



Going to school can be fun

PHOTOS BY CHRIS SKELTON

Hino New Zealand are celebrating 50 years in business this year with a series of events around the country and have a specially skinned 700 tractor unit and trailer visiting these in turn. As part of the promotion Hino are also running a competition where one child at each of the major locations has the opportunity to win a ride to school in that big bright red tractor unit.

The lucky winner in Auckland was young Leo Brooker of Weymouth. Leo Brooker is almost seven years old and attends nearby Weymouth Primary School, Leo normally walks to school with his friends and older sister but is mad about trucks and machinery, pretty much anything big with an engine. He also loves dinosaurs, swimming and athletics as well as spending any spare time on the computer. That love of trucks might have been passed down from his Grandma Glenda Mumby who has worked for various transport companies and is currently transport manager at Reclaim in Penrose.

When the bright red Hino 700 tractor unit and trailer pulled up outside his house Leo was extremely excited. Being quite a reserved little fellow he didn't have much to say, however his

eyes widened and the little smile on his face opened out to a huge grin from ear to ear. He was soon shown to the driver's seat where Hino's Lyndon Andrew explained how the array of switches and levers worked.

There was a lot for a young lad to take in. Up front was Hino's latest (Euro 5) single drive version of their 700 series, the SH2045 ProShift 16 Air. Under the cab is a 13-litre in-line six-cylinder diesel delivering 450hp at 1800rpm to a 16-speed ZF AMT and air sprung rear axle. It has ABS disc brakes all round backed up by an intarder/engine brake combination and is rated for a GCM of 45.5 tonne. Even most big kids would be impressed with that spec.

A short run to school was not enough for Leo, so Lyndon took him for a longer drive around the Weymouth area, stopping for photos and then back to school, where many of his friends greeted him and wanted to look in the truck.

Overall, the big Hino experience seemed to be rather awe-inspiring for a little fellow of seven years. Our transport industry needs plenty of young drivers and we are hoping Grandma might be able to steer him in the right direction in a few years time. □



Hino's promotion has focused a lot of young eyes on the transport industry.

With 450hp and the 16 speed AMT, driving a Hino is (almost) child's play.

