



Welcome back!

I know the recent drought has been bad news for many people but on the positive side, the fine weather meant that the majority of last term's school field trips went ahead as planned.

Term one was extremely busy with school visits and field trips virtually every day including the last day of the term. My apologies for not always being available to help with every request but in many cases I was at least able to provide some of the necessary equipment which I know was appreciated.

The last issue of SITE focused on activities available to classes when they visit Pukeiti Gardens. This year is very much a trial to identify the programmes that work well and those that don't, or could be improved. At the end of the year we will write a school unit based on a Pukeiti visit. The response from schools has been excellent, with four visits held last term and another thirteen planned in the first few weeks of this one. Thank you very much to the teachers involved, your input is greatly valued.

Thank you also to the teachers who attended the rock pool professional development session in February. As well as the visit to the rock pools, teachers learned about the role of the Department of Conservation in preserving and enhancing our coastal areas, plus the dedicated work of the Ngamotu Marine Reserve Society. The Society has provided Little Blue Penguin leaflets and pamphlets for me to issue to interested teachers, adults and students, following their rock pool visits. Please get in touch if you would like any. It was pleasing to note that following this session a number of teachers took their classes to the Marine Education Centre near the foreshore as part of their coastal visit (see photo). Other groups included beach clean up sessions as part of their day. All very positive actions, thank you all very much.

Some teachers have requested support with waste minimization programmes this term. In general, this support involves class lessons covering the benefits of reducing waste at school and at home, a school-wide waste audit and a lesson analysing the results of the audit and offering advice on improvements. Terms two and three are often chosen for this kind of programme, so please get in touch if you feel you could benefit from this kind of support.

Best wishes for a successful term.

Kevin Archer

Travelling to school

This issue of SITE looks at the bus services in Taranaki, the Let's Go system currently in operation in New Plymouth and the way some schools use 'walking school buses' to transport students to and from their schools.



New Plymouth's Bus Centre in Ariki Street is in the heart of the city. Its central location enables passengers from most areas to have easy access to city shops and other features.

Teachers visit the Marine Education Centre

These teachers are checking out some of the outstanding displays in the Marine Education Centre in New Plymouth as part of their professional development session held in February.



Travelling to school

The advantage of taking a bus:

- It costs less than taking a car.
- There is less pollution and energy use, especially when the buses are full.
- There is a lower risk of being involved in an accident.
- It saves money by reducing the need for road maintenance and provision of car parks.

Public use of bus services, the facts

- In the 2011/12 financial year, the Council's New Plymouth Citylink service carried 535,866 passengers.
- In 2011/12, 1,500 bus trips were made by school children in Taranaki every school day.
- In 2011/12, less than half of one per cent of all the trips made in the Taranaki region were on public transport.
- Over half of the passengers using bus services in Taranaki are school children.

Let's Go in New Plymouth

In June 2010 the New Plymouth District Council was one of two Councils in New Zealand awarded a combined \$7,000,000 to develop walking and cycling initiatives in their cities. The project was named "Let's Go" and is all about getting the community to choose walking, cycling or the bus for short trips instead of riding in a car. It aims to get people out of their cars and onto the city's spectacular shared pathways and streetscapes by making walking and cycling the easiest transport options.

The funding for public bus services comes from:

- The government, which provides money from the New Zealand Transport Authority through taxes, road user charges and motor vehicle and licensing fees.
- Ratepayers, who contribute through a special transport rate, collected by the Taranaki Regional Council.
- Fares paid by bus passengers.



Let's Go in schools

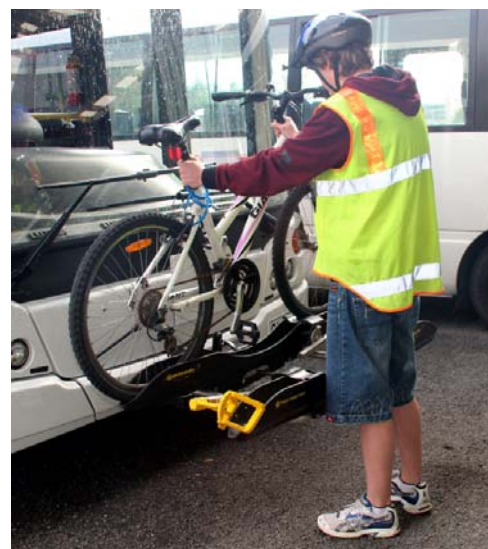
Schools are asked to encourage, support and educate people about travel planning. This plan aims to reduce the number of vehicles coming into a school area by using buses, scooters, bikes, or walking and car pooling as means of travel to and from school each day.

Walking school buses

A walking school bus has no wheels but has adults who take turns to help 'drive' the bus. The passengers are the school children walking to and from their school. In the morning the 'bus' picks up children from their houses and transports them to school. On the return trip in the afternoon the 'bus' drops them off again outside their homes. What a service! It's healthy exercise, it saves money because it doesn't use real transport, passengers get to know other children better and the 'drivers' get to know the students and each other. What's more, it is fun and it means fewer cars on the road with less congestion around school gates before and after school

Bikes on buses

Some Citylink buses have a rack (see photo) on the front for cyclists to hang their bikes on when travelling on the bus. The racks are still being trialled and if they prove to be popular more will be fitted.



Mini unit - Bus services in Taranaki

Learn more about our bus transport system. This new unit is coming soon and has been written with the help of two transport officers from the Taranaki Regional Council with assistance from the New Plymouth District Council. It will include a special publication written by a young man with disabilities who loves buses and is learning how to catch a bus to visit his family. There are lots of role play exercises, topics for debate, research activities and fun exercises. The mini unit will be available for downloading from the Council website www.trc.govt.nz

Support to schools

- A free support kit is available to any school wanting to set up a walking school bus. Go to www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/walking-school-bus-coordinators-guide/
- School Bus Transport mini unit – see left.
- Invite Taranaki Regional Council Transport Officers Chris Clarke and Karen Watt to talk to your classes about any aspect of bus transportation in Taranaki.
- Contact New Plymouth District Council Sustainable Transport Coordinator Nathaniel Benefield or Let's Go Travel Planner Liz Beck for assistance with school transport queries.



Try this bus safety quiz

- Potentially the most dangerous time for students using a school bus occurs:**
 - When walking from home to catch the bus
 - During the ride on the bus
 - Walking home after leaving the bus shelter
 - Just before getting on and immediately after getting off the bus.
- A student on a school bus must:**
 - Always speak politely
 - Listen carefully to instructions from the driver
 - Keep noise and other distractions to a minimum
 - All of the above.
- When a student disobeys the school bus rules:**
 - It can put others in danger
 - It sets a poor example to others
 - It can make others feel that they want to get off the bus even before they reach their destination
 - All of the above.
- When a student gets on a bus, it is important to:**
 - Find a seat and sit on it facing the front
 - Always wait for your friends to find their seats before you look for one yourself
 - Always let the person behind you know that you have a good seat
 - Have a chat to the driver on the way to your seat.
- In warm weather, if the windows are open, it is important to keep everything inside the bus and never throw anything out of the windows.**
 - True
 - False
- If you drop something under the bus you should:**
 - Quickly reach for it before the bus runs over it
 - Tell your friend to grab it for you
 - Keep away from the bus and tell the driver
 - Join hands with others and ask the person nearest to the bus to stick an arm in and reach for it.
- Always cross the street behind the bus:**
 - True
 - False
- If you are a passenger in a car and a student on a school bus throws an object from the bus which hits your windscreen, you should:**
 - Yell at the student
 - Ask the driver to speed up so you can pass the bus
 - Get the bus number and a description of the bus so you can report the incident to the bus company
 - Do nothing, after all you didn't get hit.
- When travelling on a school bus you should:**
 - Keep your hands and feet to yourself
 - Never throw anything at any time
 - Stay properly seated throughout the journey
 - All of the above

Word find

aisle	R	C	P	O	T	S	L	E	E	H	W	N
baggage	E	S	Y	O	E	E	R	A	F	S	T	
bus	V	E	E	R	R	L	R	C	T	Y	H	R
congestion	I	R	G	E	M	B	R	O	I	E	E	A
driver	R	V	A	G	I	A	S	N	C	N	L	N
fare	D	I	G	N	N	T	H	G	K	R	T	S
journey	A	C	G	E	U	E	O	E	E	U	E	P
passenger	I	E	A	S	S	M	P	S	T	O	R	O
road	S	A	B	S	W	I	P	T	R	J	T	R
seat	L	E	V	A	R	T	I	I	O	S	A	T
service	E	Y	I	P	R	I	N	O	A	U	E	R
shelter	S	T	R	E	E	T	G	N	D	B	S	G
shopping												
street												
stop												
transport												
terminus												
ticket												
timetable												
travel												
wait												
wheels												

Words that start and end with bus.

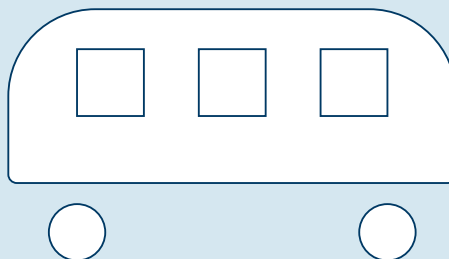
There are plenty of words that start with bus but not nearly so many end with bus. No plurals or words needing capital letters can be used.

Targets

Words starting with bus	Words ending with bus
40 – Excellent	10 – Excellent
30 – Very Good	8 – Very Good
20 – Good	6 – Good
15 – Fair	4 – Fair
10 – Keep Trying	2 – Keep Trying

Which way is the bus below travelling?

To the left or to the right?



If you cannot make up your mind you are not alone. But you may be surprised to know that 90% of American pre-schoolers said that the bus is travelling to the left because they couldn't see the door to get on. Just to confuse matters, remember in America the traffic moves on the right hand side of the road, not the left as it does in New Zealand.



Some not very funny bus jokes

Why didn't anyone take the school bus to school?

Because it would never have fitted through the front door.

What bus crossed the ocean?
Columbus

What would you get if you crossed King Kong with a skunk?

I have no idea but I know he could always get a seat on a bus.

Why did Sam refuse to take the bus home after school?

He knew his mum would make him take it back.



Four classes from Stratford Primary School's junior department visited the Council last term to check out the freshwater fish in the tanks. The visits preceded field trips to the Patea River where the students were amazed at the prolific invertebrate life living there. ▶



NPGHS investigates the Waiwhakaiho River

These NPGHS students from Mr Eddie Brown's class studied the Waiwhakaiho River recently. They monitored the water flow, temperature, pH, conductivity, stream bed composition, stream bank vegetation and are pictured checking the water clarity at one of four sites along the river. They finished their field trip with a visit to the Carrousel Wastewater Treatment Plant in New Plymouth. A busy day indeed!



Bits 'n' Pieces

Environmental Awards 2013

The closing date for nominations for Council Environmental Awards is **31 May 2013**. Over the last two decades many schools and early childhood education centres have been given Council Environmental Awards in recognition of their outstanding achievements in many aspects of environmental education. If you feel your school warrants a nomination please feel free to do so.

For further details or a nomination form please contact:

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Meeting

Staff and syndicate meetings are proving to be a popular avenue for teachers to learn more about Council environmental education programmes. Please contact Kevin if you would like him to attend one of your meetings. He promises to take no more than 30 minutes of your valuable time.

WHAT'S THE PLAN STAN?

A popular study in terms two and three is a civil defence emergency management programme. Most of you, hopefully all, will remember last year's highly successful nationwide earthquake drill called New Zealand Shake Out on 26 September. All primary and intermediate schools have the excellent resource 'What's the Plan,

Stan?' stored in the resource room, library, staff room or wherever. Please contact Kevin if you require any assistance in this area.



Answers from page 3

Bus quiz: 1.D 2.D 3.D 4.A 5.A 6.C 7.B 8.C 9.D

Puketapu School visits Pukeiti



Pukeiti head gardener Andrew Brooker addresses junior students from Puketapu School during their light rainforest walk on their recent visit to Pukeiti Gardens. The students learnt all about how the pioneer bushmen and their families lived, how plants adapt to living in the forest, and even found time to cram most of their group into the Giant Rata. Earlier in the day the group (guided by Pukeiti gardener Nathan Hills) looked closely at the creepy crawlies living in the rainforest.

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