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Mentors and participants in the L2P driver education program at a recent session dedicated to trucks on the road.

## Trucks and road safety

Participants and mentors in the successful L2P driver education program recently attended a special session dedicated to trucks on the roads.

Held at the Warragul Fire Station, it was taken by Tom Wachal – transport training and safety co-ordinator, Holcim (Australia) Pty Ltd and Peter Harbridge.

L2P program co-ordinator Beth Carr welcomed 43 people, including two people who are waiting to begin mentor training at Warragul Community House this month.

The evening focussed on road sharing and heavy vehicle dynamics.

The distance it takes trucks and other heavy vehicles to brake and come to a stop was discussed. Video evidence reinforced the problems encountered by truck drivers.

The audience asked many questions about visibility, speed and overtaking trucks when driving a car, and Peter gave examples of heavy vehicle near-misses, many due to a lack of patience on behalf of other road users.

The L2P learners discovered more about heavy vehicles as opposed to looking at them as just an object on the road.

Forward planning and situational awareness will now be reinforced because of this session's information.

Everyone had the opportunity to climb up into the driver's seat of one of Warragul CFA fire trucks, with the L2P car parked 25 metres directly behind. When the side and rear vision mirrors were checked, the car was completely invisible.

This certainly had an impact. Several days later, one of the learners was following a truck and commented to his mentor that he was giving a bigger gap to avoid any risks.

With the L2P learners living and driving in a rural environment, it's important they are able to make safe driving decisions regarding sharing the road with milk tankers, log trucks, school buses and a range of large transport vehicles.

The L2P program is auspiced by Warragul Community House and supported by VicRoads and TAC.

# PNG students head home

Eighteen students from Papua New Guinea have returned home after two months of study at Federation Training's Warragul campus.

The mature age students, who work in health and education, have been studying for a diploma in leadership and management.

The program co-ordinator for Federation University, Ewa Filipiak, said the fellowship was a success in terms of formal learning but also in exposing students to Australian culture and the Gippsland experience in particular.

"It was great to see how the locals embraced the group; we're very thankful to the community for their warm welcome."

Having completed the theory element of their study, the students have returned home to start the practical element in their respective workplaces.

Ms Filipiak said the Federation Training team enjoyed working with the group immensely.

"It's very special to have students dedicated to their studies and able to share so much in terms of their experiences and challenges."

"They are highly motivated by the experience and able to see the immediate benefits of their new skills."

The students were funded as part of the Australia Awards Fellowship, an Australian Government program that offers international scholarships to the next generation of global leaders to undertake study, research and professional development.

They will continue to receive support and guidance from their teachers at Federation Training for the remainder of the fellowship.

They will present the details of their project to a board of representatives at the Australia Awards Fellowship, then celebrate their achievements at a graduation ceremony in Port Moresby later that month.

The students also got to experience the sights of Gippsland; including a day trip to Phillip Island and the Penguin Parade, where they were lucky enough to see penguins on the beach.

They commented how they identified with the penguins' collaborative approach, and how they work in teams to come ashore and secure the colony's safety.

## Copper pipe stolen

Copper pipe valued at \$300 was stolen from a house under construction in Drouin on the weekend.

The theft occurred between 6pm on Friday night and 8am yesterday morning.

Police said offenders broke into the Wallace Cres house building site and stole a quantity of pipe.

Two bags were stolen from under a picnic table at a Drouin park on the weekend while the owner went to the toilet.

Police said the theft occurred at about 11.25am on Saturday at John Grubb Park in Edwards St.

Police said the owner left a green duffle bag and black carry bag under a table.

When the owner returned from the toilet, the items had been stolen.

The bags contained ropes and four wheel drive accessories valued at \$400.

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