



Kids take green path to school

STUDENTS, parents and Cardinia Shire mayor Garry Runge took Shank's pony to school on National Walk Safely to School Day.

Beaconsfield Primary School's 500-plus students took part in the walk as part of their Walking School Bus program, arriving alert and active after their morning exercise.

On arrival at school, Walking School Bus passengers were presented with showbags of healthy snacks and pedometers to encourage them to keep walking.

The Walking School Bus is a supervised walking program spon-

sored by Cardinia Shire Council and VicHealth and conducted by dedicated volunteer 'drivers' – mothers and other responsible adults – who walk with the students to ensure they arrive safely.

Cr Runge thanked the 'drivers', who he said did a wonderful job to instil the healthy lifestyle and environment message by leading by example.

"Unfortunately 80 per cent of children living within two kilometres of school are driven to school each day, so they miss out on exercise, socialising and learning road safety rules," he said.

"If 500 children at this school walked to school each day, we'd save 50 litres of fuel and an incredible 1125 kilograms of carbon dioxide emissions each day."

Beaconsfield Primary School principal Gary Methven said the Walking School Bus program reduced traffic and improved parking safety around the school.

"Traffic congestion is a problem at most schools around pick-up and drop-off time, but with so many students walking today (Walk to School Safely Day) there was very little traffic, which was a refreshing change," he said.



Liam, Thomas, Brooke, Maddison, Carly, Sarah and volunteer Trish walk to school with Cardinia Shire mayor Garry Runge.