



Baw Baw L2P Newsletter September 2014 #12

Hello to Mentors & all our Sponsors

Baw Baw L2P is a VicRoads initiative, with TAC funding. There is no way Baw Baw L2P could continue to have such a successful program with only this TAC support. Each year, I have the task of applying for grants or funding or sponsorship and ensuring it continues.

Barry Bourke Warragul has been generously sponsoring our program since we received the Holden Spark in April 2012. Since that time, 18 Learners gained their Probationary *manual* licence. Several others had some driving time in the Spark but opted to go back to the auto car. Without the Spark, our program wouldn't run. So without Barry Bourke Warragul our program wouldn't run. Many thanks to Barry Bourke Warragul for their continued support and interest. And don't forget.....call in to see Bob Grambau or Craig Emery to look at options for your own Holden (or Dean if you fancy a Renault.)



LEARNERS:

Since January this year, 12 more Learners have gained their Ps. Dylan, Ziggy, Kimberley, Kasey, Chantelle, Daniel, Sara, Suze, Ebony, Jamie, Jake & Crystal at #67.

Thanks to Graham, Terry, Ross, Lloyd, Russell, Ken, Kevin, Mick, Fred C, Pat, Debbie, Lynette, Peter S, Werner, Ian, Robert & David for all your driving supervision and guidance.

There are currently 31 Learners but 3 are to attend interviews next week to explain why there's been no contact. Each Learner reads, discusses and signs a Code of Conduct. Participation in the L2P program by Learners is a privilege, not a right.

MENTORS:

1. **Police Checks:** I have been advised by VicRoads that police checks should be done every 2 years. This means nearly everyone will have to repeat the process, even the Coordinator! Let's see if this can all be done in October. I am now able to lodge checks via Crimcheck, and the paperwork is online and processed from my computer. There is no cost to you.

2. **Your licence points:** VicRoads advises that Mentors must have 6 or more licence points. Less than 6 demerit points is a worry so please let me know if this has happened to you. I'VE GOT 12!!
3. **Working with Children check:** This is a compulsory requirement of the program. There is no cost. Please check your current card and renew if necessary. I would appreciate a copy too. If you need assistance, Mary or I will help....*grammar??*
4. **New Mentors:** On August 2nd, 9 new volunteers completed the training at the offices of our local State Government representative, Gary Blackwood.
 - *Unfortunately for us, Tim was offered employment in Qld, so the Community Bank at Neerim lost their Manager and we lost a new Mentor!
 - *Mary had an 'incident' at that awful T intersection near Glen Cromie the week before training started, so she is going to assist L2P from an administration angle. Marvellous!
 - *Welcome to Garry, Helena, Mary, Graeme, Simon, Yvonne, Mike & Dee and farewell Tim.
5. **How many Mentors?**
 - *Robert & Mick 'retired' in June when we had a great morning catch-up at Luciano's, with Manager Craig Black & Bruce, from Drouin & District Community Bank, joining us. Robert looks sad in this pic. I delivered Mick's flowers later in the day, after I'd clipped my forehead on my car door, arriving at his place in tears and a HUGE lump on my head. Thanks to Mick's wife Jacqui (a nurse), I was given the frozen peas treatment and a trip to the doctor and no permanent damage.
 - *Graham tried to retire but has agreed to be an 'emergency'. If you feel you need more exercise, why not play a game of golf with Graham on the Drouin Golf Course?
 - *There are quite a few Mentors who aren't matched at the moment but are happy to be a stand-in. All up, active or resting, there are 39 and you're all wonderful.
 - *See our 4 Mentors from Trafalgar & surrounding District?



STORIES:

Sam has been to Europe, Ireland & England.

Fred C returned to Edinburgh....last time there, he lived in **THE** Castle! Thankyou for the bird book.

Peter S was in Europe & Britain being a 'trainologist'. He called me from Germany, or was it Austria?

Garry fought off the cockatoos at Hamilton Island.

Marion went to Japan. She stayed one night in one of those submarine/cocoon things.

Werner has been to New Zealand & Europe.

Kathie has just returned from Port Fairy. Thankyou for the bird books.

Where has Ian been lately?

Russell did a motorbike excursion from Monkey Mia to Byron Bay.

Bill spent quite a few weeks house-sitting in Tasmania.

Tim & Shelley are in Asia for 10 weeks.

One of Helena's Clydesdales has given birth to a beautiful foal.

Murray just keeps busy being Mayor.

I did a 24 hour **twitching** trip to Mudgee for a Citrine Wagtail, blown in by mistake from India.



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

Peter, Murray & John are the **website chaps**...they continue to offer their expertise and precious time, adjusting and adding L2P information through our DCSI sponsorship. Please keep a check on what's there. Many thanks to DCSI for being our website host and many many thanks to the chaps.



PAYPAL: On the **bawbawl2p.org** site, there will be a **DONATIONS** account. This means anyone can donate to our program, via Paypal. This is an interesting development.

FACEBOOK:

Pink Fiona has volunteered to manage our Facebook page but we haven't yet been able to coordinate our times for a meeting. Fiona has had her Ps since September 2013 and has maintained contact. She's a marvellous ambassador. Peter will work beside Fiona as the "Moderator", responsible for ensuring all entries are positive and true, so again a team effort.

ON-LINE DRIVE BOOKINGS: Murray is working on this, so Mentor Sam will be smiling very soon. Mentors will have access to the on-line booking diary & Learners will have read-only access. When the Mentors enter their driving times, a copy will automatically be sent to the Learner's email address. We will trial it first with some 'guinea pig' mentors, to check it's effective. The log sheet will still be at the police station, to sign in and out for the keys.

SPONSORSHIP:

PAGE 4

You will see our sponsors logos at the top of this Newsletter and now we have another supporting business. **AUTOBARN WARRAGUL** has given L2P a GPS Car Speed Head-Up Display Unit, valued at almost \$200. Chris McNiven is the Manager. He is happy to provide L2P with car care / cleaning products so if you have any suggestions, let's hear from you. Please make yourself known at Autobarn. Mentor Russell is working on the Unit, which is replacing the Tom Tom thingo, which mysteriously stopped working some time back.



WASHING / CLEANING THE CAR:

Each time a new Learner is accepted onto the program, they sign a Code of Conduct and the Coordinator also points out their "**obligations**".

This includes.....

- *keeping in contact with the Coordinator throughout their time on the program
- *attending **all** training or social evenings
- *taking responsibility for booking drive times- confirming with the Mentor & entering these times in the diary
- * in exchange for being given Mentor time / car / fuel / insurance, the Learner is **expected** to keep the car clean and washed.

So.....it's not the job of Mentors to make or add time to wash or vacuum the car!

..... it's not the job of the Coordinator to wash or vacuum the car

LOG SHEET AT THE POLICE STATION / DRIVING TIME:

I'm adjusting the log sheet to "**driving time**" so that it's a clear copy of the Learner's Log Book time spent actually driving, rather than the time the car is out. This change allows me to input accurate driving times on the VicRoads database.

Also, thank you for reducing the amount of time driving; it saved the program from a dreadful predicted deficit of nearly \$4,000 in the last financial year. It's much more beneficial for the Learner to have 2 sessions per week, each lasting 1 hour, than having 1 session for 2 hours. Yes, there have been some exceptions but this involved prior discussion & negotiation between the Mentor and the Coordinator.

Christmas is only 98 days away

Beth