

Media Release

Kiwi ingenuity saves children from collision with flying car wheel

Janene Pearce watched in horror as a car wheel flew directly towards her two young children....

“I couldn’t move...I thought it had killed the kids,” said an emotional Janene.

In fact the buggy that Olive and Lily were sitting in had saved their lives.

Whilst out for a leisurely walk in Lower Hutt, Janene noticed a passing car with a wobbling wheel. Seconds later Janene couldn’t believe her eyes as the wheel flew off the car and hurtled towards her young daughters Olive, 3 ½ years, and Lily, 1 ½ years who were traveling in a phil & teds e3 buggy.

“The wheel hit exactly between their heads right flush on the buggy frame.... the buggy had taken the full impact causing no damage to the girls,” said a relieved Janene.

“What a shock this has been but with any less quality buggy we really don't like to think of the consequences - we know what could have been...”

Olive and Lily although shocked suffered no serious injury and are now fully recovered.

The car was unwarranted and unregistered and the driver is facing careless driving charges.

“To then visit phil & teds in Wellington to have the two back wheels replaced and the frame and axel realigned quickly and with no charge was a very positive ending.”

“We couldn’t believe what these guys had been through when we repaired the buggy,” said Jenna Callinan, Customer Care Team Leader at phil & teds. “We are just delighted that our buggy lived up to the rigorous testing that it undergoes and was able to save lives.”

phil & teds, a kiwi company, are a little bit quirky, their mantra is to help parents “adapt & survive!” Their ingenious flagship product, the e3 buggy, adapts to take 2 children from newborn right through to 2 toddlers. “Basically it’s a double-decker - with one kid riding under the other. But it’s barely bigger than a single buggy, incredibly light and easy to manoeuvre.” And obviously very strong.

In this case they really did help to “adapt & survive!” The police officer at the accident scene suggested Janene buy a lotto ticket, “and we had a small collect!”