

**MEDIA RELEASE: TUESDAY, 26 FEBRUARY, 2019**

**Strathbogie Shire kids hit their stride during Walk to School**

Strathbogie Shire kids have shown getting to school is a walk in the park, with more than 350 local students walking, riding and scooting an impressive 7068 kilometres as part of VicHealth's Walk to School program.

The students were among the thousands of Victorian students, who collectively walked, rode and scooted more than 1.7 million kilometres – the equivalent of over 41,000 marathons – in last Term's program.

VicHealth recently released the results of its annual program, with four schools taking out the top prize for the highest participation across the state.

Peranbin Primary College in Strathbogie took out the second prize for highest participation rate in the North Eastern Region, second to Edi Upper Primary School, with an impressive 100% of students walking, riding and scooting to school every day.

The runners up prize awarded to the Strathbogie School consisted of 1 x AFL Player recorded video message and Sherrin footballs for classroom activities.

Peranbin Primary School in Violet Town also had the whole school participate. Euroa Primary School had a fantastic participation rate of 93.33%, St Johns Euroa with 74.87% and Avenel Primary School also getting students to actively get to school.

"Strathbogie Shire is pleased to have been part of VicHealth's Walk to School program that encourages local families to build healthy habits that we hope they will continue as school starts again this year," Health Promotion Worker Isobel Gribben said.

"Strathbogie Shire Council worked with local primary schools to deliver a range of activities encouraging more families to walk, ride or scoot to school during the program, including running colouring competitions for participating schools, holding healthy breakfasts at local primary schools and developing walking maps with schools.

"Congratulations to all the students for your fantastic efforts in last year's Walk to School program. We hope you continue enjoying walking to school in 2019."

VicHealth CEO Jerril Rechter said the Walk to School program is about making walking, riding or scooting to school easy, fun and importantly a normal part of daily life.

"Strathbogie Shire primary school kids have shown they love walking to school with an impressive number walking, riding or scooting to school as part of last year's program," Ms Rechter said.

"Walking, riding or scooting to and from school every day – even if it's only part of the way – helps kids get some of the physical activity they need to be healthy."

Strathbogie Shire Mayor Cr Amanda McClaren said Council was very pleased to see the Walk to School initiative taken up by so many students and their families.

“It was great to hear the initiative was so highly participated in across schools the Strathbogie Shire and we hope students and families continue to walk, skate or scoot to school beyond the Walk to School program,” Cr McClaren said.

VicHealth’s annual Walk to School program takes place during the first month of Term Four. Kids are encouraged to walk, ride or scoot to and from school each day, with a number of great prizes up for grabs for schools and individuals.

In 2019 Walk to School will be happening again in Strathbogie Shire local schools will be encouraged to participate again. To find out more visit [www.walktoschool.vic.gov.au](http://www.walktoschool.vic.gov.au)

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