safe.

Cars have to go in and out of driveways

Sneaky driveways are hidden by hedges, fences and other things.

It is important to look and listen for "sneaky" driveways.

Finish the sentences below by unscrambling the words in brackets and you could win \$30 in gift vouchers to spend on anything you like from Whitcoulls, Paper Plus or any book store.

1. I need to watch out for sneaky \_\_\_\_\_ (ywedaisvr), as \_\_\_\_\_ (hecvlesi) could come in or out.
2. I need to \_\_\_\_ (ptso) at a sneaky driveway to \_\_\_\_ (okol) if there is a \_\_\_\_ (rca) coming out.
3. I must also use my \_\_\_\_ (ysee) and \_\_\_\_ (sera) to \_\_\_\_ (kcche) if a car is coming out of a sneaky driveway.

Write the answers on the back of an envelope with **your name, age, school and room number** and mail to Carol Murray at the address on the bottom of the page. The closing date is Thursday 22 June.

All correct entries will go in the draw for \$30 of gift vouchers. Winners will be notified by the WSB Parent Co-ordinator. The winner's photograph will appear in the next WSB Newsletter.

*Note for parents:*

*There are cases when driveways like the one in the photo above can be reported to council for trimming to improve visibility. If you have any driveways similar to this on your route contact me for details on how to report them.*

Carol Murray, Road Safety Co-ordinator, NSCC, Private Bag 93500, Takapuna.  
Ph: 486 8600 Fax: 486 8510 Cellphone: 027 2954998 Email: carol.murray@northshorecity.govt.nz



# ■ Texting Competition for Volunteers (2007)

- Communicating interactively with parents.
- Encourage and remind them to maintain their routes.



## **Schools that attend most or some of the support activities:**

- Parents and children are more aware of WSB safety issues.
- More likely to operate within the WSB safety guidelines.
- WSBs operating more effectively & efficiently.
- They are part of the WSB network.
- Community development.
- Sustainable WSBs.

## **Schools that operate in isolation:**

- Can operate successfully.
- However, in my experience over time they end up working outside the WSB safety guidelines.
- In some instances safety can be compromised.
- Perception of WSB not safe.
- Less likely to be sustainable.



# WSB Sustainability

**Initially the support activities were focused on safety, and safety is still the overriding issue, however they also contribute to the overall sustainability of WSBs.**

