

WALKIE TALKIE

Hamilton's Walking School Bus Newsletter

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Guest writer Lisa McKimm

No 6 Memory Making - More Gifts from the Walking School Bus



There are certain fragrances that can waft up my nose, and transport me powerfully back to long ago moments. Many of those

come from the time that I was walking to and from school. That smell when the hot pavement is hit by a summer shower of rain. Or when the rain meets baking parched dirt where the grass grows sparsely. Mmmmm - what about leaning into Mrs Kent's prim little garden to inhale a gardenia for the very first time, though it was years before I knew its name. Oh, and the whiff of honeysuckle or jasmine hedges — the thought of which for no clear reason leaves me smiling. If we walked the longer way home, we would sometimes pass Memorial Park just after the groundsman had left long fresh trails of mown grass. Just writing this right now, I am finding myself breathing in really consciously, in case I can recapture it whilst sitting here in my office! I would hate to have missed out on these. Small pleasures from far away times and places that cannot be erased. Warm memories from my childhood. I'm glad I walked - or I'd have missed them. 🍌



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Living Streets

"Double the Feet on the Street" Living Streets Aotearoa invites you to be part of the movement to encourage the development of walking-friendly communities where more people use their feet for everyday short journeys. Living Streets Hamilton Branch meets once a month and their primary aim at present is to address issues surrounding major roads in Hamilton which make routine walking unfeasible for many. Living Streets is hoping to put their support strongly behind the walking school bus programme as school traffic is a huge contributor to peak traffic congestion in Hamilton. Why not join them? Take a look at their website: www.livingstreets.org.nz/hamilton.html or for more information please contact Judy McDonald on 07 855 2019. 🍌



Shop Locally

You might be interested in reading a short paper which describes the results of a study in France indicating that shopping at large, suburban 'superstores' consumes more than four times as much transportation energy and produces more than four times the carbon emissions as local grocery store shopping.



<http://www.vtpe.org/superstores.pdf> 🍌

In the spotlight this month

Walking School Buses would not exist without the tremendous dedication from wonderful coordinators who keep lists, clip tickets, receive phone calls on wet days and walk, walk, walk! We have some big-hearted and supportive people with businesses here in Hamilton, who fully appreciate your commitment, and are sponsoring generous gifts as a way of valuing your work. This month Kim Ang, coordinator of the Hamilton West WSB will receive a free hot stone massage from The Body Café. Sarah Vaz, coordinator of Bankwood WSB will receive a \$75 Crewcut lawnmowing or gardening voucher. The two family movie discount vouchers generously donated by SKYCITY Cinemas in Centre Place go out this month to Raewyn Sing, Woodstock Red and to Bridget Bray, Woodstock Blue.

A big thank you to you all! 🍌



Sponsor's profile

Crewcut Home Services is proud to support the Walking School Bus initiative in Hamilton. In addition to lawn and garden services we offer all forms of tree work (2 qualified Arborists), gutter cleaning, waterblasting, rubbish removal, - we even have a registered electrician on the team.

For a FREE QUOTE call us on 0800 800 286. 🍌

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Profile: Bankwood School WSB



Coordinator: Sarah Vaz **Walkers:** 11 **Route:** Along Belmont Avenue to Bankwood School.

Funniest moments on our walking school bus?

One of the children's cat decided to join the WSB one day and followed on behind. **Out of the mouths of babes:** The first day of the WSB my 7 yr old asked where the bus was. She was disappointed that we didn't have a Flintstone style bus to walk in. **How do you 'acknowledge' your walkers?**

We have used the tags with 50 on it and small rewards such as balloons and pencils when the children complete a ticket. The kids add up how many walks they have done and really look forward to getting a new tag to go on their bag. **Top 3 benefits of your walking school bus?**

Growing relationships in the neighbourhood - parent to parent, child to child and child to other adults. Building relationships across different ages. The younger children know some older children at school. Time savings for busy parents. **Dreams for the future?** To extend the route and have more walkers. To see other WSBs operating at Bankwood. 🍌

