



Media Release

Friday 23 February 2018

## West Melton kea crossing is all go!

The kea crossing installation has been completed for West Melton Primary School on Weedons Ross Road.

Senior students from the school trained as Road Patrollers with School Community Officer Constable Rick Groen on Monday morning. The patrollers learnt how to safely operate the newly installed and much awaited kea crossing to ensure their fellow students and caregivers get across the busy road safely.

Kea crossings are operated by the trained patrollers along with an adult supervisor. The patrollers are taught how to find a safe gap in the traffic flow to swing the stop arms out into, to hold the pedestrians until traffic has stopped and to release pedestrians to cross once the path is clear.

Sue Jackson, Principal of West Melton Primary School says the kea crossing is an opportunity for students to be involved in the community with leadership responsibilities.

“We are delighted to endorse our Safe School Travel Plan by supporting our students in their leadership roles as road patrol monitors, ensuring the safety of the school community as they cross the now busy Weedons Ross Road.”

The kea crossing and footpath extension north on Weedons Ross Road complete the recent shopping centre landscaping and school frontage development. Road Safety Coordinator Stephanie Hautler urges parents to use the kea crossing and try active transport.

“We want our young people to be getting to school actively where they can and the kea crossing and footpath north is another tool to open up routes to the community across a busy road. Caregivers need to be mindful that they are role models for all kids, not just their own and use the kea crossing to and from school when the flags are up.”

Drivers are asked to keep an eye on their speed around pedestrians, when entering and exiting the shopping centre and near the school.

“This is your village and for your children to be safe getting to school you must slow down,” Mrs Hautler says.

When the kea crossing is not under the control of the road patrol team the cross point operates like any other piece of road where pedestrians have to wait until the road is clear before crossing and to wave drivers through who stop to let them cross.

**PHOTO:** Senior students from West Melton Primary School have been trained to operate the new kea crossing on Weedons Ross Road.

**ENDS**

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