



# Swift trip treat for pupil

**Racing off:** Suzuki Swift Sport Cup driver Chris Cox giving Allenton School pupil Cameron Radford a ride to school in his race car.

Cameron Radford was the envy of his peers at Allenton School last Wednesday.

Cameron, 8, was the lucky winner of a prize to be driven to school by Chris Cox, a Suzuki Swift Sport Cup driver, after entering in the Grid Kids Duathlon to be held at the Timaru International Motor Raceway next month.

Taking place around New Zealand on selected racing tracks, the duathlon is aimed at children aged between 6 and 13, with distances suitable to their ages.

Cameron said he was "really excited" about being driven to school in the bright yellow race car and said he was up at 5.30am.

He has entered the duathlon before but this was the first time he has won something from the event.

As part of the prize, he will also get tickets to attend the New Zealand Motorsport Series which coincides with the duathlon.

While in Ashburton, Mr Cox was helping to spread the word about the event, which was in its third year, to try and raise awareness for young people about how important it is to keep fit.

Children who entered the event at any of the locations where it will be held go into the draw to win a Suzuki quad bike and safety gear.

# Grown ups need to start growing up

## Drink-driving figures disheartening

The number of drunk drivers pulled over between December 10 and 11 has frustrated Ashburton Community Alcohol and Drugs Service (ACADS) and the Ashburton Alcohol Accord.

During a recent Ashburton Alcohol Accord meeting the number of people caught driving with an excess of alcohol in their system the past weekend was brought to the attention of the members.

Sergeant Sean Buchanan said between those dates, five males aged between 17 and 32 were caught, which was about standard during the weekend he said.

The new zero-alcohol limit for drivers under the age of 20 came into force at midnight on Saturday, August 6.

Despite excessive campaigning to try and get people to plan how to get home safely after drinking and not getting behind the wheel, the figure showed a total disregard to personal safety and safety of others, ACADS general manager Chris Clark said.

Ms Clark said although five people were caught over that particular weekend, statistically the police cannot catch every single drunk driver so that number was a "strong indication" that this issue was still a problem in Ashburton.

But it was not just people that were at risk. A host responsibility policy that all premises must adhere to as part of their liquor licence, meant food and transport options such as the courtesy van or ringing for a taxi, were available to patrons. People who drove after drinking needed to know their limits and take advantage of the services available, she said.

"People who are doing this [driving drunk] are putting licensed premises at risk. I think people need to take some personal responsibility, they shouldn't have to be babysat by the premises or babysat by the police; these are grown up people."

President of the Ashburton Alcohol Accord Sarah Davidson said it was disappointing that people still did not seem to be listening to the messages about



**Not impressed:** Health promoter Sue Newton, right, and president of the Ashburton Alcohol Accord Sarah Davidson have been campaigning to prevent people driving while over the legal alcohol limit.

keeping motorists over the legal alcohol limit off the roads.

"We're trying our utmost to look after people and make sure that everybody is safe, hence why we have so many options for people to get home.

"The thing that we find the most frustrating is the premises all have low-alcohol beer options... and a full range of non-alcoholic drinks available, and tea and coffee [so the options are there]."

To hold a liquor licence, venues must have a host responsibility policy to make every-

thing required for sober drivers available, she said, so people needed to be aware that premises were looking out for people as part of that policy - for example if a staff member requests a patron catches a taxi home instead of driving.

"We have all the premises taking part in the Drive Sober, Don't Croak It campaign. We are really trying to push the message about getting home safely and looking after your friends and yet there's still people taking extremely stupid actions," she said.

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