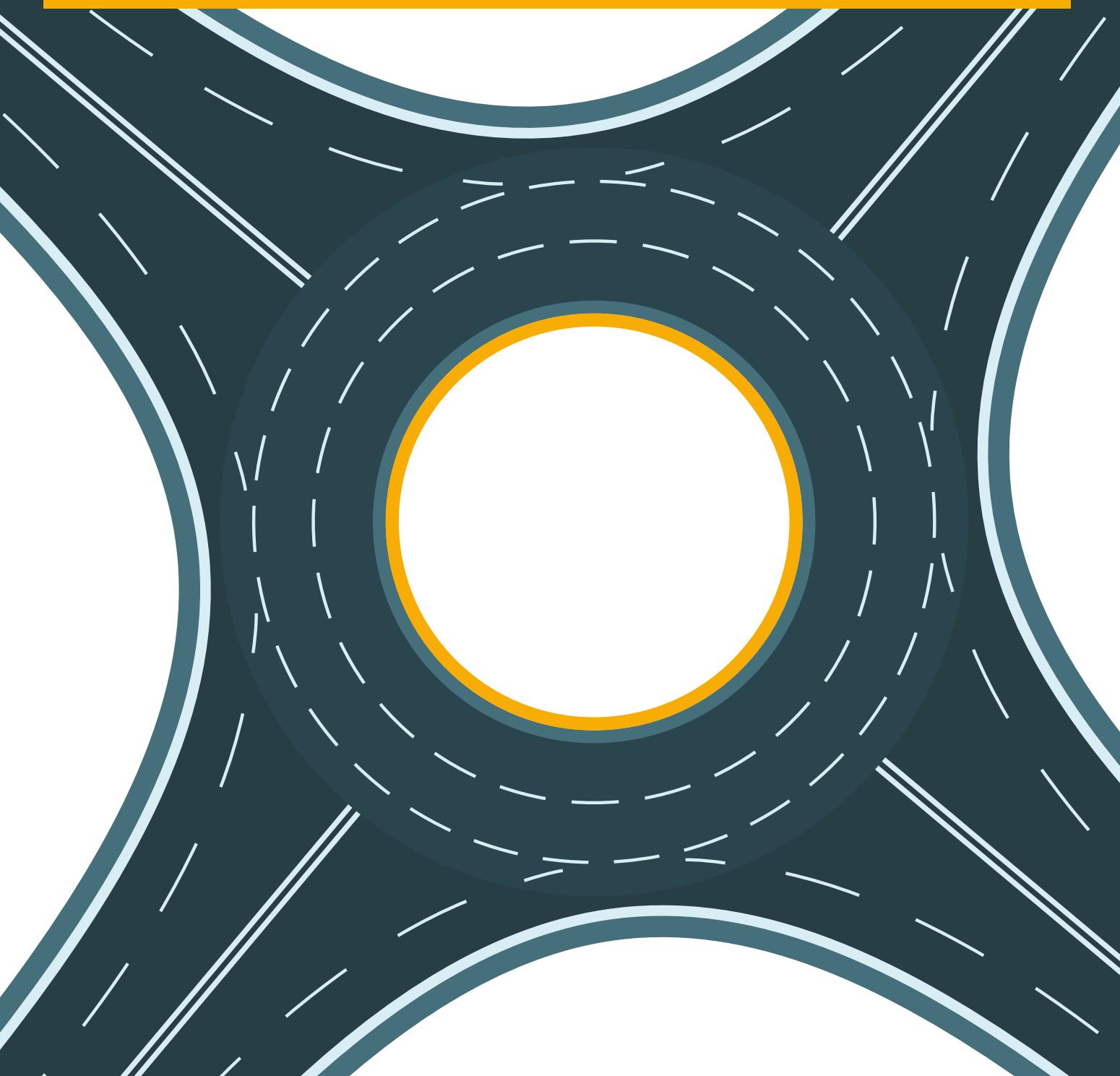


DRIVING DRIVER AWARENESS





45%

of all young Australian
injury deaths are due
to road traffic crashes.

Did you know that road crashes are the leading cause of death and acquired disability of young Australians (rivalled only by suicide in late adolescence)? Youth aged 17-25 comprise 13 per cent of the Australian population, but 22 per cent of the annual road toll. They are more likely to go to hospital due to a crash than any other age group.

The statistics tell a similar story in New Zealand, where road crashes are the leading cause of death for youth aged 16 to 24 years. Drivers on a restricted licence are seven times more likely to be involved in a fatal or serious injury crash than other drivers.

Rotary is committed to addressing this disturbing trend and has developed a number of initiatives and programs to tackle the problem at its core.

Road crashes are the leading cause of death and acquired disability for Australian and New Zealander youth aged 16 to 25 years.

One-third of all speeding drivers and riders in fatal crashes are males aged 17–25; 6 per cent are females aged 17–25.

Wheels4work

THE Rotaract Club of Tamar Valley, Tas, raised \$500 to help the Wheels4work Learner Driver Mentor Program purchase a new car with a higher safety rating than their previous vehicle. This car is now accessible to learner drivers lacking other support networks in the Launceston community and surrounding areas, enabling them to gain the experience they need to acquire a licence and gain employment. •



Braking the Cycle



UTILISING a Rotary Foundation District Grant, the Rotary Club of Mareeba, Qld, with the Rotary E-Club of Outback Australia, provided a brand new Mazda2 to the Braking the Cycle learner driver mentoring program at Police-Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) Mareeba. Braking the Cycle allows young people aged 16–25 to achieve the mandatory hours of supervised driving required to achieve a provisional licence. It also aims to reduce the number of poorly educated or unlicensed drivers on the roads, and the devastating impact this can have on the community.

"PCYC Braking the Cycle is a great program we are proud to support, providing young people with increased employment chances, community connection and driver education," Rotary Club of Mareeba past president Matt Jacob said.

The program is currently run at 24 PCYC clubs across Queensland and has helped over 620 participants obtain their licence to date.

"Our volunteer mentors act as supervisors, assisting the learners to develop positive road safety attitudes and practise their driving skills in a safe way, and also provide encouragement and help young people improve their self-esteem," PCYC Mareeba branch manager, Sergeant Mary-Anne West, said. "The program empowers young people to have the opportunity to gain employment or further their education, as living in a rural area with limited public transport often makes it difficult for young people to achieve their dreams." •

The biggest killer of young drivers is speeding and around 80 per cent of those killed are male.

Driver Directions

BASED in Rotorua, NZ, Driver Directions is a free one-day program focused on developing vital safety skills in young drivers. It is both theoretical and practical, with a focus on good decision-making skills, reading the road environment, resisting peer pressure and managing distractions.

After classroom-style sessions, participants get behind the wheel in a number of activities, such as putting their reaction speeds to the test – designed to replicate what might be required when encountering a sudden road hazard.

Despite the program's success, after a key partner pulled out of Driving Directions last year, it looked like Rotorua Lakes Council would be forced to close the program for good. Believing strongly in its value to the region's young people, the Rotary Club of Rotorua worked hard to ensure the program would continue.

Off Road New Zealand, Rotorua Kartsport Development Trust, Rotorua Police department and Rotorua Ford and Mazda all happily agreed to come on board with support. The course has now been refreshed, with a new home at the Rotorua International Kartsport Raceway at Off Road New Zealand in Mamaku.

"We are delighted to host the Driver Directions program at our facility," said Trustee for Rotorua Kartsport Development Trust Sam Bufton. "Driving is such an important life skill and we need leaders to improve the capabilities of drivers, especially younger drivers. The greater your driving skills the better the result



for everyone, so why not get some expert help?"

"Any practical and theory-based training that young drivers can obtain before heading out on public roads is a great idea," said karting and 4WD adrenaline and adventure park Off Road New Zealand owner Ian Tew. "Having the police involved and removing the stigma of a 'them and us' society will have great benefits in the future. I believe that having the police interact with young drivers in a hands-on training day is the best way to enlighten them to the dangers on our roads. The hope is that this will not only help save their lives, but the lives of others as well."

Rotarians like Allen Foote, who has been involved in assisting Driver Directions for a number of years, are thrilled Rotary's help has allowed the program to continue.

"This is one of the best programs young drivers could become involved in," Allen said. "In the past, some

participants have turned up not very happy about it, after being told by parents to attend. But at the end of the day they have said how much they enjoyed it. Each participant will go away with not only better skills and more confidence, but a positive attitude towards road safety." •

In 2016, young drivers (16-24) in New Zealand were involved in 85 fatal crashes, 658 serious injury crashes and 2638 minor injury crashes.

Driving Awareness

AS part of their 95th anniversary celebrations, the Rotary Club of Brisbane, Qld, offered locals a virtual reality experience exposing the risks associated with drink and drug driving.

Held at the popular Queen Street Mall shopping strip, the pilot event was organised in conjunction with the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety – Queensland (CARRS-Q). The Rotary Club of Brisbane helped facilitate a free licence for QUT to use European virtual reality software 3D Tripping, valued at \$47,000, for the event. The software will also be available to other projects assisting with new research on the impact of technology-based interventions on

young drivers' risky driving behaviour.

The technology allows people to get behind the wheel of a virtual car, then choose their 'high', to see what it is like to drive under the influence of alcohol, ecstasy, cannabis, or "magic mushrooms". The simulations make it clear how dramatically substances affect perception of reality and driving competence. The goal was to examine the effect the virtual experience has on participants' self-reported behaviour and intentions towards drink and drug driving, as well as foster greater awareness of its dangers in the community.

Club member Daniel Vankov subsequently spent 10 days at the QUT Gardens Point campus, assisted by fellow Rotarians and friends, to

give hundreds more the opportunity to take part.

"It was a fun exercise, which provided a space to discuss Rotary as well as driving safety with a lot of young people," Daniel said.

In total, 282 people aged 18 to 25 had a turn behind the wheel. Their experiences and opinions regarding driving under the influence were recorded by the Rotarians for use by CARRS-Q in the future.

Nursing student Anna was one of the many who took part.

"In the simulation I went to a bar and I got drunk, then I had to drive back home. I was really surprised. I just didn't understand what was happening. I drove on the wrong side of the road, I almost crashed – I actually killed two people I think!" Anna said. "I really didn't feel like I had control of the steering wheel."

When asked if she had any advice for other students at QUT, she said, "It's really surprising how much alcohol actually affects you – so don't drink and drive!" •



Road Rules Initiative

WHEN retired police officer Kim Smith, of the Rotary Club of Sullivans Cove, Tas, took on the role of L1 Learner's Licence Tutor, he realised that there were many people having problems with understanding and learning the road rules. Those with literacy or learning difficulties were getting lost in the translation.

His first class involved African and Bhutanese refugees, who struggled with reading and comprehending the road rules. Kim came up with the idea of doing demonstrations using drawings of roads, intersections and roundabouts on butcher's paper, combined with matchbox toy cars, animals and people figurines. Covering auditory, visual, written and kinaesthetic learning techniques, this method assisted the students' learning significantly. The entire class successfully passed their driving tests after six weekly two-hour sessions.

Following this success, Kim decided that another initiative using video footage could help further and organised his front seat passengers to film the roads with a small flip camera. From this amateurish effort, it was felt that if a more professional video presentation could be done, it would further improve the learning outcomes.

Through the auspices of the West Moonah Community House (WMCH), Kim applied for State Growth Funding, which was approved. Combined with the support of the WMCH, Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania, the Rotary Club of Sullivans Cove, and the expertise of the State Growth Driving Assessment Team staff, filming commenced.

The video has been specially developed to address the needs of those with poor literacy skills and other learning difficulties. Kim and State Growth personnel met with the Migrant Resource Centre personnel to arrange voiceovers and transcript changes into foreign languages.

The completed videos have been used with a 100 per cent success rate for a wide range of people, including refugees, locals of all ages, some with Autism and some with hearing problems, among others. Kim is currently assisting in the training of high school students in Southern Tasmania.

Filming with the second round of funding has been done and will be placed on the State Growth Website once the final editing and voiceovers are completed. A third round of funding is currently in the early planning stages and will assist both the supervisory driver and the learner driver through the perils of practice and vehicle operation.

With the extra support of members of the Rotary Club of Sullivans Cove, ideas are being discussed with a range of stakeholders, such as Tasmania Police and State Growth personnel, to expand the initiative further. Potentially, the video may be used within the RYDA program.

There is also a push to have the government, car hire companies and the Road Safety Task Force consider a review of processes to see overseas drivers view the video before taking to Australian roads. The footage is already being used within road safety advertisements and on the Department of State Growth website.

The videos can be viewed on the State Growth website: 'Learn to Drive Videos – Transport – Tas'.

The Rotary Club of Sullivans Cove also recently joined with the Rotary clubs of North Hobart, Moonah, Salamanca and City Central to provide \$6000 in funding for Colony 47's 'Get on the Road' project, giving disadvantaged young people the experience and training they require to get their licence. •

In 2017, 1225 lives were lost on Australian roads. Of this number, 291 were aged under 25. As of July 2018, 1214 deaths have already been recorded.

A third of all deaths from crashes involve a driver with a blood alcohol concentration above the legal limit.

Of all hospitalisations of young Australians, almost half are drivers involved in a road traffic crash and another quarter are passengers.

Young people aged 17- 25 years and seniors aged 65+ are the most likely to be involved in a crash.

New Zealand drivers on a restricted licence are seven times more likely to be involved in a fatal or serious injury crash than other drivers.



Wheels in Motion

THE northern suburbs of South Australia have an unemployment rate of 33 per cent, which is even higher for young people. With public transport very limited in these areas, being able to drive is often essential to get to work and complete on-the-job tasks, as well as complete tertiary education and vocational training.

The Wheels in Motion program assists disadvantaged and at-risk youth aged 17-25 attain the driving hours required for a provisional licence. Without the funds to engage a professional driving instructor, completing the 75 hours required to obtain a licence requires access to a suitable car and licensed supervising driver. Young people without either option are set back significantly in obtaining education and employment through no fault of their own.

The Rotary clubs of Elizabeth, Playford and Salisbury, SA, banded together with local government to establish Wheels in Motion and provide a solution to this problem. In 2018, the Rotary Club of Gawler Light commenced another Wheels in Motion in their area after securing a grant through the South Australian State Government's Fund My Neighbourhood program.

Applicants are first assessed to determine if they meet the necessary criteria and if a place is currently available. Those who can demonstrate how being P licensed would immediately improve their employment or education prospects are given some priority. Plans are then made for the young person to undertake four hours of lessons with a commercial driving instructor.

Attendance at a six-hour Road Safety Forum is mandatory for every Wheels in Motion participant. Emergency services personnel, driving instructors and road fatality survivors speak to the young people to highlight the importance of road safety measures.

After this, participants are scheduled for driving sessions with a mentor in a Wheels in Motion vehicle purchased by the Rotary clubs. The mentors receive training, insurance and ongoing support for their sessions. They do not conduct lessons per se, but rather provide the opportunity for learner drivers to practise their skills – just as a supervising parent would do.

So far, the program has helped those with limited financial means, those without family in the area and young people with mild intellectual disabilities.

"I helped a lad from Bedford Industries [disability services provider] through his test," said George Shaw, a driver-mentor in the Playford program since 2014, who recently received a Northern Adelaide Volunteer Award for his hard work. "It took 18 months, but he passed the test the first time. That was great."

"The Wheels in Motion Gawler volunteers are offering an incredibly valuable service to some of our community's most disadvantaged young people – a service most of us take for granted," local MP Tony Piccolo said. "Successfully obtaining a driver's licence can be the difference in getting and keeping a job." •

Driver Mentor Training

AFTER learning the majority of young New Zealanders fail to gain a full licence on their first try, the Rotary Club of Maungaturoto and Districts, NZ, partnered with Te Roroa Learning Assistance and the Northland Road Safety Charitable Trust to launch the Driver Mentor Training program in their region in May this year.

"Only about 20 per cent of drivers attain their restricted licence on their first attempt. Our aim is to improve this substantially," Rotarian Eileen Parsons said. "Our target group is mainly those who have limited resources, for example, limited family support or limited finances. Clients will be offered 12 one-hour lessons and there is no cost, except a firm commitment to the course."

So far, six Rotarians have trained as driving mentors to provide participants with these lessons. A number of these will take place in Whangerei, when the mentors decide they are ready to take on busy intersections and traffic congestion, to give the learner drivers skills and confidence to drive safely in city conditions.

Along with volunteers, the Rotary Club of Maungaturoto and Districts also provided a 2001 Holden Barina for use by young people without access to a vehicle of their own. Local businesses have also provided plenty of support to get the program up and running.

"A huge thanks to those who have helped bring the project to fruition: Maungaturoto Four Square, Ray White, Brogan Builders and Dean Garnett of Garnett's Tyre Service, who has serviced the car and will also carry out a basic maintenance tutorial with the candidates covering changing tyres, checking the oil and water. It's incredible," past president Alex Tetzner said. •

Last year, mobile phone use caused more fatal accidents than not wearing seatbelts.

RYDA



Rotary volunteers, RYDA facilitators, police and teachers at RYDA Caloundra, Qld.

IN 2000, four teenage boys were killed in a car driven by an inexperienced P plater. The car smashed into another vehicle, leaving the woman driver seriously injured and all four young men's lives lost. The local Rotary clubs in The Hills Shire, NSW, decided something had to be done in response to this terrible loss of life.

RYDA was thus born, a community-based road safety initiative created to deliver practical road safety information targeting the attitude and awareness of young drivers and passengers. Today, Rotary clubs across Australia and New Zealand run RYDA events in partnership with Road Safety Education Ltd, a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the reduction of road accidents and serious trauma resulting from young inexperienced drivers.

Over 45,000 senior high school students from more than 600 participating schools attend RYDA events each year and, to date, over 500,000 students have participated in RYDA.

RYDA is not a learning to drive program. Rather, it is an interactive program designed to complement and

supplement the school curriculum. It offers six practical and powerful workshops conducted during the day at an out of school venue supported with follow-up school-based resources, designed to change the way young people think about road safety and lay the foundations for safe road use for the rest of their lives.

Supporting the graduated licensing scheme, the program focuses on the key "big five" road safety issues of speeding, driving under the influence (DUI), fatigue, seatbelts and distractions. It fosters the idea that driving is a social responsibility, not a right. The program aims for a sharper focus on the main road risks and personal and social factors that make young people more vulnerable.

Students experience engaging videos, practical vehicle braking demonstrations and receive advice from road safety experts on how to protect themselves, their friends and their families. Facilitators further work with students to develop personalised strategies and life skills to help them respond positively to challenges on the road, both as drivers and highly influential passengers. Facilitators

are experts in their fields, including driving school instructors and police officers.

The program is unique in that it aims to influence the attitudes and behaviours of both drivers and passengers well before they get their licence. This is vital, as research shows once young people actually start driving, it is generally too late for attitude and awareness training. This is because they have already developed a strong, and often highly inflated, belief in their own abilities. RYDA aims to ensure long before young people get behind the wheel, they have already received the best road safety education available.

The Queensland Rotary clubs of Caloundra, Caloundra Pacific, Glasshouse Mountains and Kawana Waters, have been conducting RYDA road safety education programs since 2009, delivering the program to 9000 students and counting. Twelve schools took part in the 2018 program – a total of 1400 Year 11 students – which was supported by a Queensland Government Department of Transport and Main Roads Community Road Safety Grant, Sunshine Coast Council and Federal government.

"They are very appreciative of the opportunity and it's a real eye-opener for the students. You can learn from textbooks, but nothing beats practical demonstrations." RYDA coordinator Neville Woodforth said. "It could be a life that is saved in this group and I think that's very worthwhile for the community."

The Caloundra Rotary clubs intend to educate a further 4500 students over the next three years.

Through the RYDA program, Rotary clubs are helping to make our roads safer not only for young drivers and young passengers, but for all who share the roads with young drivers.

For more information about the RYDA program go to Road Safety Education Ltd at www.rse.org.au, call 1300 127 642 or email info@rse.org.au. •