





TALK THE TOLL DOWN

A regional partnership with the TAC and the Victorian Government.  

L2P producing safer generation of drivers

Crystal Mooney completed year 12 in 2013 and was actively searching for employment when she participated in the Baw Baw L2P program.

To expand her options while job hunting, in late January 2014 she successfully applied for a place on the Baw Baw L2P learner driver mentor program.

Between applying for jobs and attending four weeks of job search training, Crystal was introduced to a mentor who became responsible for developing her driving skills and abilities, consistent courtesy and to understand the road rules.

As a learner driver, Crystal was responsible for completing her log book, attending all booked driving times, keeping the L2P car clean, clearly communicating with her mentor and program coordinator Beth Carr, and proving she was learning to drive safely.

She also attended several compulsory skills sessions, including the annual road rules night.

This was attended by more than 50 people including Vic Roads staff, police from Morwell and Warragul police stations, staff and board members from Drouin, Trafalgar and Neerim Community Bank Branches who financially sponsor the program, as well as learners and mentors.

Crystal was determined to gain her licence and

was consistent in her attendance and development.

Her log book showed the depth, width and various times of driving experiences, in a range of weather conditions, backed up by the RACV Drive School professional assessments and after 130 hours logged, the VicRoads Hazard Perception test was passed and the licence test booked.

On August 15, Crystal undertook her driving assessment and gained her Ps, making her the 67th L2P participant to gain their probationary licence.

Now Crystal has the awesome task of driving independently, knowing she has the driving skills and attitude to stay safe and to be aware of the multitude of possible hazards around her - drivers in other vehicles, pedestrians, children, road works, pets, signs, workers, traffic signals, weather and road conditions, to name a few.

This is another good news story about a learner driver who was committed to the L2P program.

Crystal worked really well as one half of the team with her mentor and was rewarded by gaining her licence at the first attempt.

"I couldn't have learnt to drive and get all the skills if I hadn't been with L2P. My mentor was so patient and so supportive. I'm so happy to have been part of this program," Crystal said.



Crystal Mooney is one of the recent graduates of the Baw Baw L2P program and has praised the program and mentors for teaching her to be a safe driver.

Program coordinator Beth Carr is also pleased that Crystal has gained her Ps.

"She was enthusiastic, always listening to the advice of her Mentor, consistently proving she understood the rules and techniques of safe driver awareness.

"I really believe the work of the learner drivers and their mentors are developing a safer generation of drivers throughout the Baw Baw Shire," Beth said.

Currently there are several learner driver places available, and last month

a further nine community members successfully completed the mentor training.

The website bawbawl2p.org has been established through DCSI hosting, with mentors developing and maintaining the site whilst also mentoring weekly.

Information about the program is readily accessible on the website and people can attend at Warragul Community House to ask further questions.

There will be an evening session in late

October titled "It won't happen to me."

Beth is waiting to announce the guest speaker who will "share some meaningful insights into the choices and results of young people's driving."

"These evenings are always well-attended and we all learn something new. I'm sure this one will be the same. Community members are also welcome, so further details will be added to our website during September," Beth said.

SAFETY IN DRIVEWAYS

Sesame Street's Elmo and Maria are starring in an innovative new road safety campaign launched last week by assistant treasurer Gordon Rich-Phillips as part of a state government initiative to build a safer Victoria.

The second instalment of the Elmo Stays Safe campaign, which was first launched in 2013, is focusing on the dangers of children playing around driveways.

"It's vital that children are taught about road safety from a young age, especially how to play safely around driveways," Mr Rich-Phillips said.

A new interactive app featuring Sesame Street's Elmo and Maria is part of a campaign which aims to raise awareness amongst parents and children of the dangers posed by vehicles in driveways, car parks and on roads.

The Elmo Stays Safe campaign was developed by Kidsafe Victoria in collaboration with Sesame Workshop (the not-for-profit educational organisation behind Sesame Street) and is supported by the TAC and RACV.

Mr Rich-Phillips said it was critical that parents educate their children to treat driveways like roads, not play areas.

"This is a valuable partnership and education campaign that is a timely reminder for drivers to look out for and protect our youngest and most vulnerable road users," Mr Rich-Phillips said.

"Parents and caregivers can help children from a young age to develop good road safety practices, so that they learn to make safe choices as they grow into independent road users.

It's vital that young children are aware of the dangers and can play safely around the home and in the community."

Kidsafe Victoria President Erica Edmonds said children were unpredictable, inquisitive and surprisingly quick and mobile.

"It is important as adults that we always 'supervise, separate and see', to help keep children safe in areas such as driveways," Ms Edmonds said.

Sesame Workshop Vice President, International Project Manager Robert Knezevic said that as the single largest informal educator of children in the world, Sesame Workshop had a long and proud history of creating educational media and public service campaigns that had a real impact on the lives of families.

"Through the power of our Muppet characters and local expertise, we're able to teach Australian children and parents vital road safety messages," Mr Knezevic said.

Important safety messages have been incorporated into an activity-based tablet/smartphone app, a 30-second radio community service announcement and an A4 storybook.

The Elmo Stays Safe campaign is contributing to the international effort to reduce child injury and death as part of the UN Global Decade of Action for Road Safety.

This is 3 standard drinks.



Only a little bit over? You bloody idiot.  