Aim of Presentation

Share one of Selwyn’s initiatives to keep our rural school children safe
School Zone 40kph advisory signs
Differences between Rural and Urban Schools

- Higher speeds
- No formal vehicle drop off and pick up areas
- Lower school roles
- Obscured school frontage
- No pedestrian or cycle facilities
- Rural school bus services
- Rural children generally less experienced in dealing with traffic.

Safer Rural School Children
Why?

Reducing the Risk

Change Drivers

Behaviour

Safer Rural School Children
A solution that is cost effective, easy to implement and maintain

Safer Rural School Children
ZERO ROAD DEATHS AND SERIOUS INJURIES ON SELWYN ROADS
Emotive Issue!

Safer Rural School Children
Hard to explain to the community why we can’t lower the speed limit.
What our community and Council wants

Safer Rural School Children
What we did?

- Speed Past Schools Working Party
- Proposal to trial new sign
- Council received a petition
- MP – wanted 40k flashing signs at all Selwyn School sites
- Resolution of Council – lower to 50kph blanket
- Proposal to NZTA end 2010
- Sign design

Safer Rural School Children
Awareness highlights

Safer Rural School Children

Coming soon to these schools...

- Broadfield
- Glentunnel
- Greenpark
- Ladbrooks
- Windwhistle

- Burnham
- Greendale
- Hororata
- Weedons

Go to page 2 for more...
School speed trial weeks away

The countdown is on for Selwyn’s 40km/h advisory rural school zone signs trial – new signs are being made and the trial start is only weeks away.

The signs will be installed outside Selwyn’s nine rural schools: Broadfield, Burnham, Gleen tunnel, Greendale, Greenpark, Hororata, Ladbrooks, Windwhistle and Windwhistle.

The penalty for drivers who don’t slow down when children are present means when a child is anywhere on the road within the school zone.

Along with the enforcement of the rural school zone signs, Selwyn Police will continue their "no excuses" stance of enforcing the speed limit past schools, early childhood centres and stopped school buses.

The trial will be in place until December next year.

Schools

By Gary Moody

New advisory signs are being installed outside the district’s rural schools in a New Zealand first, though they fell short of what was sought.

The new 40km/h speed signs, which warn of children present and are enforceable as a speed limit.

They were approved for a trial last week for the council after its bid to impose a 50km/h limit outside the schools was rejected by the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA).

Selwyn District Council transport and road safety coordinator Lee Wright said they were offered as an alternative by the NZTA as the schools did not meet its criteria, and the council was left with no other option.

It was the first time they would be used and if successful they could be rolled out throughout the country.

The council was waiting on a definition of how the signs could be enforced by the police, so they were not under a council bylaw, and there would be a public education campaign about their use.

Mr Wright said the signs would have to be gradually introduced to the NZTA but could be up next month.

Selwyn police sergeant Warren Campbell said people would be given some time to get used to the signs.

"We want to slow you down. If you are going more than 40km/h more than the posted speed limit from 50 metres of a school or early childhood centre will receive a fine—

As will anyone caught exceeding 20km/h past a school bus that has stopped to let children on or off.

The trial will be in place until December next year.

Council schools travelwise co-ordinator Carolyn Bennison said the start date would be some time around June 30.

The initial speed limit was 50km/h, but was reduced to 40km/h on advice from the NZTA.

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Safer near schools initiative

Selwyn first in NZ to trial signs

Selwyn District Council is looking for public feedback on new road signs being tested in a New Zealand first.

The region will be the first in the country to trial new 40 kilometre per hour advisory road signs near rural schools in an effort to get drivers to reduce speed.

Council transport and road safety co-ordinator Lee Wright said she wanted people to say how they would react to the signs when driving and anyone who gave feedback would automatically go in the draw for a grocery voucher.

Billboards and advertisements were already up to introduce the signs; show what they would look like and the schools they would be installed at.

“But, before putting the signs up, we need to know how drivers might interpret and react to them,” Ms Wright said.

Another novel initiative by the council were billboards with the familiar children playing sign on its side and the words 'slow down'.

The billboards are designed to catch drivers' attention “and to show what can happen if they don’t slow down”.

You can give your thoughts on the signs online at www.selwyn.govt.nz/schoolsigns or on paper at any council office or library.

Public say: A mock up of the signs which will go outside schools.

Lopsided sign: A new billboard designed to grab drivers' attention.
Selwyn leads the way with school speed trials

By LEE JAMIESON

Selwyn is the first district in the country to trial 40km/h speed signs on busy roads outside several of its rural schools.

Selwyn District Council (SDC) and the New Zealand Transport Agency agreed to trial the 40km/h “advisory” school zone signs at Selwyn schools.

SDC transport and road safety co-ordinator Lee Wright said Broadfield, Burnham, Greendale, Greenpark, Hororata, Ladbrouse and Weedons Schools are all included and confirmation for Windwhistle and Glentunnel both on SH77 was expected this week.

It was hoped the 1.2 x 3 metre signs would be installed some time in May, she said.

“This is welcome news after years of trying to negotiate a solution to speed limits past Selwyn’s rural schools,” Miss Wright said.

“We believe the signs can make a real difference to drivers’ behaviour when passing schools,”

The police would enforce careless driving charges for those exceeding the speed limit, she said.

“They’re highly likely to warn people for the first couple of weeks.”

However, there would be no excuses for not being able to see them.

“They’re going to be massive signs.”

There would be a six-month report and the schools would be informed about results along the way, she said.

At the end of the year-long trial, before-and-after data would be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the signs.

Weedons School principal Kathy Bell said after years of campaigning, it was “wonderful to have something finally happen”.

Weedons School board chairman Frank Dowie said it was only a matter of time before something serious happened on the road alongside the school.

“We’ve had a number of near misses with pupils,” Mr Dowie said.

“The road is very busy for a relative part of the day and we’re very fortunate there hasn’t been an injury or a fatality. We don’t want to wait for it to happen, and with the growth in the region, there’s been a lot more traffic around the school.”

Greenpark School principal Andrea Klaffen said the trial was a good idea.

“We have several children who walk along the roads to come to school,” Mrs Klaffen said.

“It’s going to be safer for the children, because we’ve got traffic going past at 100km/h and children are unpredictable at times, so it’s good to have a slower speed zone put in.”

ON TRIAL: Weedons School principal Kathy Bell and pupils (from left) Alice, 7, and Lily Peters, 10, and Ian Souness, 10, stand alongside the road next to the school with a poster of the 40km/h signs, which will be on trial there. The school is one of several rural schools in Selwyn that will trial the signs for one year.
What the Community said!

Safer Rural School Children
Yes they are enforceable!
What’s it worth?
A few seconds?
A fine?
A life?
Awareness

slow down!

There are no excuses when it comes to the safety of our rural school children.


Rural school speeds are GO
Broadfields School
Weedons School
Mock Check Points

Safer Rural School Children
Slower Speeds?

Safer Rural School Children
Questions?