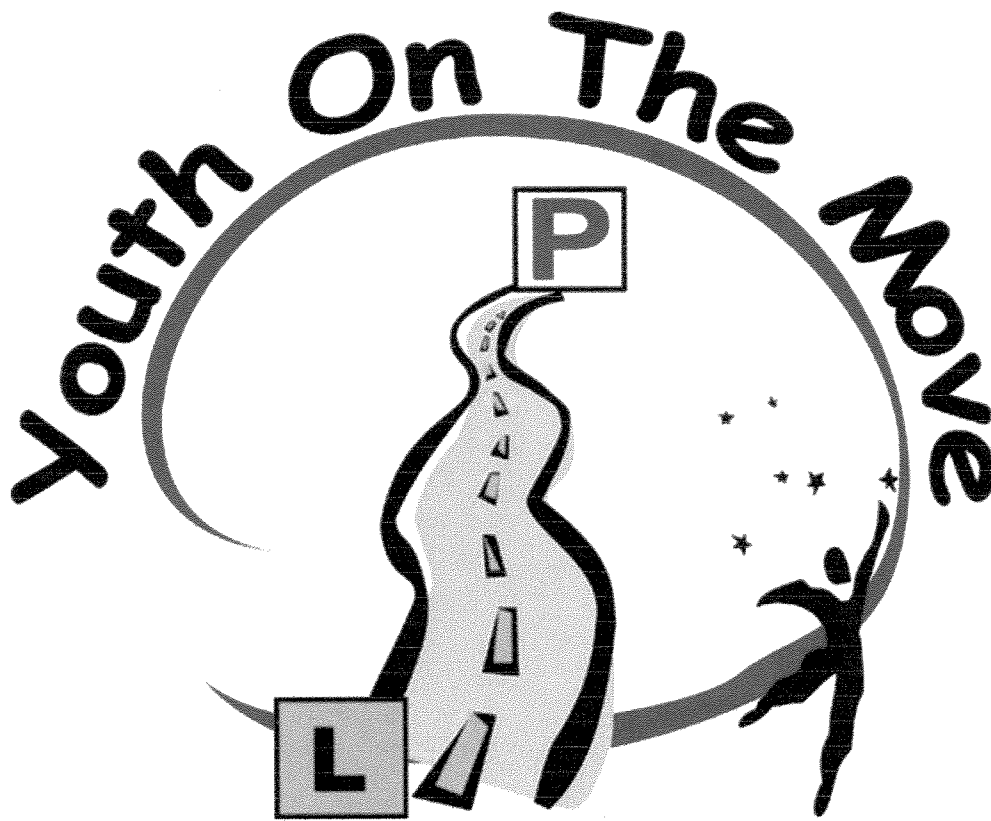


INQUIRY INTO YOUNG DRIVER SAFETY AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Organisation: Cessnock City Council
Name: Ms Jennifer Andrews
Position: Road Safety Officer
Date Received: 28/11/2007



PROGRAM OUTLINE

A young Driver education program developed in 1997 in partnership by Cessnock City Council, Samaritan's JPET, Kurri Youth Centre and Cessnock Youth Centre & Outreach Service for the Cessnock Local Government Area.

Prepared for the Youth On The Move program by Mrs Jennifer Andrews,
Cessnock's Community Road Safety Officer, Cessnock City Council.

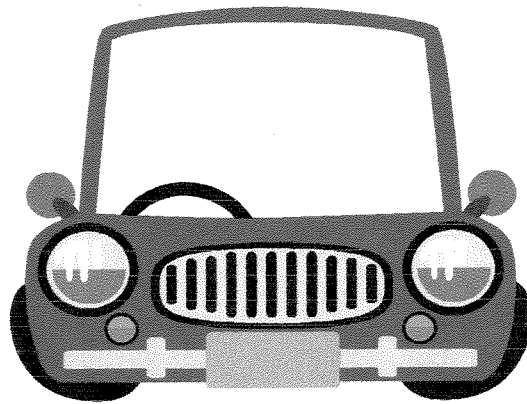
Enquiries can be forwarded to Cessnock City Council
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AIMS

The aim of the Youth On The Move program is to:

- a) Educate young and novice drivers about the issues and consequences of driving
- a) Improve road user behaviour and road safety attitudes
- b) Decrease the incidence of risk taking behaviour.
- a) Increase the awareness of drug & alcohol issues and standard drink information
- a) Improve hazard perception
- b) Decrease the incidence of road rage



TARGET GROUP

The program is available to young people between the ages of 16-22 years who meet the following criteria:-

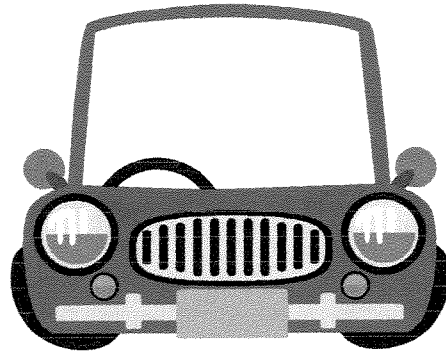
- a) Reside in the Cessnock City Council LGA
- b) Have held a Learner's Permit for 4 months.
- c) Have no outstanding fines with the RTA or Police.
- d) Are available to attend 6 x 2 1/2 hour weekly road safety sessions.
- e) Are available to attend a full weekend Senior First Aid Course.
- f) Are prepared to attend an interview as part of the selection process with a supervising driver.
- g) Are willing to be contacted six (6) monthly over the following 2 years to provide information pertaining to their driving history.
- h) Are prepared to pay a nominal cost of \$40 as full payment of the course

It was determined that young drivers would be most receptive to road safety information when they were in their safest phase (ie. the Learner Driver Phase) as they are keen for information & training & don't yet know it all (i.e. when they have their Provisional Licence).



The Plan

To address the behaviour and attitude areas of driver education by providing a series of Road Safety seminars to small classes of young people prior to obtaining their provisional driver's licence.



The Strategies

- a) develop an interesting program to educate young drivers about road safety issues
- b) advertise the program throughout the community to ensure equity issues are met
- c) interview potential participants to stress the importance of commitment and gain credibility for the program
- d) timetable all of the road safety sessions to ensure a problem and solution approach
- e) ensure that presentations avoid overly graphic photos & videos
- f) evaluate each road safety session and make modifications as required
- g) provide follow up sessions where needed



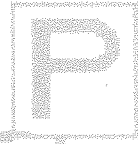
The Sessions

ROAD SAFETY SESSION and AGENCIES	
Session 1 – 1 hour	Volunteer Rescue Association. – Crash Consequences and rescue from a local perspective
Session 2 – 1 hour	Headstart –Acquired Brain Injury - The facts and consequences
Session 3 & 4 - 2 hour	Risk Taking and Hazard Perception
Session 5 - 1 hour	Police – Legal Consequences, Crash Factors, Common mistakes & misapprehensions
Session 6 - 1 hour	Media, Advertising and the real cost of owning a car
Weekend Course – 2 full days	Comprehensive SeniorFirst Aid Course
Session 7 & 8 – 2 hour	Alcohol & Other Drugs
Session 9 – 1 hour	AAMI—Insurance, Legalities and Fraud
Session 10 – 1 hour	Stress Management, Peer Pressure, Intimidation and Road Rage
Session 11 – 1 hour	Licensing, Points the Driving Test and Vehicle Modifications
Session 12 – 1 hour	Road Safety - Cost of Crashes, Behavioural Factors and Human Error
Session 13 - 1 hour	Owning a Car - The Real Cost and Media Advertising and Promotion
Session 14 - 1/2 hour	Professional Driver Trainer - Road Safety





KEY STAGES



1. To successfully gain entry to the program by meeting set criteria and attending an interview.
2. Attendance at all six road safety driver education sessions.
3. Completion of session evaluation sheets.
4. Successful completion of the Senior First Aid course.
5. Completion of practical driving instruction.
6. Attainment of Provisional driving licence (only if log book is completed and Driving Instructor is confident learner is ready).

NB: Participants are required to complete each stage of the program before proceeding to the next.



The Sessions—Crashes and Rescues

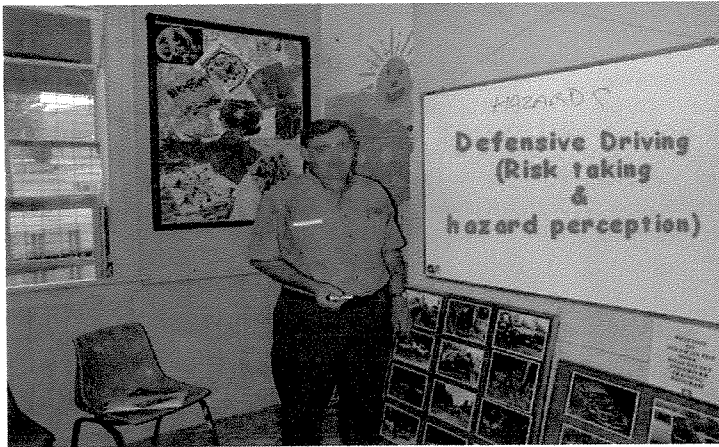


Members of the Cessnock VRA show photos of local crashes, noting the length of time taken to rescue people and the difficulties they have assisting the injured.

News footage showing local crashes are shown to participants identifying the repetition of crash factors such as not driving to the conditions, speeding and drink driving.



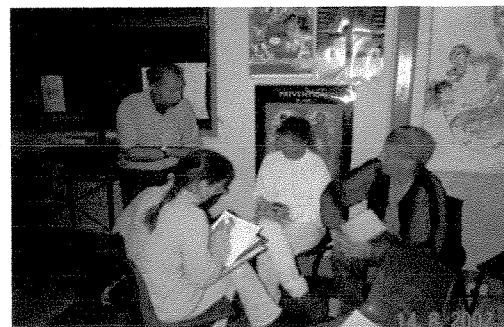
The Sessions - Defensive Driving, Risk Taking and Hazard Perception



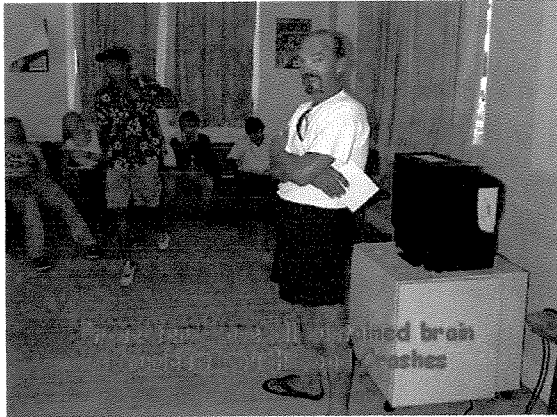
Peter Meddows a local rally driver, showing participants in the YOTM course details of hazards and how to identify them.



Denis & Kim Jackson present group work on Risk Taking and Hazard Perception. YOTM participants watch a locally produced video and identify the local hazards.



The Sessions— Acquired Brain Injury



The presenters are all Victims of Acquired Brain Injury as a result of Vehicle Crashes and relate their experiences and how this impacts on their lives and relationships. The young people are very interested in their lifestyle changes.



Whilst realising the seriousness of Brain Injury, participants found aspects of this presentation humorous. The permanency of Brain Injury however, brings a solid realisation to the young people.

The Sessions— Highway Patrol



Police discuss the factors involved in each particular crash with participants in the YOTM course by analysing photos taken at the crash scene.

Participants of the YOTM course brainstorm crash factors and safety procedures with Police.



The Sessions Alcohol & Other Drugs



Participants are shown standard drink information and the effects of alcohol on the brain.

Participants are also relieved of any myths associated with "so called" sobering methods.

Participants test themselves in pouring a standard drink to gauge their ability to determine how much alcohol they are drinking.

The Sessions— Licensing & Demerit Points



Other sessions:

RTA provide information on

- Licensing
- Demerit Points
- Vehicle modifications
- The Driving Ability Road Test (D.A.R.T)
- The Hazard Perception Test
- The Drivers Qualification Test
- NSW Road Rules
- Court Process and Implications



The Sessions—Insurance



AAMI Insurance Group
Provide Information on

- Insurance Types eg - 3rd Party
 - v - 3rd Party Property
 - Comprehensive Car Insurance
- Legalities
- Fraud in relation to claims & false evidence.
- Vehicle modifications and the implications for insurance
- Licensing, registration and drink driving and their implications on insurance



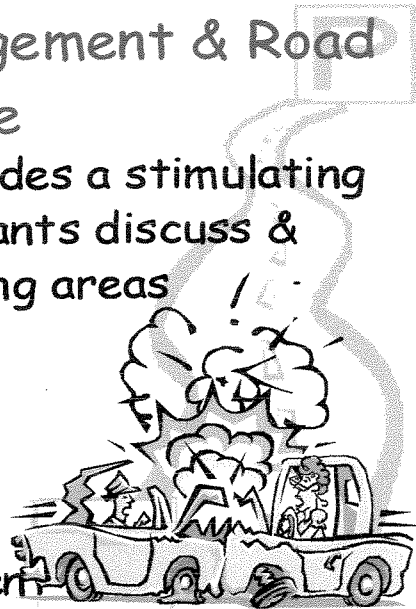
The Sessions—Stress Management & Road Rage



Stress Management & Road Rage

Ros Wells-Davies provides a stimulating session where participants discuss & brainstorm the following areas

- Road rage
- Intimidation
- Peer Pressure
- Risk Taking
- Stress Management



At the conclusion of the session participants practice deep breathing and calming techniques to develop skills in the area of anger management.



The Sessions—Road Safety

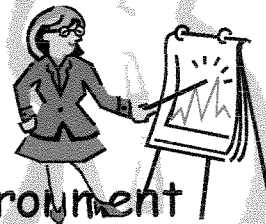


STATS & FACTS



Road Safety Officer provides information on

- Young driver stats
- Behavioural issues
- Human, vehicle & environment crash factors
- Cost of crashes



Young people are amazed to learn that most fatal crashes have a human factor as a resultant cause and that only a few actually are associated with poor roads or vehicle faults

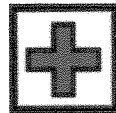
They are also amazed to discover that locals are involved in over 73% of all crashes that result in a serious casualty or fatality in our area.

Discussions in the areas of cost of crashes, safety improvements to vehicles and road environments are stimulating





Weekend Sessions — Senior First Aid Course



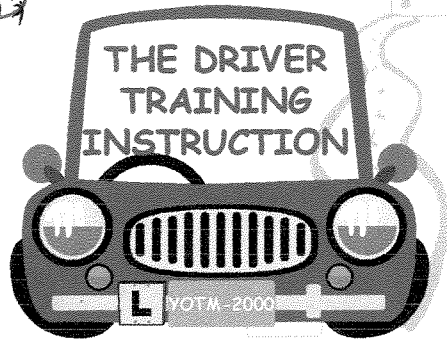
Full Senior First Aid
Course conducted over 2
full days on a weekend



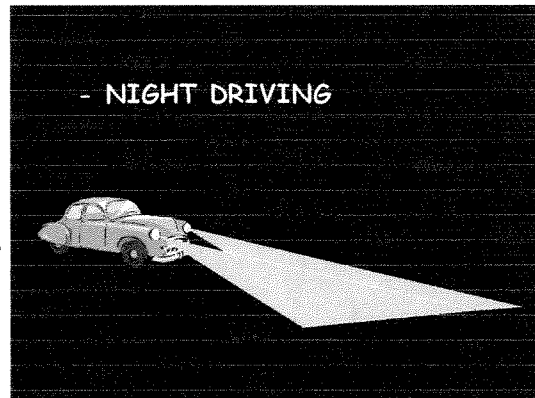
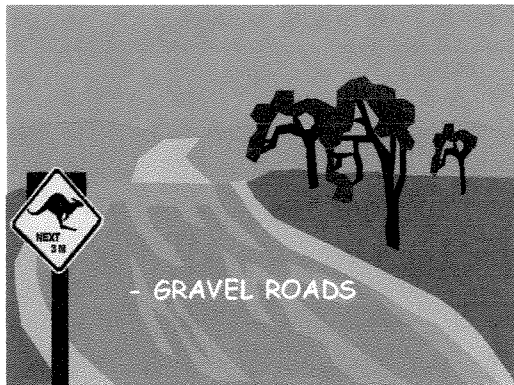
Provides assistance in regard to

- first on the scene of crash
- Independence lifestyle needs in the area of first aid
- employment opportunities





Learn to travel on Gravel

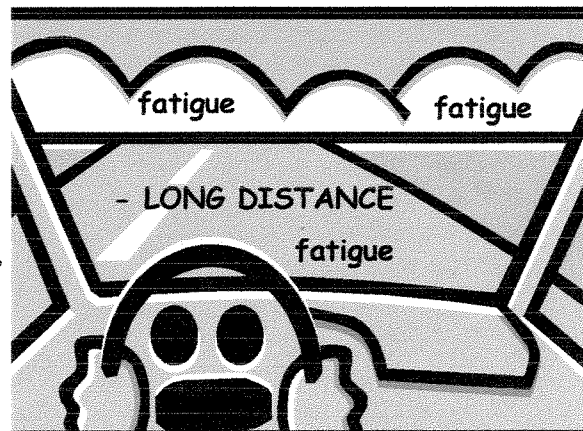


The hazards at night



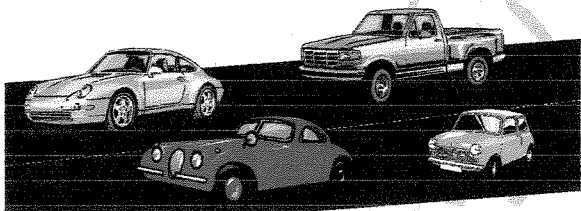
Wet and slippery conditions

Managing fatigue



- MULTI LANED

Merging on highways and freeway driving



The Media



Young people successfully complete first Youth on the Move program

"The Youth on the Move program is a first for the Hunter and the youth of Gosport City are leading the way through their participation and successful completion of the course," said Mayor of Gosport, Cr. Merv Fyne.

Cr. Fyne was speaking at a function held last week to present certificates to successful young people from the Gosport and Harristown areas who completed the initial Youth on the Move course.

He said that Gosport's youth should be immensely proud to be involved in this initiative which is also the first of its kind in the State.

"It was pleasing to see the pride expressed by the young people at being the first to make a change to the perception that young

drivers do not care about road safety. Everyone I have spoken to have been extremely impressed with the commitment and participation shown by Gosport's youth in the area of road safety."

Gosport City Council became involved in road safety for young drivers when three young people lost their lives in a car accident.

Through this tragedy a road safety committee was formed. That committee was active in raising the profile of road safety in the community, as well as encouraging the State Government to take a more active role.

After this the community became involved. The Gosportians, JFFC, together with Harristown Centre, Gosport Youth Centre and the community road safety officer developed an effective program

known as Youth on the Move. Young drivers and the issues surrounding their driving has been a problem that the community and Gosport Council has wanted safely addressed.

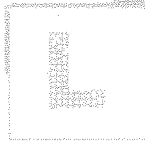
The program provides the necessary education that young drivers not only develop better practical driving skills, but refer attitudes towards driving.

This education will be a benefit to the community in the reduction of road trauma.

The Mayor Merv Fyne and Council is continuing to support the program and would like to thank Gosportians, JFFC, Institute of Municipal Engineers of Australia and the Hunter Area Assistance Scheme for their previous funding support as well as all recovery and business groups that are involved.



Mayor Cr. Fyne praised the Youth on the Move program.



Media is invaluable in promoting the program. Past participants are stalwarts in promoting the program.

Photo opportunities are valuable for promotion either during the sessions or at a presentation ceremony for successful participants.





The Benefits

To the young driver:-

- Better educated in the area of Road Safety
- More aware of hazard perception and crash avoidance.
- Attainment of a Provisional Driving Licence.
- Completion of a First Aid Certificate.

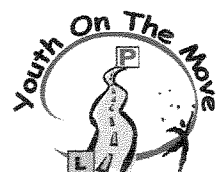
Benefits to the Community:-

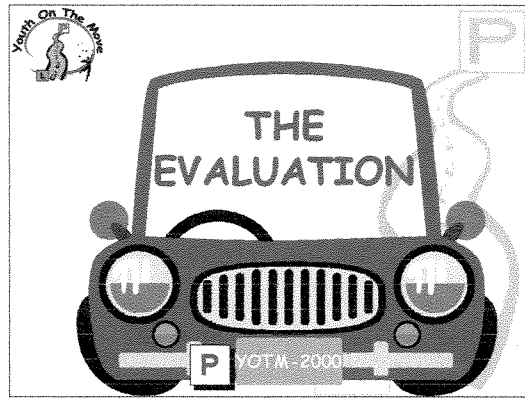
- * Safer drivers
- * Less trauma and cost
- * More employable youth
- * Less road rage

These benefits are reflected in other ways as well, such as—Safer community

- Less risk taking
- Less road trauma/community trauma

These benefits also increase the potential for successful participants to find suitable employment and/or training because of the added credentials of a first aid certificate and driver's licence.





Newcastle University Behavioural Science Department conducted research and found:

- Less risk taking among participants compared to control group.
- increased awareness of hazard perception
- showed lasting benefits in the areas of alcohol education and crash consequences.

The evaluation showed significant improvements in attitudes of the participants of the *Youth On The Move*. It also showed they had lasting benefits in the areas of alcohol education and crash consequences.





FUNDING

Over the past 7 years Youth On The Move has had the financial support of the following organisations:-

Cessnock City Council

Hunter Area Assistance Scheme

Institute of Public Works Engineers

Australia (IPWEA)

Samaritans JPET



Youth On The Move program has solid credibility as an effective program to improve safety attitudes and reduce risk taking behaviour among young drivers.

Promotion of Youth On The Move is effortless with graduates themselves great stalwarts in promoting the course throughout our community.

