

I travelled on bus 1 from Rangiora to Cashmere Dyers Pass roundabout on Tuesday 30 Jan with Paula as the driver.

#### Observations:

The lady with the wheeled frame walker who boarded in High St and alighted by the Palm Tree near Pack n Save (Rangiora), was cheerfully greeted and treated with care and dignity. She was helped on and off the bus by Paula, who pointed out where to catch the return bus. Well done Paula!

For those with mobility issues this service is a real blessing. However crossing Southbrook Road to catch the return bus, with a well loaded wheeled frame Walker maybe problematic. Awareness of this issue is understood by most drivers and by most wheeled frame walkers. Transport planners and councilors would be well advised to travel on a bus at gold card times to observe how mobility impaired travellers are able to face these challenges. Access to supermarkets through public transport would allow some older persons to remain in their own homes for as long possible before being shuffled off to residential care, thus earning councils credit for meeting community resilience and well- being targets.

2. Park Ride. I salute Councils for this innovation. Perhaps a further refinement could be the installation of solar panels on council buildings in park ride complexes to provide energy requirements for those who park EV vehicles.

This would encourage more users of the public transport system. It would go towards councils meeting emissions reductions goals and towards providing enhanced resilience for the transport system. The River Road park ride facility in Rangiora is next door to another government agency who may possibly be called on to offer a service of checking the use of EV charging. A drop box for car keys could be set up for shifting vehicles so that there is a rotating use of EV chargers. E-mail alerts to the agency and to the car owner, could be arranged so that EV cars could be swapped once charged. Council may consider incentives to D.O.C. to take part in such a pilot scheme.

3. Airless interiors of busses. The upper deck at the rear of the bus is hot and claustrophobic due to lack of circulating air. (Probably a hot bed for covid viruses). That is a major deterrent for travelling by bus.

4. Uniform \$2 fare regardless of how far you travel: This is brilliant. It reduces cash handling times and speeds up passenger upload times. I am yet to try the new metrocard, but I did witness most passengers using the card, with minimum time spent entering the bus, thus providing a more efficient service.

5. Seat height in buses: This passenger, who has short legs, suffered from cramp due the high seat. He travelled from Rangiora through to Cashmere, sitting in the front seat nearest the driver. "Decramping" by walking took 20 minutes to regain use of both legs. A similar experience 25 years ago suggests not an age related issue but rather an issue of ergonomics and seat design, including height from floor.

Are all seats at a uniform height?

How do little people manage?

Or is this an age-related issue, for the older person?

The cramping issue may not be a problem for shorter trips. This trip took 1 hour 15 minutes.