

## School Bus Information

The main school bus service in the Kerikeri schools area is provided by the Ministry of Education, through their service agent Multiserve, to assist eligible students to travel from their home to school. Funding provided is managed by the Kerikeri Schools Transport Network (KSTN) who contract Clarks Coachlines to provide the service. Clarks Coachlines provide us with an extremely efficient service, with a modern well maintained and impeccably presented fleet of buses.

**For a student to be eligible** they must live more than 4.8km by road from the nearest school (not necessarily the one they attend) which provides education at their year level. Each school is surrounded by a Transport Entitlement Zone which is defined by the mid-point between the school and the next similar school. Note that the Transport Entitlement Zone is not necessarily the same as the School's enrolment zone, and in fact is different for Kerikeri High School in both the Haruru Falls and Takou areas.

**Eligible students living within the Transport Entitlement Zone** will usually be able to use a bus service near them. However the Ministry of Education reserve the right to provide a transport assistance allowance in lieu of a bus if it is uneconomic to operate a bus for a few students. This is currently the case in the Purerua peninsula area. Note that students are expected by the Ministry of Education to walk up to 2.4km to their bus stop, so routes usually do not extend to the Transport Entitlement Zone boundaries.

**Eligible students who live outside the school's Transport Entitlement Zone** are still entitled to some assistance. They may be transported from the Transport Entitlement Zone boundary to the school on a KSTN bus or they may be approved to receive the **Transport allowance**. Application forms for a transport allowance are available from Reception and need to be returned to the school. After verification they are forwarded to Multiserve who determine whether they are accepted. Allowances are paid to caregivers each term in arrears.

**Caregivers should apply for the transport allowance in Term One** to ensure the full annual allowance is received. Once approved the allowance remains active until the student leaves school or changes their address. Even if remaining eligible a new application must be made for a new address.

The bus service has begun smoothly in 2013 with no more than a few minor problems and load balancing required. Most routes have comfortable loadings, although we have not quite been able to meet our desired policy of having all students seated. However no bus has been overloaded, and all drivers have strict instruction to not ever exceed the legal loadings. Most buses are licenced to carry around 20 standing student passengers.

Loading the large number of students efficiently and safely onto buses at the end of the day is a challenge. The twenty buses will not all fit in the bus bay so they arrive at set staggered times. As the first buses move out the next wave of buses arrives. If even a single car is parked in the Bus Bay the process is considerably slower, leaving buses on Hone Heke Road unable to enter the Bay and blocking all road traffic. Please do not park in the Bay between the times displayed on the signs. Registration numbers of cars impeding the buses are passed on to the Police and tickets have been issued in the past.

Where space is available, for example after offloading students at Riverview, the KSTN allows non-eligible student passengers for a small fare, currently \$1 per ride within the 4.8 km area, and \$2 outside that.

This service is very limited and not guaranteed, as the eligible user numbers vary day-by-day, and is not available if these additional students significantly increase the number of standing passengers. All fares collected are used to improve the service.

Occasionally in the past students have used the KSTN service to travel to the Waipapa sports grounds for training. Unfortunately because of loadings no space is available on any bus serving Waipapa so this service is no longer available for casual passengers.

All queries regarding the bus services need to be made to the student's school. The contractors are not able to make decisions about routes, or casual passengers.

In addition to the KSTN bus service, there are Clarks Coachline buses serving the Paihia, Opuia and Kaikohe areas, and Stewarts serving Kaeo. All these are fare-paying services, but students using them may be eligible for transport allowance and caregivers should make application for this allowance.

## **Kerikeri High Schools' Transport Network**