



Open Streets!

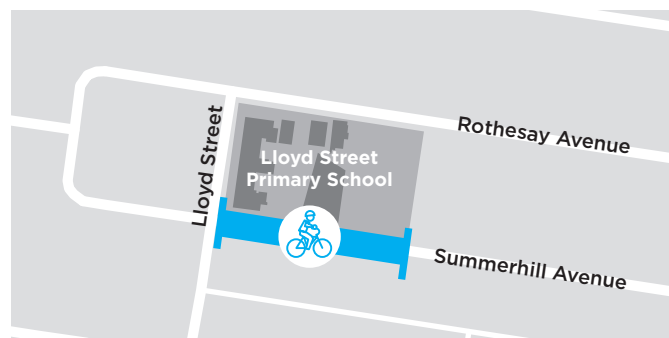
Creating a safe space for students riding, scooting and walking to school.

Open Streets is an initiative designed to encourage active travel by reducing traffic around school gates at drop-off and pick-up times.

Streets near schools are opened to people on bikes and foot so that active travel is a more appealing and convenient way of getting to and from school. The space is activated with activities for unstructured play for children, and carers are invited to linger and socialise. Drop-off zones for people using cars are relocated to encourage active travel for part of the journey.

Bicycle Network partnered with City of Stonnington to deliver an Open Streets trial at Lloyd Street Primary School, Malvern East, throughout February 2023. Across three consecutive Tuesdays, Summerhill Avenue became an Open Street for one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon. Traffic management was in place to manage the road occupation between the intersection of Summerhill Avenue and Lloyd Street, and the boundary of the school grounds – a length of approximately 130m. An obstacle course, chalk drawing, and equipment for unstructured play were used to activate the space across the three weeks. In the final week, a coffee cart provided coffee and other hot drinks to warm the hands of those socialising and enjoying the atmosphere.

The Open Streets trial was used as opportunity to continue and expand the conversation about active travel, and about opening streets to people, in the school community. In the second week of the trial, an e-cargo bike hire company attended to offer test rides from their fleet, while a bike mechanic provided free tune-ups to ensure students' bikes were running smoothly and safely.



Bicycle Network collected surveys from families, residents, students, and other community members before, during, and following the trial. Surveys focused on attitudes about traffic in Summerhill Avenue and neighbouring streets, the Open Streets program, and about travel habits. A summary of findings is presented overleaf.

Bicycle Network also conducted AIRS traffic surveys in streets around the school to determine the traffic impact of the intervention. While these surveys observed traffic volumes increased at some sites, the volumes were within the local street capacity and did not significantly impact the overall traffic flow in the area.

Open Streets trials

Lloyd Street Primary School

Feb 14th - Feb 21st - Feb 28th 2023

Average active travel across event days

75.6%



75.6% of survey respondents reported using some form of active travel to get to school (e.g. walk, bike, scoot, or skating) on the days of the Open Streets trials. This is up from a reported average of 48% on a normal school day.

Average increase on normal school days

27.6%



Rode more

47%

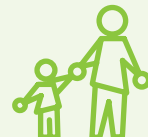
of families said that they rode more on Open Streets days.



Walked more

37%

of families said that they walked more on Open Streets days.



Felt safe to walk or ride Summerhill Ave

100%

of survey respondents felt that Summerhill Ave was safe to walk or ride on trial days, compared to only 59% on normal school days.



Would like to see regular Open Streets

92%

of families would like to see Open Streets regularly in the future.

How often?

19% daily

39% at least weekly

20% at least monthly

13% at least once a term

1% at least annually

8% never

Very satisfied

73%

of respondents were very satisfied with the events.



Star score



Parents gave the trials 4.7 out of 5 stars.

We asked students "what is your favourite thing about Open Streets?" They said:



The street being safe and activities for kids.
- Emily



You can have more fun.
- Bailey



Not as much cars.
- Anna