

Ride & Stride

2023 Report



Merri-bek
City Council

In 2023 we worked with 6 new Merri-bek primary schools; Fawkner, Glenroy West, Coburg, St Margaret Mary's, Brunswick South West and Oak Park Primary. Across these schools we delivered a range of behaviour change initiatives to increase kids walking, riding and scooting. We also continued working with Ride & Stride schools from previous years to keep momentum in building their active travel community and capacity.



Open Streets trials

Working with Bicycle Network to trial opening streets at drop off and pick up times to children walking and riding, safe from car traffic.

[Read the report](#)

[Watch video](#)

11 Open Streets trial days
at 4 new schools
16% increase in active travel compared to a normal school day



66% of students walked, rode or scooted to school
93% of parents surveyed felt the street was safer than a normal school day

50% of families rode more

33% of families walked more

97% of parents surveyed want to see Open Streets at their school more often

School-led Open Streets

Taking trials to the next level! Coburg North Primary and Merri-bek Primary launched monthly Open Streets last year through a parent volunteer program, an Australian first. Running Open Streets more often provides safer streets for kids, embeds healthier habits and builds school and community capacity to lead their own street transformations.

[Read more](#)

14 Open Streets Fridays
18 parent volunteers
65% average active travel rate on Open Streets days



It's been a joy volunteering to make Open Streets happen each month at my kids school, being outdoors with happy children in a playful, quiet street. Seeing children riding, scooting and enjoying the Open Street makes volunteering more than worth it! ¹⁷



E-cargo bike trials

At 5 of our our new schools, we provided families with a free subscription to an e-cargo bike for a month to try swapping the car for a cheaper, healthier and more enjoyable school run. We also ran a 2-month 50% subsidy offer with our existing Ride & Stride schools to engage new families and keep supporting parents to take on the school run with two wheels instead of four.



Kids love it. Getting them to and from school is so easy now. I'm using my car less and getting places quicker - it gives me back more time to spend with my family."

49 + **25** = **74** new riders!

49 free trials



25 subsidies

73% usually drive their kids to school
60% of participants were women
41% stayed on their bike after the trial
68% plan to keep riding to school →
84% now confident to ride with kids

40% usually drive their kids to school
68% of participants were women
84% stayed on their bike after the trial
83% plan to keep riding to school →
100% now confident to ride with kids

And lots more...

10,916
TagOns across
3 new schools

2
more teachers trained
in bike education

Walk to School Day
celebrations held with
the Mayor and local
members of Parliament

Annual Year 6 & 7 Transition Ride →
with Merri-bek Primary
and Coburg High School



Find out more about Ride & Stride

[Click here](#)