



Drouin & District
Community Bank® Branch



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Baw Baw L2P Newsletter

October 2013 #10

Phew Mentors...putting those logos above was a lesson in itself! I have not added the **JANA LIVING** logo as they have a new style, but we don't have a copy yet.

We continue to have TAC/ VicRoads funding, and this covers my wage for 25hrs a week, the driving lessons for our Learners and minimal administrative assistance from Warragul Community House. The generosity of our sponsors provides funding for everything else (but not the amount needed) including our blue Holden manual Barina Spark, fuel, the auto Barina Hatch lease, L2P advertising & promotion, catering for meetings, ongoing skills training and Road Safety presentation evenings, our Marvellous Mentor Annual Dinner, computer equipment & stationery, First Aid kits & hand-held vacuum cleaners for both cars, and vehicle signage. There is always a need to find more funds!

A huge thank you must also go to **Victoria Police** for allowing us to securely park both cars at the Warragul Police Station and having our booking diaries and car keys at the front desk.

Modra Technology has very recently drilled a hole in the L plate brackets of the Hatch so no more rust. We will have the L plates replaced soon too. I was thinking some duck tape round the bottom of the L shaft may reduce the rattle?

Gary Blackwood's office is generously available for our L2P colour printing of documents and participant photos.

MENTORS:

Welcome to Bill Renwick, John Beauchamp & Lloyd Millard. We travelled to Morwell for the 3 training sessions and all 3 chaps did well with the practical drive on the Saturday. Mind you...I did the chauffeuring and there was a bit of criticism from the back seat regarding my speed consistency and not being able to recall all road signs hmmm.

Davina has had to delay her start to mentoring but maybe by the end of 2013 she will be on board. Also welcome back to Debbie Giles. Debbie was one of our "original" 2009 Mentors, so to see her return to the fold is marvellous. This makes 35 'active' Mentors; some sharing a young driver and several having 2 Learners. I've even been mentoring!

TRAVEL:

Some Mentors have been away – Marion has been to Britain, Russell all over Europe, Mick to Germany & Spain, Pat to Traralgon, Werner everywhere, Terry concreting again in Perth, Haughts has been tramping the countryside (singing "*the hills are alive with the sound of music*").

I went to Tassie for 5 days and saw Pink Robins, Yellow Wattlebirds, Tasmanian native Hens, Green Rosellas and more. Got caught in a snowstorm on Mt. Wellington, spent time on Bruny Island with old family friends from Maffra and found my daughter Jacqui on the ferry to Bruny Island as well!

BAW BAW L2P WEBSITE??

‘New John’ had a clever suggestion today, of BB L2P having our own website. John is clever with that stuff so I headed into DCSI to ask the ‘website hosting technician’ if they would consider sponsoring us. He seemed quite positive to the idea. Once DCSI receive a written explanation of our program, it will be presented to management. If anyone else is interested/ has expertise in this area, please put up your hand. I think there may be some Learners with this knowledge too.

‘FOSTER PARENTING’ Mentor Evening:

Thanks to Peter van de Burgt for an eye-opening evening regarding the joys and challenges of being a Foster parent. Listening to Peter and Jacqui’s story and issues of kids in care was amazing.

LEARNERS:

We had 32 Learners but I’ve been honest and removed some Learners who have made NO contact or had more professional driving lessons, then did not respond to my barrage of text messages afterwards. An out-of-area case worker appealed to VicRoads to allow a young Learner to join BB L2P but after 2 lessons, neither person has been in touch. Did you see the Drouin & Warragul Gazette article in July about Tania getting her Ps?? Tania was #44.

Fiona became #49 to gain her Ps on Sep 24th. She was so happy to finally be able to gain that “independence”; to make her own decisions about study & work and life direction. She called in and said a couple of interesting things...*“I wouldn’t have been such a good driver if I’d got my Ps last year when I was 18”* and *“L2P isn’t just about getting hours in a log book..I’ve had to think for myself and make decisions about being safe”*.

Fiona came with Mentors Terry & Peter, and Barry Bourke’s Bob Grambau yesterday when we addressed a Council Briefing regarding Baw Baw L2P – an overview/ needs & expectations/ vision for the future. Fiona made a fantastic speech & I hear those present were very impressed. We need Shire Council support!



TRANSURBAN:

CITYLINK/ FREEWAY TOLLS – If you ever decide to use the CityLink/ EastLink...and it’s a great way to increase driving skills *once or twice*please discuss this with your Learner and *ensure they purchase a DAY PASS* prior to the drive. Graham & Dylan called in to Community House last week, both looking very chuffed... They had agreed to Dylan buying a DayPass and then travelled to Tullamarine!!via the Monash, over Bolte Bridge, looped through the Airport, back into Melbourne and Royal Parade, Elizabeth Street into Flinders St then right at Exhibition St and home via the freeway. What an adventure! Good work Graham – what a gift you’ve given the lad.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11th 2013, 7:30 – 9:00pm

“IDEAS FOR DRIVES” Mentor Evening

RACV Drive School Professional Driving Instructors Mr Cantwell & Mr Jones will present “*Ideas for Drives*” at Warragul Community House. Chocolate Ripple Cake is the main feature and these 2 chaps will share their ideas with us. Please reply asap so I know how many tubs of low fat cream we will need.

Please tell me asap that you can attend. Email or phone reply is good.

A STORY: Some of you heard this story at our Foster Parenting night but it’s worth telling again.

One of our Learners has lived a difficult life, with fostering and couch-surfing for quite a few years. However, she continued at secondary school and was introduced to L2P via welfare staff. After several months she fell off the radar due to her mobile drowning but I found her. One day we were out in the auto Hatch and she presented me with a ‘present’; a black & white gift box with \$114 worth of gold coins she’d been saving; so that the other Learners could take the cars to the car wash. I was gobsmacked to say the least.

That’s why you’ll see coins in the car. Please don’t wash the cars yourself...I feel the kids must be ‘guided towards obligation’ and at the initial interview every Learner is made aware of this.



HAND-HELD VACUUM CLEANER:

We were again awarded a Federal Government Volunteer Grant. (Werner, the missing First Aid kit will be replaced.) You will see a gorgeous hand-held vacuum cleaner in the Hatch and another one is coming shortly for the Spark. Our policeman Mentor, Kevin McLaren, suggested the most practical place to store the charging part of this gizmo would be at his police station desk. Again, the Learners will be expected to do a quick 3 minute clean up of seats & floors at the end of their drive & carefully empty the contents into a bin.

AUTO HATCH LOGOS:

Stay tuned. The logos have faded & are almost unidentifiable and they need to have more oomph. Gordon from Legible Signs is preparing a re-design right now. Thanks to Bob Grambau for encouraging words.

MANUAL SPARK REPAIR JOB:

Due to unforeseen circumstances, one of our Learners kind of, like, um, got, ah, too close to a wall and the result was scraping on the Spark’s left back bumper. Apparently Learner felt a bit better when her Mentor showed her the range of colour scrapings on said wall left by other drivers!

So I went to talk to **DLine Smash Repairs** and owner Paul has generously offered to repair the Spark on 16th & 17th October, to support our program. Once again, the generosity of local businesses keeps my motivation & appreciation high. How lucky are we??



SHIRE COUNCIL BRIEFING OCTOBER 9TH 2013

HOW IT STARTED.....

L2P was originally started by Sunbury Rotary some years ago, when they saw the alarming death toll & serious injury of young drivers in their district VicRoads became involved with 60 L2Ps now operating statewide.

Baw Baw L2P had its official launch in August 2009. At that time, the death toll & serious injuries in Baw Baw Shire were the 4th highest in Victoria.

HOW IT WORKS.....

We provide driving supervision to young Learner drivers from throughout our Shire who don't have a licenced responsible adult or roadworthy vehicle to enable them to gain a minimum of 120 supervised driving time and **PLUS** other personal disadvantages. The program first provides professional driving lessons to ensure each young person has the necessary basic skills needed to control a vehicle, prior to being matched with a trained Mentor & going out driving in one of the L2P cars.

9 volunteers completed the 1st round of VicRoads training, including 2 Shire Council employees, in June 2009.

There have been 10 training intakes and 65 Mentors have been actively involved. Currently there are 33 volunteers Mentors & 5 'resting'. They have given more than 4,273 hours to Learners, including sitting in with professional instructors for more than 73 hours.

So young people, with a Learner permit, register at Warragul Community House. They may have heard about L2P from friends, been referred by school support workers or youth organisations or one of the employment agencies. Once accepted, they will have a number of professional driving lessons, match up with a Mentor & begin to learn how to drive, log their hours, use road rules, courtesy, consideration, cooperation and communication. At approximately 120 hrs, they are assessed as to readiness for their driving test but continue to be supported up until they gain their Ps.

Currently there are 27 active Learners with 6 on the waiting list. There is a limit of 30 at any one time. There have been 119 Learners in our program, they've logged more than 4,501 hours and been provided with 394 professional driving sessions. 49 have now obtained their Ps.

SUPPORT.....

L2P programs are given basic funding by TAC but only until June 2015. This funding for us only covers 25hrs per week minimum wage for a Coordinator and 4 professional driving lessons per Learner in a 12 month period.

Barry Bourke Warragul has donated a \$16,000 manual Barina Holden & assisted with the lease arrangements for a 2nd car. All the Holden staff, including Dealer Principal Bob Grambau, have been so very positive about L2P. They have gone out of their way to assist us and we couldn't ask for anything more.

RACV Insurance Victoria has granted us a "Good Citizen Award" 4 years in a row, with comprehensive car insurance for both vehicles. This translates to \$1,741 annually. Bill Ellis, owner of the Warragul RACV shop, has encouraged Baw Baw L2P constantly.

Warragul Police allow us to park both cars on their property, with 24 hr surveillance. The booking diary & car keys are stored at the front desk. This would cost approx \$10,000 annually.

Drouin & District Community Bank has provided funds for 3 years, for advertising, promotion, Mentor jackets & costs of ongoing skills training for both Mentors & Learners; over \$6,000 since 2010.

Neerim & Trafalgar Community Bank Branches have come on board, with funds going towards fuel and lease costs. \$4,000 this year.

Jana Living sponsor us with help for fuel costs; \$1,000 annually.

DHS have given us driving lesson funds for 4 'clients'.

Legible Signs has mounted sponsor logos on our cars.

Modra Technology engineered & maintain the L plate brackets on both cars.

The **Federal Govt Volunteer Grant** has given Mentors fuel & training course costs, police checks, vehicle and technical equipment ; \$3,800 this year.

DLine Smash Repairs are panel beating a slight scrape on our car & **Warragul Panels** were just as generous 2 years ago.

DCSI yesterday joined in, agreeing to host a website specifically dedicated to Baw Baw L2P.

OUR NEEDS.....

So we're getting financial & in-kind support from a range of community businesses and companies but as you know, times are tight.

The leased vehicle costs \$6,500 a year.

Fuel is budgeted at \$4,500 but already this financial year petrol for the Holden Hatch has cost nearly \$3,000. Our auto car has clocked up 30,642kms in the last 11 months.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE.....FROM NOW

The reason we're "crying poor" is because of high demand for our program. This program works!

L2P provides wonderful opportunities for disadvantaged young people from difficult backgrounds. We are saving lives and enriching lives; AND not just for the Learners....Mentors are 'giving back' to this community, volunteering hours, developing trust, building communication & social skills, encouraging success, seeing young people grow and develop into responsible young adults capable of making balanced judgements and decisions.

There's a need for further ongoing sustainable funding from the Shire Council so that Baw Baw L2P is seen as an intrinsic part of the Shire Council's vision and plans. It should be unquestionable that there is close involvement, ongoing support, and adoption from ALL the Baw Baw Shire Council staff members and Councillors.

We want the Baw Baw Shire Council to actively and financially link with the L2P program and acknowledge the powerful good it achieves and the lives it saves, and we would love to have the Baw Baw Shire Council logo proudly displayed on both our cars to promote the ongoing connection the Council has with Baw Baw L2P.