



PYRENEES SCORES No 1

The Pyrenees L2P Program has had its first success with a learner Keith gaining his Probationary Licence in early August

Keith's mentor was Philip Kynoch.

Angela Erwin, Program Coordinator for Ararat & Pyrenees said the good news continues:

"The Pyrenees Program has been given \$500 Sponsorship from the Beaufort Rotary Club.

The Ararat Program has also received \$1000 Sponsorship from the Grampians Toy Club."



NEWS TIPS ?

Next issue: February 2016

If you have a great story, news tip, learning or info to share with our L2P mentors and friends across Victoria, send details **by 15 February 2016** to:

L2P Statewide Editor
foxwords@hotmail.com

THE ROAD AHEAD

by John Lockie

Acting Senior Statewide Projects Coordinator
VicRoads

First of all, we'd like to thank the ongoing effort and support of our dedicated volunteers. The work you do is so important and valuable to the safety and social inclusion of our communities.

Funding

Across Victoria the majority of the 68 L2P programs are now secured with four year funding agreements in place.

L2PNet

A new L2PNet website (currently accessible to L2P Program Coordinators) is increasingly becoming a space for learning and collaboration, supporting Program Coordinators to exchange ideas and access resources. It is encouraging to see Coordinators using the forums to seek advice and discuss the issues with their L2P peers across Victoria.

Mentor Training

L2P Net is helping to empower Programs to host training, and manage their own events. Nineteen mentor training programs have been undertaken through new arrangements since July 2015. L2P cluster groups and Program Coordinators now have more local control over training. The roll out of regional training facilitators from our Program Coordinator pool is giving them greater professional development and involvement.

Our partners

Feedback from programs that have had the support of the Toyota sponsored vehicles has been very positive, enabling them to maintain driving hours when their usual L2P car is out of service. We are approaching the change-over mileage for our three sponsored Corollas and will look at where the greatest need is for future sponsored vehicles.

Our relationship with the RACV is evolving. We have supported the RACV to provide their Free2go kits to all our L2P programs - linking our learners with their free roadside assist program.

So it's full steam ahead - we're looking forward to working with you over the next twelve months to take the L2P program from strength to strength!





YARRA SIZZLES

Yarra L2P ran a promotion and Sausage Sizzle recently at the new Bunnings store on Victoria Street Collingwood.

Sales were about \$800 for the day with profits helping to pay licence test fees for learners with special needs.

We got expressions of interest from a number of local people keen to join Yarra L2P as mentors. Thanks to our mentors who helped on the day: Peter, Christine, Bronwyn and Kevin. Also Sam and Annabel from Yarra City Council for giving up their Sunday to help facilitate the event.

A big thank you to David and the staff at Bunnings Collingwood for providing the space and equipment including the marquee, tables and BBQ.



Above: The Yarra sizzlers in action at Bunnings Collingwood.

MENTOR PROFILE: JOHN ADAMS PORT PHILLIP



John Adams has volunteered with the City of Port Phillip L2P program since September 2012.

Program Coordinator **Sarah Massey** reports that during his time with L2P, John has mentored four learners.

“With two of these learners he teamed up with other volunteers (Ross and Nick)

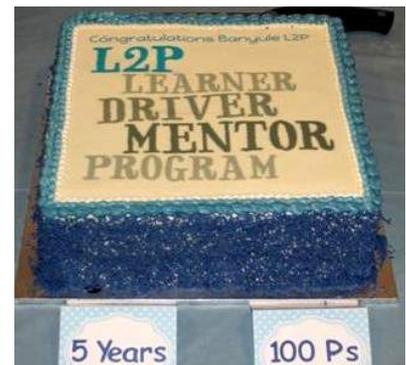
to help them achieve their goal a little faster. In recent months John has generously mentored up to five sessions per week.

“His fondest memories of L2P volunteering are when his first learner, Alishah rushed into the cafe where he was waiting to let him know that she had passed.

“John enjoys gently pushing students into challenging driving situations that they don’t know they can accomplish, then seeing their sense of achievement when to their surprise they realise that they can actually handle it,” Sarah said.

When not volunteering with L2P he enjoys cycling, cooking, gardening and volunteering with the elderly. St Kilda Youth Service is incredibly grateful to John and all our volunteers who are helping young people achieve such an important goal.

Pic: John Adams and Alishah



BANYULE TAKES

THE CAKE

Banyule Nillumbik Local Learning & Employment Network has just celebrated its fifth birthday and 100th Successful P Plater.

Banyule L2P Support Officer, **Maridina O’Keeffe** said a special celebration was held in October to acknowledge and thank all Mentors and to celebrate the achievements our Learners.

“We would like to thank Mel Boak, Heli Yoon, Charlie and Olivia McFawn, for sharing their experiences and stories. “



THE TWO OF US

Rob Jolly (Mentor) and Stephanie Taranto (Learner)

ROB:

On Wednesday 12th August, as I paced the floor of the VicRoads office in Geelong, I thought back on all the times my mentee and I headed off for a drive around the City of Geelong.

Eighteen months at one and a half hours per week to reach that milestone 120 hours seemed to have flown by. The repetitive picking up of keys from the Geelong Police Station, picking up the Barina to drive to her school and the reverse procedure at the end of each lesson was a real pain at times.

But the early testing times of gnashing gears and kangaroo hopping were soon replaced by pleasant country drives, nicely sharpened by peak hour traffic for the end of each lesson.

120 hours with a non-family member develops an incredibly deep and rewarding relationship, when all you can do is talk and talk and occasionally say turn left or right.

My mentee went through all the best and worst of life during our time together, so our mutual understanding of what matters and what doesn't was thoroughly analysed for both our benefit. She is an amazing character to whom I would and will welcome into my family circle for ever and a day.

As to her driving? The assessment officer came in and said she "nailed it". We both burst into tears. A most magical journey was complete. Now for her life to blossom further. All credit to COG L2P program and all their supporters for a magnificent opportunity to help in such a profoundly important way.

STEPHANIE:

Joining L2P early 2014, I must admit I was pretty hesitant and scared about driving with some stranger. For me, L2P started as a necessary activity, my father being terminally ill and unable to teach me.

But after meeting and driving with my mentor Rob, it honestly became the best part of my week. Having the freedom to drive wherever, explore the city, the country, or just have fun with the car was what I looked forward to every week. Even when we drove around the You Yangs and I stalled on pretty much a cliff, there wasn't one moment I wasn't smiling.

Spending time with my mentor, I not only had a great role model, but an amazing friend. For me, Rob made the program one of the greatest experiences of my life, devoting his time, and showing me amazing compassion after I lost my father in our first year of driving.

Despite having only known me for a few months, he had great sympathy, and understood what I was going through. Now, almost two years later, I've got my licence, a car, and most importantly an amazing friend in my mentor, no matter how corny it may seem, who I hope to keep for years to come.

So, thank you, L2P, for not only giving me the freedom and skills to drive, but giving me an awesome experience, and a brilliant friend.





MAIL BOX

TO EAST GIPPSLAND WELLINGTON SHIRE L2P

I would like to thank you for running such a wonderful program and allowing me to become a better driver.

I would never have gotten to where I am now without the help and support of your program and the wonderful supportive mentor **John Morgan**.

I really appreciate everything. See you out there on the road.

Best wishes and kind regards.

- Emma Welsh.



JUST DESERTS AT MILDURA



Mildura's L2P is very proud of its tally of 58 licences and five years successfully running L2P.

A gathering of past and present learners, mentors, steering committee members and families of learners and mentors was held in October.

"It was a lovely event, the weather was good, we were near the river and it was a great occasion to celebrate and reflect on our successes," said L2P coordinator Jenny Gibbons.

Top: A bunch of Tiny Teddies cruise down the highway at Mildura's celebrations.



Above: Mildura's L2P learners and mentors cheer five years on the road.

BALLARAT TO A 'T'

Check out the new T-shirts (right) proudly worn by Ballarat L2P mentors.

They were kindly donated by Hip Pocket Workwear Ballarat and have generated a lot of discussion about what the L2P program means for the local community.





DRIVE OF THE MONTH

Collins Street, Melbourne CBD

For learner drivers in later stages, a lunchtime drive along Collins Street in Melbourne between Spencer Street (Southern Cross Station) and Spring Street (Treasury Building) is a 10 minute real life Hazard Perception Test.

Travelling eastwards you pass through busy intersections including King Street, Elizabeth Street, Swanston Street and Russell Street.



Along the way you will encounter distracted shoppers, office workers and confused tourists crossing the road at intersections, ignoring the flashing red man - often eyes down and checking their text messages or talking on the phone.

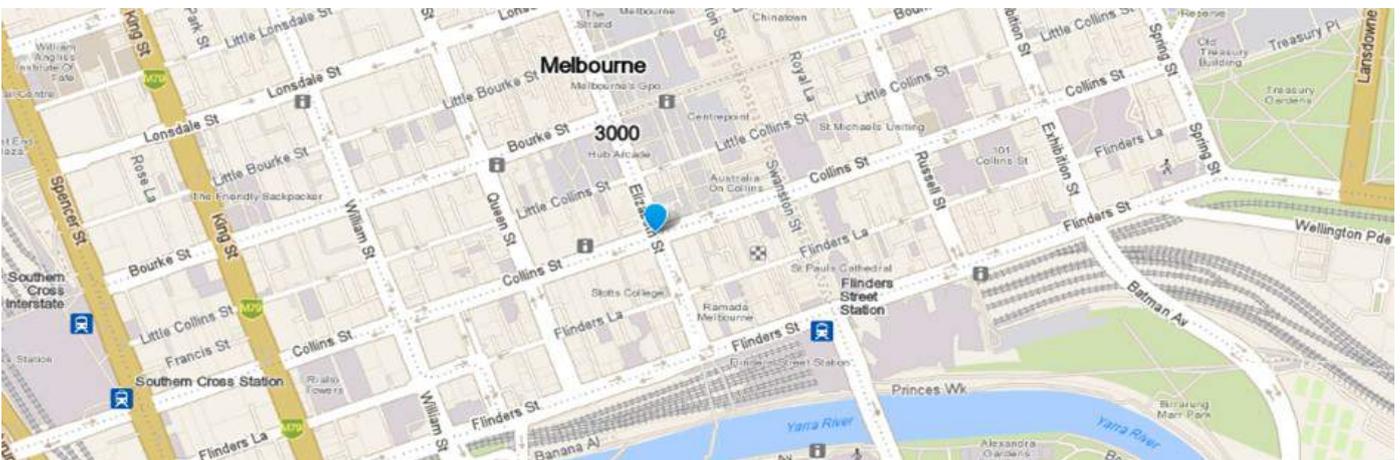
Then there's the taxis, delivery vans and bike couriers stopping at will, doing illegal U turns or blocking lanes to force you over into tram tracks or oncoming traffic lanes.

If that's not enough you have the trams with passengers rushing to and from central platform stops crossing directly in front of your car - ignoring traffic lights and nearby pedestrian crossings.

Other distractions for Learner Drivers include the many sights and sounds along this busy city route. Shop window sales, buskers, horse drawn carriages and healthy looking office girls and boys sporting the latest fashions can draw the eye of inexperienced young drivers away from the road ahead.

So take the drive one day in later stages, but be alert and ready to guide them on approaching to potential hazards.

And if you are game get your learner to try a hook turn. Good luck.



Do you have a good and challenging drive where you take your learners? Why not share it with us in L2P Statewide. Send details (with a pic if you can) to L2P Statewide editor: foxwords@hotmail.com



DID YOU KNOW?

Traffic light detectors

Across Victoria there are nearly 4000 sets of traffic signals. Most are integrated into VicRoads traffic signal linking and monitoring systems.

Vehicle detector loops sit just below the road surface (back behind the white line) on approach to intersections.

They are linked to VicRoads computers in nearby signal control boxes and tell the traffic lights that your car is waiting.

Depending on the time of day and peak traffic priorities, the loops will help trigger a green light or arrow (in turning lanes).

So give yourself the best chance at a clear run in traffic. At a red lights sit your car back behind the white line and above the grooves in the road surface.

If you push past the white line the traffic signals may not know you are there - so you could be waiting a long time .



NEW WHEELS FOR SWAN HILL

The Swan Hill Automotive Group has come through again providing a brand new Nissan Pulsar for the Swan Hill L2P Program in September.

According to Program Coordinator, Phil Tenant their support has been tremendous, with the new Nissan Pulsar ideal for young drivers.

“Even though the dealership is relatively new to Swan Hill, this is the second car that they have supplied to the L2P Program,” Phil said.

“They also pay for the registration and insurance which allows for more funds to be spent on professional driving lessons.”

Thanks for your tremendous support!





ARARAT CAR GETS A ONCE OVER WITH L2P LEARNERS

Early this year Central Grampians Local Learning & Employment Network (LLEN) organised a Vehicle Maintenance Evening for all in the Ararat L2P Program.

Grampians Ford Ararat supported the session with their staff and expertise on hand. The Ararat L2P Ford Fiesta was set up at their workshop, ready for a once over.

Dealer Principal, **Gary Hargreaves** shared his time and knowledge, reinforcing to L2P learners and mentors the importance maintaining the L2P vehicle.

Participants learnt of the regular checks needed so the vehicle not only runs smoothly but remains safe to drive.

Gary went over the Fiesta from top to bottom. He explained what all the dashboard warning lights signalled, detailed signs to be aware of, and how to spot tyre wear and tear - explaining when tyres need to be replaced.

Learners participated in hands-on tasks including checking the oil and air pressure and mastering the art of changing tyres.

This session has provided learners with valuable knowledge and skills needed once they have their Ps and are on the road in their own car.



WHO'S HELPING WHO?



I went to do the usual vehicle checks and paperwork pickup first thing Monday morning and found a mentor had left the interior light on in the L2P vehicle which resulted in a flat battery.

I jokingly asked one of the local police crew, as they were driving in from their shift, if they had jumper leads and was extremely happy when they were more than willing to assist (using jumper leads from their own car).

Thank you to the two officers at the Colac Police station. Much faster than waiting for the other roadside assist.

- Barry Rayner - Colac Otway L2P coordinator



BASS FOCUS ON ROAD SAFETY

The Bass Coast L2P Program highlighted the importance of road safety at a special family forum held recently.

About 50 people including mentors, learner drivers and families, recent graduates of the L2P Program and sponsors attended the event where Leading Senior Constable Brendan Horrocks and Acting Sergeant Allan Piening spoke about road safety and car mechanics.



Bass Coast L2P Coordinator Veronica Dowman said the forum consisted of two 20 minute information sessions followed by questions and lively discussion.

“We believe the forum will help us achieve L2Ps primary goal which is to make young Learner drivers safe on the road, especially in the first year of their P-Plate licence when fatal accidents and serious crash injuries are high,” Ms Dowman said.

FOUR MORE YEARS FOR CASEY

Casey Council’s L2P program will keep its foot on the pedal for another four years with Berwick Nissan on board as new partner.

Berwick Motor Group has generously donated a Nissan Micra to the program, allowing Council to continue to offer this wonderful initiative to our local young people,”

Casey Mayor Mick Morland said. Since the L2P program was introduced in Casey, 128 learners have participated in the program with 81 of those going on to gain their probationary licence.

Meanwhile 67 mentor drivers have participated in the program during that time, volunteering a total of 10,559 hours.



Right: Casey Mayor Mick Morland with Berwick Nissan Dealer Principal Mark Wright and Berwick Motor Group Fleet Sales Manager Asim Cay **Pic:** Stewart Chambers, Berwick News



L2P Q & A

MENTOR: Geoff Wallis **LEARNER:** Jessica Parker

DROVE TOGETHER: September 2014 - August 2015

Hours of driving completed: 80

How has your relationship/friendship grown/developed since you started driving together?

Geoff: Jess has developed into a lovely young lady. I find it fantastic that despite the age difference; we can still have great conversations and enjoy each other's company.

Jess: It's an enjoyable 2 hours, because you're not just driving, you're taking and getting to know each other. We're really good friends, we definitely plan to keep in contact

Geoff: I really hope we do keep in contact, even if it's just for an occasional coffee at Macca's!

How important was gaining your licence to you?

It was very important. I need it for getting a job and for independence; otherwise I am relying on my parents to take me anywhere I need to go

What access to supervised driving would you have had without the L2P Program?

Well, I wouldn't have my licence now. I don't think it would have been anytime soon - I only got about 40 hours (of supervised driving) outside the program. My Dad works away for months at a time and Mum works shift work so it's not easy to get driving experience.

What transport challenges did you face as a young person without a licence?

I live rurally, about 20 minutes from Benalla. There's no public transport so I relied on my parents and bike. When the weather is nice I ride my bike 25 km into town

What else have you learned? (Apart from driving)

Jess: It doesn't matter how old/young you are, you can still learn new things

Geoff: It's been good to know I can talk and relate to a teenager again. My youngest daughter is in her forties so it's been 20 years since I had that experience.

You have shared 80 hours of driving together over the past 10 months; Do you have any 'standout' moments/memories from your journey?

The day when we went to Mount Buller was definitely something we'll remember. It was May. We had a three hour drive and I heard that it had snowed, so I suggested we drive to Mt Buller. It was snowing when we got up there so we stopped for a while and had a snow fight; we even built a little snowman!

What do you have to say to other mentors and young drivers who are thinking about or have engaged in the program? **Jess:** Get in the program as quick as you can!





L2P FACES AND PLACES



ON A MISSION OUT EAST

Mission Australia's L2P program for Wellington and East Gippsland Shires is going along great with more learners gaining their P Plates throughout the past few months,

Program Coordinator, **Cheryl Siely** is very thankful for all our wonderful volunteer mentors who play a very big role in these young lives of our learner drivers.

"Learner Emma joined L2P program in early 2014 due to both parents having disabilities and not working," she said.

"Emma was very grateful for being part of L2P.

"She was a wonderful learner attending her driving lessons every week with volunteer mentor, **John Morgan** who went above and beyond, driving a couple of hours two or three days a week."

Congratulations Emma and Keep Safe



Above: Emma and Mentor John Morgan



STATS THAT MATTER

Congratulations to our new Probationary drivers and their mentors:

July - October 2015



ALPINE: Tara - Ken Darling, **Jesse** - Ken Darling, William - Ken Darling, **Sarah** - Paul Sharman
ARARAT: Caitlin - Don Gardiner & Vance Bebbington, **BANYULE:** Jade - Graham Pascoe, **April** - Glen Bussey, **Jacky** - Gerry Fogarty, **Kara (100th P Plater)** - Mel Boak, **Krystal** - Chris Henry,
Sagal - Sharon Meadows, **Joseph** - Graham Pascoe, **Mikayla** - Graham Pascoe, **Claire** - Mel Boak **BASS COAST:** Luke - Peter Lynch & Daryl Pease, **Kara** - Mike Wellings, **Rachael** - Richard Button & John Davis, **Paige** - Neil Beddoe, **Jayden** - Richard Button, **Christopher** - Daryl Pease, **Matthew** - Jo-Anne Davis & Ken Duggan **BAW BAW:** Alysha - Lloyd Millard, **Travis** - Ross Stephens & Simon McBain, **Maharlia** - Lloyd Millard & Bill Renwick, **Brittany** - Ken Wilson, **Shelby** - Yvonne Simmance, Beth Carr, Dee Crosby, Greg Walker, **Bonnie** - Pat Jackson, Beth Carr, John Beauchamp, **Kaitlyn** - Ian Haughton, Greg Walker, Corey - Ian de Bruyne, **Ben** - Mick Hanley, Fred Everett **BENALLA:** Asher - Rodney Gunston, **Jaryd** - Rodney Gunston, **Lochie** - Leanne Bromilow, **Jess** - Geoff Wallis, **Nicole** - Rachel Joyce, **Jessy** - Michael Hedderman **BENDIGO:** Sarah - Gerard Scanlon, **Aaron** - Rod Symes, **Eh Soo** - Mick Barbetti, **Ba Blu** - Ben Wakefield
BRIMBANK: Nhuc - Greg McCann, **Jessica** - Mario Randich, **Harley** - Ian Hicks, **Jade** - Bill Johnstone, **Aneso** - Allan Gaw, **Rahmatullah** - Peter Kain, **Yasin** - Travis Walton, **Kidane** - Peter Kain & Anne, **Marie** - Vu Nguyen, **Isaac** - Mario Randich
COLAC OTWAY: Luke - Stuart Page & Phil Callahan, **Erica** - Julie Holbery & Bill Bath, **Josee** - Rita Reid **CAMPASPE:** Kenisha - Jenni Wright, **Victoria** - Julie Purdey & Marilyn Salter, **Kaitlyn** - Wilfred Reuther, **India** - Maurice Gardiner, **Samantha** - Belinda Jones-Bird **DAREBIN:** Jamee - Philip Bouchier, **Aaron** - Roger Cripps, **Sarah** - Tom Vincent, **Maddie** - Vickie Turner **EAST GIPPSLAND/ WELLINGTON:** Laura Ashlee - Sheryl McHugh, **Thomas** - John Ireland, **Jed** - Cheryl Siely, **Rhianna** - Deb Schill & Mick Egan, **Emma** - John Morgan **DANDENONG:** Manzoor - Ian McPherson **FRANKSTON:** Vanessa - Marlane Lineham, Debbie Davies & Vicki Barber, **Caitlyn** - Margaret McGrath & Debbie Davies, **Selina** - Peter Whitehead & Bronwen Mathews, **Kaz** - Peter Furze, **Brittany** - Fred Hamilton, **Carly** - Ron Van Taarling, **Rachael** - Veena Vincent, Colin Green, Margaret McGrath & Leo McNiff, **Tegan** - Fred Hamilton, Ron Van Taarling, Leo McNiff & Colin Watson **GANNAWARRA:** Matt - Glenn Stanmore **Anisgul** - Cindy Hardy **GEELONG:** Ramatullah - Richard Drew, **Andrew** - Allan Gray, **Natalie** - Margaret Gunn-Browne & Anne Fairbairn, **Brooke** - Colin Fowler **GLENELG:** Eden - Shannon Ross, **Joe** - John Hurt **MANNINGHAM:** Elena - Peter Moncrieff, **Tali** - Marie-Claude Chapman **MOONEE VALLEY:** Chaltu - John Cox, **Rosa** - Kerry Sharpe, **Emily** - Sharon May, **John** - Anna Denham & Maureen Welch **MOIRA:** Rachael - Lorraine Ainsworth, **MORELAND:** Michelle - George Griffiths, Mariam - Shauna Coleman, **Zackary** - Bob Cummings, **Jake** - Hedley Hopkins, **Chloe** - Rosie Finn & Hedley Hopkins, **William** - Hedley Hopkins **MILDURA:** Cindy - Ian Monteath, **Rowan** - Phil Carr & Gary Huxtable, **Liam** - Vic Etherington, **Isobelle** - Linda Phillips, **Jermayne** - Mike Mooney, **Shantara** - Peter Hillas, **Christen** - David Tanner, **Josh** - Maxine Cole **NILLUMBIK:** Chloe - Joy Ferguson, **Jackie** - Joy Ferguson, **Samantha** - Steve, **Madeline** - Dave, **Rebecca** - Sergio, **Alicia** - Jack, **Emily** - Suzette, **Emily** - Peter, Alison - Peter, **Taylor** - Robert **PYRENEES:** Keith - Philip Kynoch **STONNINGTON, BAYSIDE, PORT PHILLIP (SKYS):** Lauren - Jane Belcher, **Emily** - Peter Miller, **Chrissy** - Liam Duffy, **Taylor** - Phil Parker, Mark - Tim Kelsey, **Megan** - Fred Carter, **Ashley** - Keith Round **SWAN HILL:** Aaron - Georgina McCallum **WHITTLESEA:** Catrina - Paul Wilson, Brendon - Paul Wilson, **Gifty** - Peter Hudson **YARRA:** Southa - Steven Bateman, **Veronica** - Christine O'Meara, **Susana** - Kevin Fox & David Blum, **Nyuol** - Michael Zanaty, **Christine** - Samuel Sakara, **Zacharia** - Wendy Smith

* as advised by Program Coordinators to 11 November 2015