

Finders not keepers

Western Leader

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ON THE JOB: Nomeneta Tuaitau is back behind the wheel after his good deed.



ENGLISH TOURIST: David Procter will never forget his trip down under.

Finding a wallet with more than \$500 in it might have proved tempting for a weaker willed man.

But bus driver Nomeneta Tuaitau never thought of pocketing the cash.

Instead the Avondale resident trekked across town to Mission Bay and returned the wallet to English tourist David Procter.

And his act of honesty turned out to be a good deed in more ways than one.

Mr Procter did not realise he'd left his wallet on a bus until Mr Tuaitau contacted him.

He says the return of his bank cards was especially helpful.

The cards enabled him to complete a task he'd set himself while visiting Auckland.

"I came here on an emergency trip to help an old friend," he says. "He is totally blind and deaf and had hit a few hard times.

"When I got here he had been made homeless.

"But we've now found him a place to live - he's back on his feet and he can rebuild his life.

"It has been a successful trip and without Nomeneta's help it would have been really difficult for me to do this."

Mr Procter offered Mr Tuaitau a \$500 reward but the Samoan father of two turned it down.

He's just happy he was able to help.

"I have my family and I have enough money," Mr Tuaitau says.

"I've worked as a bus driver for three years and I enjoy it because I can serve the public."

Mr Procter was amazed by the bus driver's kindness and has nominated him for the ASB Awesome Service Awards.

"This act is heroic," Mr Procter says.

"Nomeneta didn't just hand the wallet in as lost property.

"He took the time to make sure I was okay and didn't want any reward.

"In the UK I probably would have never seen my wallet again."

The retired businessman has fallen in love with New Zealand and will return in December for a South Island sojourn.

"Escaping the English winter is one reason but I also love the space, the scenery and the Kiwi attitude to life.

"If I was 20 years younger I would have moved here."

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