



Media release: 28 June 2010

Red Bus starts Friday shopper service for Darfield

Darfield district residents will soon be able to avoid the hassles of driving and parking in Christchurch city with a new Friday return bus service aimed at shoppers.

Responding to customer feedback Red Bus is extending its weekday bus service from Darfield to Christchurch with a new service starting Friday 16 July.

Red Bus recently started a 3 month trial of a daily return commuter run. That service leaves Darfield Railway Station at 7.15am, with stops at the Kirwee Hotel, West Melton Hotel, Yaldhurst Hotel and Westfield Mall. The return service leaves from outside the Bus Exchange on Lichfield St at 5.30pm.

Red Bus Chief Executive Paul McNoe says the trial is progressing well.

"We're obviously meeting a need and each week more people are using the bus," he says.

The new shopper service to the city via Westfield Mall will depart from Darfield at 10am, with the return journey leaving the Bus Exchange at 3pm or the later commuter bus leaving at 5.30pm.

"The first day of the service coincides with the last day of the school holidays, so local children are able to take the bus into the city to go to the movies or other activities," Mr McNoe says.

The service also provides an option for students boarding in town to catch the bus home on Friday afternoon.

Reduced fares from West Melton and Yaldhurst

Standard fares each way will be the same as the commuter run - \$7.50 adults; \$5.00 children. Recognising the shorter distance, Red Bus will reduce fares from West Melton to \$5.00 for adults and \$3.50 for children, and from Yaldhurst to \$4.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children.

Both services will be reassessed at the end of August to determine whether they should be continued.

Ends

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