

Safety on the Shore —

ShoreSafe Newsletter #18

March 2009



Safety Innovations Some organizations may place less emphasis on safety than they should but here are some good examples of North Shore organizations doing things to improve their own environments. All are Signatories to the ShoreSafe Safe Community Agreement

PlaceMakers Albany— Encouraged all their staff to be proactive and create their own work place safety audit. They identified risks individually and collectively discussed and proposed solutions to lessen or remove risks.

Massey University— With the introduction of work place tenants (bookshop, caterers, cleaners etc), they conduct a safety course to familiarize them with Massey's safety procedures so that they 'fit in' to current safety practices.

Winger North Shore (Subaru/Suzuki) When shifting cars around the forecourt, two staff are used, one to drive and one to spot for children or simply customers unaware of risks.

WDHB have introduced an effective procedure to protect field staff from risk when making domestic visits. This has been problematic throughout NZ so it is of welcome relief to many workers to have an improvement to their sometimes precarious situation.

NSCC is getting well through it Make it a Safe Summer campaign with nil beach fatalities to date and generally very good behaviour with pleasing safety reports. Enterprise North Shore continues to host the Annual Business Excellence Awards but now has a very strong emphasis on safety for candidates looking to make applications.

ACC is evolving and looking to direct guidance and resources to where injury occurrence data dictates. i.e Falls among adults 45 years plus. North Shore has a very high incident record on a national scale.

Pass the word: A fall at home effects a company at work. A company at work can enhance safety in the home.



We were at the Volunteer and Emergency Services Day in December demonstrating the Driveway Run-over scenario. Thanks to the Plunket helpers and NSCC

Recently I read an interesting article by Australian Miranda Devine who put question to the knee-jerk reactions that often follow accident or injury. She applauds initiatives on seatbelts and breath testing but sees nanny stateism and new layers of red tape being applied to too many accidents and injuries. Often this can erupt in unforeseen consequences down the line.

Some relevant comment on swimming pools was very close to home. Miranda refers to two backyard pool drownings where three toddlers drowned. Calls came for banning pools, harsher fines, and mandatory movement sensors to compulsory CPR training and council spot checks. There was little call for more diligent adult supervision. Technology of pool safety equipment is not perfect and a simple clothes peg can keep a pool gate open. She is making the point that too much reliance on regulations and technology, leads to parental complacency.

She cites many examples of child accidents and the subsequent calls for action but for me, the hard hitting statement came from much further a field. In Britain, where an even greater obsession with health and safety regulations is dubbed "elf and safety", none other than the Chief Executive of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents sounded the warning bell in late 2008. Tom Mullarkey told a meeting of safety experts their industry had gone too far, after a British council banned doormats as a tripping hazard. "The application of common sense and balance is much more reasonable than the seeking of mindless increments towards 'absolute safety' ... Whether walking in the hills or mowing the lawn, people need to be able to get on with it themselves."

Miranda concludes by saying that knee-jerk campaigns on every human misfortune are futile and lead to bad law by approbation-hungry politicians who fail to exercise judgment.

The problem is you cannot legislate for a perfect world.

I'm from the old school in this thinking and when all the data and opinion is gathered, one must also ask the question before the big decision, and that is, "What does your gut tell you?"

We need to know and feel that what we do or promote is right.

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Events:

- **Wed 18 March –Walk2Work Day** see www.northshorecity.govt.nz and enter Walk2Work Day
- **Sat 28 March 2030 hrs Earth Hour–** Try turning it off.
- **Wed 1 April –April Falls Day,** Browns Bay 1030 at Marine Rescue Building.
- **Wed 3 Jun -Safekids Planning Day.** Venue to be advised
- **June—ShoreSafe Forum–** Highlighting new safety initiatives. Date to be advised.

Spotted: This contractor’s truck was spotted parked up for lunch with the back tray of the truck completely over the vehicle driving lane and just after a bend on The Strand. What’s worse is that the contents on the back indicated it was a road service contractor.



ShoreSafe Coordinator’s Eye on Safety

More info: & ShoreSafe
Wayne’s Hospital Risk Management. Instructions to the Surgeon and Operating Team.



It worked! I now have two good knees again. Wayne

If you haven’t been on the new motorway extension, it looks like this. Eddie the Eagle on the starting blocks and my wife Willie helping with my pre-bike difficulties in getting dressed. This cycle day was before the official opening late last year.



Being Proactive in regard to Older Adults

We all know an Older Adult (65+yrs) and some of us may already be there now and we should know that falls are a **curse**. They seldom involve just the injured person and inevitably draw in many others. It’s the doctor, nurse, physio, neighbour, friend and family. We all need to be an advocate against falls and a proponent of **basic physical activity**. What value comes from being wise after the event. How can we be smart before the event. Try targeting one individual you know. Take a bit of time to stress the benefits of improving balance, staying healthy through exercise and insist on it being part of the weekly regime. Find out what they are currently doing and what can be done or what is available in falls prevention in their locality and the little bit of effort then will be well rewarded in the future. Here is a phone number to write in your diary for advice: 489 4975 x 113 or 114 (Wayne or Katie).

North Shore needs to do better as our current fall statistics are high and therefore very costly to tax payers, families and just about every corner of society. As a region we do need to be smarter and fall less. Special programmes are being run and often free to Older Adults.

ANZAC DAY—SAT 25TH APRIL

Attend your local parade and be reminded that we live in a safe community and we should be thankful to those who fought for our freedom enjoyed today.

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