

**Submission
No 1**

INQUIRY INTO YOUNG DRIVER SAFETY AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Name: Ms Zsuzsanna Handelsmann

Date Received: 10/10/2007

"Zsuzsanna Handelsmann" 10/10/2007 11:31 am

Dear Mr Nordin

Thank you for your time this morning. As explained to you I am a councillor at the Oberon Council but this is a private submission in my name only.

Until January this year the Oberon Council had a Road Safety Officer (RSO) that we shared with Blayney and Bathurst. The costs were halved 50:50 between RTA and the participating councils. Prior to abandoning the program the Oberon Council paid \$10,810 for its share of the RSO program.

In my opinion it was a grave mistake to finish with the RSO as we experience massive problems of road accidents, drivers' behaviour, and drink driving in the area. The argument against the RSO was that road safety was not a local government issue but was a state responsibility. Please refer to my email below that I sent to my councillor colleagues on this subject.

Our RSO was diligent and committed and in an other email I will send a copy to you of her last monthly report. I believe that this program should be reinstated as it focussed on education and young people. In my involvement with the local traffic committee I have often met the police who thought that the RSO program was very worthwhile and should have been supported.

So my recommendation is to enhance local programs like this and ensure their viability by allocating resources and free them from the awful wrangling between various levels of governments. I also would like to add that road safety was mentioned as one of the most important community needs in the recently adopted "Social/Community Plan 2006 - 2010".

It's worth adding that the RSO program was not thrown out because of lack of funds. On the contrary, according to a recent audit by the Department of Local Government the Oberon Council needs to spend a bit more. The decision had to do with the old fashioned outlook that the Council's service provision should not go beyond roads, rates & rubbish.

Our council is slow to take up the new vision of local government as outlined by Prof. Percy Allan (*Local Government Financial Sustainability Inquiry, 2006*) and pushed by the planned local government reform.

Yours sincerely
Zsuzsanna Handelsmann

----- Original Message -----

From: "Zsuzsanna Handelsmann"

To: "Cr. Margaret Grady"; "Cr. Keith Sullivan"; "Cr. Don Fitzpatrick", "Cr. Bob Hooper", "Cr. Bill Dawson", "Cr Ron Bailey".

Sent: Saturday, 09 December 2006 20:12

Subject: Road Safety Officer

Dear Councillors

In item b3 of the Staff Report for the meeting of 12/12/06 Ian Tucker recommends to proceed with the cancellation of the Road Safety Officer (RSO) from 31/12/06.

This seems to me ignoring the media reports of terrible accidents happening far too often on our roads involving very young people. The attached articles reflect some of the local views on this subject. Ian Tucker's objection is a "philosophical one" (his term) as he believes road safety should belong to the State and not to Local Government. The prevailing political reality is that RDO-s are party paid by the Councils so to me this is not a good enough reason for abandoning the large scale education program our RSO is coordinating as per attachment b3.

The two police officers I met while attending the Traffic Committee have confirmed that Oberon has big problems regarding driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs and they both thought it to be a shame to stop the RSO program.

Recently the Oberon Council has been hearing more about community welfare issues by working on the social plan. Educating and potentially saving the young is very much a community concern and I would like to see a cause more worthy than working towards preventing fatalities and injuries on the roads.

Kind regards

Zsuzsanna Handelsmann

CC: copies to Cr McMahon & McCarthy

16/11/06

Oberon Review

Thursday, November 16, 2006

7

YOUR THOUGHTS

Do you think it's important for young people to be educated about driving safely?

"Yes, you get more awareness of how to behave on the road, and it is important to know what happens when you get into dangerous situations."

- Aaron Nicoll, Oberon



"With all the recent accidents that have happened it's important that teenagers know what to do on the road."

- Daniel Swan, Oberon



"It's important for young adults to understand how to act on the road and to know what to do and what not to do."

- Alicia Sterling, Oberon



"I think the RYDA program benefits drivers like me - it makes us aware of the consequences of crashing and helps us to avoid it."

- Chris Cole, Oberon



Drives awareness program - Mt Panorama
in conjunction with RSO

Paid by Oberon Rotary → 32 students
participated

23/11/06 Oberon Review

letters/news

THANKS ROTARY

Ed.

On Thursday 16th November, year 11 students from Oberon High School had the privilege of attending a driver awareness program held at Mount Panorama in Bathurst.

Being young drivers ourselves we learnt that there are many useful skills we can use to help us avoid car accidents. What was particularly well presented and relevant was a mother's emotional story about how her daughter, a P-plate driver, became a quadriplegic after a car accident. The car accident was the fault of noone but it got the message across that accidents can happen and you should not assume that you could control a car under all circumstances. It also highlighted the fact that this can happen to anyone even when you are not doing the wrong thing.

Hopefully the skills we learnt on the day will help prevent fatalities on our roads and keep young drivers safe. Being a small country school the chances are that it may be one of our friends who could be killed on our roads. Young drivers need support to become better drivers and we would like to see more of these programs running in country areas, where many young drivers are killed or injured.

All of Year 11 from Oberon High School would also like to thank the Oberon Rotary Club for giving us the opportunity to attend such an invaluable program and only hope that students next year will have the opportunity to do the same.

Ashleigh Gilmore (Oberon High
School Captain)
Belinda Livingston



DON'T PLACE YOURSELF AT RISK: Young drivers learned safe driving techniques at Mount Panorama this week as part of the Rotary Youth Driver Awareness program. Here, Senior Constable Mick Sheppard demonstrates reaction and stopping times at different speeds. Photo: CHRIS SEABROOK

1113cryde6

Drivers told: rethink high risk behaviour

By JACINTA CARROLL

AS the temperature rises, so do the risks for young drivers on our roads.

A startling new survey by the NRMA found teenage drivers were at an even greater risk of serious injury or death on the road once the festive season begins.

In the survey, young drivers admitted to speeding, drink-driving, travelling with unlicensed drivers, crowding into cars and even riding in car boots.

Tablelands road safety officer Iris Dorsett said younger drivers needed to rethink these high risk behaviours, especially ahead of the end of school and university celebrations.

Ms Dorsett called on young people to speak up if they felt uncomfortable with the way someone was driving.

"Basically don't put yourself at risk," she said.

"If you feel at risk, speak up and

remove yourself from danger. If you think the driver is going too fast, ask them to slow down. If you think someone has been drinking or taking drugs, don't get in the car with them."

Ms Dorsett said that once individuals had removed themselves from risk, they should try to eliminate the risk for other people.

"Be a friend and tell the person not to drive [if they have been drinking or taking drugs]. Go that extra step to remove the risk to them," she said.

Ms Dorsett said young people who were out celebrating should take extra steps to ensure their own safety.

"Use public transport or get a taxi if you're going out, or get a lift from a responsible person," she said.

"Let people know where you are and take a mobile phone. If you have been drinking don't drive and if a friend is over the limit, take preventative measures and don't let them drive."

Survey findings

SOME of the key findings of the survey, conducted last month, were:

- 31 per cent of 16 to 24-year-olds admitted they had travelled with a driver they believed was over the legal blood alcohol limit.
- 21 per cent said they had driven while over the blood alcohol limit.
- 70 per cent of young drivers admitted to driving over the speed limit.
- 29 per cent said they had travelled in a car with an unlicensed or disqualified driver.
- 67 per cent had travelled in a car without enough seatbelts for all passengers.
- 14 per cent had ridden in a boot at some time.

"Zsuzsanna Handelsmann" 10/10/2007 11:34 am

To be read in conjunction with my previous email.

Dear Mr Nordin

I have enclosed here copies of the Road Safety Officer's monthly report for November 2006 that formed part of the business papers discussed at the Ordinary Meeting on 12/12/2006. The other attachment is the works's manager report who recommended to the Oberon Council to cancel the program.

Kind regards
Zsuzsanna Handelsmann

Attachment B3A (3 pages)

OLD MEETING
12/12/2006Monthly Report for
Local Government Road Safety Program

MONTH	November 2006
PROGRAMS	
COMPLETED SINCE LAST REPORT	<p>FRIDAY FILL UP - This 26 week project is now completed. Road safety messages and advice on penalties were delivered via the radio and calls have been received from listeners who wanted more advice. It obviously had an impact on listeners and generated discussion re road safety issues. An evaluation is currently being undertaken and this will be followed by a final report.</p> <p>RYDA - Tablelands Area Road Safety Program recently hosted RYDA in Bathurst. The event ran from Monday 13th Nov to Thursday 16th Nov at Mount Panorama. All year 11 students from the Tablelands Area were invited to attend. Some 480 students from McKillop, Scotts, Blayney, Bathurst, Kelso, All Saints and Oberon attend the program. Sessions presented included: crash survivor, hazard perception, stopping distances, safe celebrating, the real cost of owing wheels and police. A launch was held Monday 13th with Bathurst's Mayor Norm Mann officially opening the event. The launch was attended by some 60 guests and received excellent media coverage. The entire program was subject to promotional publicity in the lead up to, during and following the event. Very positive feedback has been received from all schools that participated, students, parents of students and other interested parties and media. Presenters were very pleased with the organisation of the program and were delighted with the venue. Two weeks after the event it is still receiving some media coverage and remains quite topical. It is intended to make this an annual event.</p>
CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS (Note program, status and activities that month)	<p>BRAKING HABITS - This project is due to run October 2006 till January 2007. This project kicked off on Tuesday October 3rd with press releases and radio interviews. The Braking Habits RTA booklet set up in a pouch with lanyard and a survey has been distributed to all motorcycle shops in Bathurst.</p> <p>Fifty five motorcycles formed a procession as they departed Bathurst Sunday, 5th November on an en masse ride to Molong - via Newbridge, Blayney Millthorpe, Orange and Euchareena.</p> <p>Motorcyclists from the Bathurst, Blayney, and Oberon regions and from surrounding districts participated in the Meet you in Molong ride to promote Motorcycle Awareness Week and to be part of the safer motorcycling campaign 'Braking Habits'. On the day, all participants from Bathurst assisted in a survey. Riders were asked to nominate what they saw as their main road safety issue. According to the data collected the number one issue was not being seen by other drivers. This survey confirms that motorcyclists are very aware that they are not always visible to drivers of road vehicles. Riders are so aware of this fact that they actually make adjustments, calculations and compensations in their own driving techniques to help reduce their risk of involvement in incidents. It also highlights that there is a need for an awareness campaign that alerts car and truck drivers to the fact that they share the road with these riders and to remind them to</p>

	<p>be aware of possible motorcyclists presence. Sundays ride was attended by various clubs but was also open to anyone who wanted to participate. Big rides like this and being seen in public as a large group certainly raised the profile of motorcyclists on the roads.</p> <p>GATEWAY PROJECT – The next stage of this project will be conducted in December. On Friday 1st Dec an EEP briefing meeting will be held at Lithgow. The following week Friday 8th till Sunday 10th the final stage of the EEP will be conducted. This will be followed by a debriefing on Friday 15th Dec. venue to be confirmed. An extensive evaluation will then occur prior to a final report being prepared.</p> <p>KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE – This joint project with Reliance Credit Union (RCU) is going very strong.</p>
<p>DUE TO START WITHIN NEXT THREE MONTHS (Note program name, stage it is at and note if received final approved by RTA)</p>	<p>GATEWAY PROJECT – continuing as per action plan.</p> <p>GO 40 FOR ME! – is due to commence in February 07 when the new school year begins, but lead up work is well underway.</p> <p>DRINKSAFE - DRIVESAFE – currently working with GWAHS to implement this program.</p>
<p>ACTION PLAN STATUS Note compliance or explain any delays/changes to planned target dates</p>	<p>All programs running according to plan.</p>
<p>OTHER ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>MASTERFOODS – as part of their OH&S program, Masterfoods are conducting various activities incorporating road safety. I fielded a call from Masterfoods rep Michael Stapley who requested my assistance. I have been able to supply various resources for their use. Matserfoods will be conducting a family day at Tyres Park on Sunday, 3rd December where there will be numerous road safety displays, and road safety resources will be available for staff members and their families. Michael also plans to make road safety advice and messages available to his staff in the lead up to and during the Christmas festive season. Michael and I will get together after the events (early in the new year) for an evaluation of the process.</p>
<p>MEDIA COVERAGE</p>	<p>1st – 24st Nov Friday Fill Up - daily promos and talk ups - main event every Friday</p> <p>1st Nov – Radio 2BS Braking Habits interview re bike ride</p> <p>2nd Nov – Blayney Chronicle – edit road safety</p> <p>3rd Nov – Western Advocate edit Braking Habits</p> <p>3rd Nov – Radio 2BS Braking Habits interview re bike ride</p> <p>4th Nov – Radio 2BS Braking Habits interview re bike ride</p> <p>6th Nov – Radio 2BS Braking Habits interview and report in bike ride</p> <p>6th Nov – Radio 2BS interview re RYDA</p> <p>13th Nov –2BS/B'Rock/2LT/Star FM/ABC Radio/ Western Advocate/Blayney Chronicle/ Oberon Review/Central Western Daily/Prime TV/Win TV/Southern Cross TV – RYDA Launch</p> <p>14th Nov – Western Advocate RYDA x 4 edits</p> <p>14th Nov – Radio 2BS interview RYDA</p> <p>15th Nov – Radio 2BS interview RYDA</p>

	<p>16th Nov – Radio 2BS interview RYDA</p> <p>16th Nov – Radio 2BS interview re RYDA</p> <p>18th Nov – Western Advocate RYDA</p> <p>20th Nov – Radio 2BS interview RYDA</p> <p>23rd Nov – Oberon review RYDA</p> <p>28th Nov – Western Advocate RYDA</p>
LEAVE TAKEN	<p>17th Nov – RDO (was due on 18/8)</p> <p>23rd Nov – RDO (was due 8/9)</p> <p>24th Nov – RDO (was due 29/9)</p>
MEETINGS ATTENDED	<p>1st Nov – Blayney Liquor Accord</p> <p>1st Nov - Barry Board re Braking Habits</p> <p>2nd Nov – Lesley Atkinson and Tony Rudd re Bathurst Access Committee</p> <p>5th Nov – Braking Habits bike ride</p> <p>6th Nov – Greg Madden and Wayne Sartori re RYDA</p> <p>7th Nov – Melbourne Cup Breakfast Bathurst RSL</p> <p>7th Nov – Regional Transport Working Group</p> <p>7th Nov – Bathurst Regional Council Traffic Committee Meeting</p> <p>7th Nov – Sgt Peter Hoskings re RYDA</p> <p>8th Nov – Bathurst McDonalds re sponsorship RYDA</p> <p>13th- 16th Nov – RYDA</p> <p>14th Nov – Janeen Gary Kidsafe NSW</p> <p>14th Nov – Michael Stapley Masterfoods</p> <p>16th Nov – Grant Hanrahan Bathurst High School re RYDA</p> <p>20th Nov – Bathurst Access Committee</p> <p>21st Nov – Angela Maynard re Youth Transport</p> <p>27th Nov – Michael Stapley Masterfoods</p> <p>29th Nov – Carol Dobson TAFE</p> <p>29th Nov – Amy Browne Bathurst Broadcasters re new project ideas</p> <p>30th Nov – Lisa Robinson Bathurst Broadcasters re Holiday Road Safety campaign</p>
TRAINING & CONFERENCES	<p>During this last week of November I have been able to complete and present all units required for a TAFE Cert IV Business Admin. This was a 12 month course, however in a 4 month period I have completed 14 modules (only 10 required) to concluded the course early. Results should be available early January.</p>
ISSUES OR COMMENTS	

Copy for:

RTA Western Region

check

Council Supervisor

check

~~Recommendation~~

~~That the special clauses dealing with "subdivision" and "additional dwellings" as proposed be included in the review of the Oberon Local Environmental Plan 1998 and the Oberon Local Environmental Plan 1998 (Amendment No. 4) (Interim Local Environmental Plan for Burruga and Mount David areas).~~

B1. ROAD SAFETY OFFICER
Staff Report to the 14 March 2006 Ordinary Meeting
File No. E31.15.4
Prepared by Ian Tucker on 23 February 2006

For a number of years Oberon Council has participated in the Road Safety Officer Program. This Officer is employed to develop and conduct a variety of road safety campaigns, concentrating primarily on influencing driver behaviour.

Originally, Oberon combined with Bathurst, Evans, Blayney and Rylstone Councils to employ the Officer. Half the salary plus project costs are paid by the Roads and Traffic Authority, with the other half salary shared among the Councils.

Following amalgamations, Oberon now shares the Officer with Bathurst and Blayney Councils. The position is administered and supervised by Bathurst Council, and works from their office.

The cost to Oberon Council in 2004/05 was \$10,810.

The current RSO is on a contract which expires late in 2006. However she is currently on maternity leave, with her replacement employed until mid-2006, likely to be extended until later in the year.

Also the Roads and Traffic Authority wishes to enter into a new agreement with the Councils concerned. While this will not affect the funding split, Bathurst Council has some concerns about the requirements it will place on them relating to supervision, etc.

It is therefore an opportune time for all Councils to review whether they wish to continue in the program.

Council originally agreed to participate due largely to a strong indication from the then Roads Minister that he may look more favourably on funding requests from Councils with an RSO. Ministers have changed since then, and there is no indication that this is still the case.

This is Page No. 36 of the Staff Report as presented to the duly convened Ordinary Meeting of The Oberon Council to be held at the Council Chambers, Oberon on Tuesday, 14 March 2006.

General Manager

Mayor

ATTACHMENT
B3B
(2 pages)

OLD MEETING
12/12/2006

OBERON COUNCIL

Over the years the RSO has developed many campaigns, such as:

- Speed trailers
- 'One Hit – That's It' signs
- Buckle Up signs
- Brock Bus at Mt Panorama
- Young driver education
- plus many others.

The Roads and Traffic Authority is now encouraging RSO's to become more involved in policy areas, such as working with companies on measures to improve their staff safety (related to driving). Over time, the campaigns may be less obvious and visible to Council and the public.

A Roads and Traffic Authority representative, Ms Monica Lea, will attend the Council meeting to present the Roads and Traffic Authority's perspective on why it believes Council should remain in the program.

Recommendation

That Council give notice to the Roads and Traffic Authority and to Bathurst Regional and Blayney Councils that it will withdraw from the Tablelands Area Road Safety Program from 1 January 2007.

B2. EXPENSES OF COUNCILLORS AND THE GENERAL MANAGER
Staff Report to the 14 March 2006 Ordinary Meeting
File No. A1.2.3
Prepared by John Chapman on 1 March 2006

Expenses of Councillors and the General Manager paid during the month of February were as follows:

<u>INCURRED BY</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>	<u>\$Amount</u>
General Manager	Refreshments for meetings	\$ 74.98
	Annual charge for credit card	\$ 40.00
Councillor Hooper	Travel one meeting	\$ 31.00

This is Page No. 37 of the Staff Report as presented to the duly convened Ordinary Meeting of The Oberon Council to be held at the Council Chambers, Oberon on Tuesday, 14 March 2006.

General Manager

Mayor