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Baw Baw L2P Newsletter

January 2014 #11

Hello Mentors & Sponsors from throughout the land!

You may have seen the Public Notice in the Gazette on December 10th. I will pop a copy into this Newsletter. Apologies for not including DCSI We Do Internet. I haven't added the logo yet.

Apart from this week's heatwave, we have celebrated being alive and welcoming 2014. Just the other day, I realized it was 32 years since my wedding day. How about that? What? Which one???

LEARNERS:

Josh C was the 55th participant to gain his Probationary licence late December 2013. A slight twist as Josh had completed Yr 12 VCE, received his results the day before the test, then arrived at VicRoads at 2:40pm to discover he had the wrong time in his head for his appointment. Aaah! However, the wonderful Warragul VicRoads staff did some sums and found a spare test time and several days later Josh did very well. Thanks must go to his Mentor, Fred Clarke. It was a challenge Fred took on and he was successful in mentoring Josh. Ally, Phillip, Anthony, Brock & Jess have also gained their Ps since October 2013. Thanks Peter, Werner, Peter v, Murray, Tim & Shelley + all the support and guidance from our RACV Drive School Instructors Mark & Dean.

There are currently 26 Learners in our program and some interviews arranged for the end of January. I'm meeting Amir at Endeavour Hills next week, introduced by our #43 lad Messi. Several Learners have chosen not to continue. Even if the young person is eligible, they may not "fit in" with the way we work; they may not understand or accept the obligations or expectations required so if they can't work out how to cooperate after repeated discussion, they can look for other options. "We can't please all the people all of the time...." Abraham Lincoln said that.

MENTORS:

We currently have 28 active Mentors (or almost active! hahaha), 6 on temporary rest and an "import" from Yarra Ranges L2P, Kim, is coming with his wife to live in Warragul, so part of his expectation is to join our hallowed ranks.

STORIES:

*****Now I don't think it's got anything to do with the Mentor training but one of our supervising drivers is currently wearing posh gear and cruising Melbourne streets in an *Austin Princess*; the same one Queen Elizabeth sweated in, on being collected from an airport in PNG in the 1950s, or steering a *Phantom Rolls*. These vehicles live somewhere in Box Hill, so one time before returning the car to storage, he picked up his wife in Burwood, requested she get in the back and practice the rolling hand wave!

*****Here's the 2nd Mentor adventure.....

Boy, did I have a big crash last night on my bike! My first ever. and today I'm feeling very sore and sorry all over. I was riding down Penny Avenue, v. steep. intending to get into Brooker Park via the Warragul North Tennis club. Heading down the hill, with my brakes hard on, I heard a "ping" and then another "ping" and I have no resistance from my brake handles.....both brake cables broke at the same time. so ahead of me is an intersection or a house fence and the longer I stayed on the bike, the faster I went, so I jumped off and ran, but not fast enough and landed on the road, leaving acres of my skin there and spraining both wrists.....nothing broken.....spent nearly 5 hours in the hospital getting xray, tetanus shot and cleaned and patched up. got home at 1.45 am Very sore today.....shoulder has a big chunk out of it and is sore as buggery along with my wrists. Son is picking me up today to take me to his place for the weekend. Nice people who picked me up off the road, and were very caring, took me to the hos. I could have done without the experience.

I hope you feel better soon. How's the bike? Thank goodness this didn't happen in Swanston Street Melbourne!

*****Welcome back to Ted Coad- after successfully helping #36 Tim gain his Ps in November 2012, and having a good rest and a new job, Ted has been matched with one of our current Learners and will start back any minute now.

MALONEY'S PIZZA – speaking of #36Tim....Tim contacted me late 2013 to offer Mentors 34 *free Pizza vouchers*, as his way of thanking & acknowledging the way L2P has helped in his life. Mentor Kathie has used her and reported a delish pizza. I have the vouchers and they must be used by **10.2.2014**, so please collect yours asap. Thank you Tim and thanks to Maloney's Pizza, 105 Queen Street Warragul.

ANONYMOUS DONATION:

I received an email from the Melbourne family of one of our Mentors during December 2013. They have heard many happy stories and seen the joy on the face of the Mentor as they heard about time spent with his Learner. As a result, this family decided to support Baw Baw L2P by giving us the \$s they "don't spend on Christmas gifts". After some consideration, the donation will assist 2 of our Learners in part paying for their future driving tests; both kids have battled financially & time-wise to gain their hours, so this incentive will support their aim. I am overwhelmed with the generosity of this family but thrilled to know we are supported even beyond the borders of Baw Baw Shire. Perhaps Baw Baw Shire Council could be as generous in the near future?

SOME MORE MENTORS PLEASE – TRAINING PLANNED FOR 15th & 22nd MARCH

I have 3 people registered, with several other 'possibles'; there's still time to spread the word. Please let me know if you have any possible leads as we only need 6 to commence training as planned. I'm thinking the Copy Centre might print me some flyers for shops, posts etc. Any other ideas?

SPONSORS/ SUPPORTERS:

As well as all the generous people, companies and organizations named in the brightly coloured Public Notice, we now have the support of *Luciano's*. They are happy to provide us with coffee or tea or a cold drink when we meet there with L2P matters. The Management and staff have been terrific since our Mentor Dinner held there in 2012.

Drouin & District Community Bank Branch have a new Manager-Craig Black. Retired Manager Chris Harrison and the Branch Board have been wonderfully supportive of Baw Baw L2P and I'm sure Craig will see what a great program it is and the benefits to everyone in our community. Perhaps he will come for a coffee at Luciano's?

WEST GIPPSLAND LIBRARIES:

At the November 2013 Social Inclusion Expo at the Fountain Room, I met West Gippsland library staff and have been invited to set up a display at the Warragul Library for 2 weeks, followed by Drouin library, then Neerim South. It would be nice to have a bit of help in working out what and how to display our wares/ posters/ information. Any ideas please? Would you have time on the day?

bawbawl2p.org.....our own website!!!

John, Peter & Murray are the *website chaps*...well, that's what I call them. With DCSI sponsorship, the chaps' expertise, communication & patience has enabled the website to be established, with ongoing development. Have a look at what's already been done; feedback & ideas are always welcome.

MANUAL DRIVING SKILLS: Learn to drive manual **CARS**not just the Spark:

After speaking to RACV Mark & Dean about the difficulty our Learners are experiencing when transferring from the Spark to Dean's car, I see we need to work on this. The other day, one of you said something like.... "he needs to work on that balance between the accelerator & clutch but I don't know how to explain it to him". As you know, L2P Mentoring isn't just about building up driving hours; it also includes understanding of how the car works & developing driving techniques . So Dean is more than happy to check out the Spark and share some strategies which will enable our Learners to drive ANY manual car. Please call me and we can work out some dates/ times which suit Dean & you.

ANNUAL VicRoads / VicPol EVENING – FOR ALL

Most Mentors will be familiar with our 'annual' VicRoads/VicPolice evening. Last time, Ellane Clarke was the VicPol Highway Patrol representative, giving invaluable information in a no-nonsense approach. I have emailed her to see if she can come again. The VicRoads staff give heaps of advice about driving test expectations and answer road rules/ safety questions.

MONDAY 7TH APRIL?????????????? 7:00pm????????????????????

Attendance by ALL LEARNERS is imperative! Getting all the kids together is really really difficult; their signed Code of Conduct includes agreement to attend ALL skills sessions, so once the date is set, I ask you to please remind & reinforce the kids about their obligation to attend.

SIGNWRITING ON THE WHITE AUTO CAR:

Yes, it's been going on for a while, but good things come to those who wait – my Mother told me that continually-so be assured there is some movement at the station on this one.

Okay, that's it for now. Thankyou all very much for being part of Baw Baw L2P. Our kids are all still alive and driving safely, so our community is also safe. This couldn't happen without you.