With the extension of the L2P program for another 3 years to 30 June 2015, VicRoads and TAC felt it was appropriate to recognize the great work programs do to improve road safety, social and economic outcomes for disadvantaged young people.

Nominations were invited from all L2P programs to demonstrate best practice approaches to delivery of the L2P - learner driver mentor program. The Baw Baw, Geelong, Mildura, Casey, Moreland, South Gippsland and Shepparton programs were short listed as finalists.

VicRoads and TAC presented the L2P Awards on day two of the Victorian Community Road Safety Partnership Program Conference. Geelong was the deserving winner of excellence award, with Mildura and Baw Baw the very worthy runners up in a tight field.

Congratulations to all award entrants for a job well done.
Plenary Session: Showcasing examples of community road safety programs—The good, the bad and the ugly

Vicki Coltman, Lead On Ballarat, Denise Sibenaler, Salvation Army

Beth Carr, Baw Baw Volunteerism - how to get people involved

Chris Freethy, VicRoads Extending driver licensing reach to disadvantaged Communities

On the second day of the conference we came together to discuss a range of program issues, and Michael Light from Banyule also presented his online booking scheduler

### The Ballarat Experience: Testing Times

**The Hazard Perception Test:** is available in many languages, so one learner was able to complete her test in Arabic. However **it is extremely important** that you request the test be given in a particular language at the front counter on arrival, for after the VicRoads officers check identity documents etc they load the test up in English. If you do not ask for the test in language up front VicRoads has to cancel the test, remove data from the system and re-set the test in the new language. The learner sat in the test room for around 15 minutes whilst this process took place. Three VicRoads officers were involved in the re-setting process.

So the message here is “Ensure you ask for HPT to be given in a requested language at the time of checking in”.

**On Line Practice:** the following link is a great resource in helping learners understand Road Rules and give an insight into Hazard Perception. Learners comment that many of the questions asked in the test can be learnt by practicing on line through the VicRoads website. Why not have a go yourself and see how you do? [http://www.learntest.vicroads.vic.gov.au/drive-iq-3d.html](http://www.learntest.vicroads.vic.gov.au/drive-iq-3d.html) There are two tests on this link, 3D and multiple choice.

#### Child Restraints and L2P Program Cars

Learners with a child will take their child with them once they have a driver licence. VicRoads recommends that taking a child on supervised driving sessions should be managed carefully on a case by case basis, with due consideration of duty of care and liability issues. If proposing to take a child on sessions, the mentor should be in full agreement and the learner should be in late stage 3 or stage 4 of driving. Please consult the Four Stages of Driving model the L2P program follows.

By law all people travelling in a motor vehicle must travel in a properly adjusted and fastened restraint. The type of restraint will depend on your child's size. To protect your child in a crash:

- the restraint must be the right size for the child
- the restraint must be properly adjusted and fastened
- the restraint must be correctly fitted to the vehicle


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More testing times: Drive test vehicles

When the Campaspe Shire’s L2P program vehicle was recently presented for a drive test at the VicRoads Echuca office VicRoads staff indicated they could not read the speedometer from the front passenger seat, rendering the vehicle ineligible for use in the drive test.

L2P Coordinators should keep in mind the requirements listed below when sourcing a new program vehicle if they intend to use the vehicle for drive tests. The local VicRoads CSC Office Manager is happy to inspect a potential vehicle prior to purchase if the vehicle is presented to the CSC for review.

Drive test vehicle - minimum requirements: Any vehicle used for a driving test must be suitable for testing purposes, as follows:

1. Roadworthy: It is not necessary to produce a road worthy certificate but a cursory glance at wheels, tyres, lights, windscreen/window tinting and general construction should not reveal obvious defects. If the indicator lenses are broken they may be covered with the appropriate coloured plastic/cellophane as a temporary measure, providing time permits.

2. The vehicle must be fitted with both driver and passenger side mirrors.

3. The vehicle must be fitted with a windscreen demister and a functioning rear window demister (where fitted).

4. Be currently registered, either locally or interstate.

5. Have a clean seat and floor area for the testing officer. Any items left on the testing officer’s seat or in the floor area must be removed by the applicant prior to the tester entering the vehicle.

6. Be representative of a normal manual configuration for a manual licence to be issued.

7. Where a test is conducted in a vehicle without a manually operated clutch, the licence issued will be restricted to driving automatic vehicles.

8. Fitted with a working primary speedometer (as fitted by the vehicle manufacturer). The speedometer must be easily visible to the testing officer from the front and rear passenger seat. A supplementary display unit, excluding one that is GPS based, can be used. Note. If for visibility purposes a supplementary display unit (e.g. supplementary speedometer, camera, etc) is used, it must replicate the exact speed of the primary speedometer at all times. Supplementary display units, other than a camera (like a video camera), will require verification in writing (letter) from either the manufacturer, distributor or installer that the supplementary display unit replicates the exact speed of the primary speedometer at all times. The applicant must supply the tester with the required evidence (letter or car manual); the tester is not required to verify that the setup is valid.

8. If the vehicle has a supplementary display unit fitted by the vehicle manufacturer, evidence that it replicates the exact speed should be noted in the car manual. If it is not specified in the car manual a verification letter is required. Any supplementary display unit and associated parts (wiring etc) must be fitted to ensure that the safety of all occupants and other road users is not compromised. Note: Units installed after 31 October 2010 will need to comply with the above requirements. Units fitted before 31 October 2010 will need to comply with the above requirements by 31 March 2011.

9. Have a seat belt for all occupants.

10. Have a centrally mounted handbrake accessible by the person in the front passenger seat. Vehicles fitted with electric park brakes and vehicles fitted with foot operated handbrakes cannot be used for solo drive tests. In a dual control vehicle an accessible centrally mounted handbrake is not required if the instructor is in the front passenger seat.

11. Be able to maintain a comfortable temperature only if relevant to the weather conditions.

12. Be capable of having the headlights (low beam) turned on during the test.

13. Have doors that open from the inside.

14. Have L plates fitted only if applicant holds a learner permit.

15. Dual control vehicles: Where dual controls are fitted, the vehicle must have: working electronic buzzers fitted, or ‘dual control pedal covers’. The pedal covers must be constructed of a material that is clear and easily breakable enabling the dual controls to be activated quickly if required. Where dual controls are fitted with an LED (light) and buzzer, the LED does not have to be operational for the test.

16. Any speed warning device and cruise control must be turned off during the test.

17. Parking sensors and reverse cameras may be left on during the test.

18. Navigators/GPS units should be turned off during the test.

A popular learner driver mentor program, the Geelong L2P Program, was awarded the L2P Excellence Award at the Victorian Community Road Safety Partnership Program Conference in Melbourne.

The Transport Accident Commission and VicRoads presented the highly regarded award in joint partnership, honouring the Geelong L2P Program for its best practice approach and delivery. The TAC funded, VicRoads managed, L2P learner driver mentor program assists learner drivers under 21 years of age who do not have access to a supervising driver or vehicle to gain the driving experience required to apply for a probationary licence.

City of Greater Geelong CEO Stephen Griffin said he was thrilled the L2P Excellence Award was given to the Geelong program.

“I am pleased the Geelong L2P Program has been recognised as it helps many young learners in our community who may not have otherwise had the chance to gain experience on the road,” he said. “For many young people, getting your P plates is a rite of passage that brings a sense of freedom and independence, and this type of program certainly makes a big difference to a young person’s life.”

Since the program’s inception, over 100 mentors have completed training and 110 young people have been provided with supervised driving practice.

The learners have participated in over 2600 driving sessions, logging over 4400 hours of driving practice experience over 123,000 kilometres. So far, 30 learner drivers have been successful in gaining their P plates through the program, with the number expected to rise as a result of the award.

Source: LG Focus (Aus) Pty. Ltd.

Between 2007 and 2011, there were 389 fatal crashes and 7,837 serious injury crashes involving young drivers resulting in 453 fatalities (188 young drivers and 265 other road users) and 10,170 serious injuries (3,885 young drivers and 6,285 other road users). This equates to young drivers being involved in 30 per cent of all fatalities and 32 percent of all serious injuries during this period.

Of the 93 young driver fatalities in the metropolitan Melbourne area:
- Fifty-eight per cent (54) resulted from single-vehicle crashes
- Sixty-nine per cent (64) struck a fixed object.
- Twenty per cent (19) occurred on a Sunday.
- Sixty-seven per cent (62) occurred at night-time.
- Twenty-four per cent (22) occurred between the hours of 11pm and 2am.

Of the 95 young driver fatalities in country Victoria:
- Seventy-one per cent (67) resulted from single-vehicle crashes
- Twenty-nine per cent (28) occurred on a Sunday.
- Forty-nine per cent (47) occurred at night-time.
- Twenty-six per cent (25) were not wearing a seatbelt.

Of the 2,659 young driver serious injuries in the metropolitan Melbourne area:
- Sixty-two per cent (1,647) resulted from multi-vehicle crashes
- Forty-seven per cent (1,261) occurred at night-time.

Of the 1,226 young driver serious injuries in country Victoria:
- Sixty-two per cent (766) resulted from single-vehicle crashes
- Forty-one per cent (506) occurred at night-time.
- Twenty-one per cent (39) were not wearing a seatbelt.

So if you know a young driver who is currently on their L plates or a young P plater, please help spread the word! Visit mylivetribe.com.au or call 1800 454 133 for further information.
Documentary of note

I’ll call Australia home (2008, 54 Minutes) is a documentary focusing on the experience of refugee families migrating to and settling in Australia.

If interested, you can obtain the film from the National Film and Sound Archive via the internet: http://nfsa.gov.au/collection/film-australia-collection/program-sales/search-programs/program/?sn=9193

Pricing varies depending on the purchasing organization – not for profit / School or TAFE / government department.

Let’s get together maybe? (a note from Beth to her Mentors)

Dear Mentors, it has come to my attention that times have changed......
No conductors on trams- now there's that blasted myki
No pounds, shilling or pence - now it's decimal currency
Joan Baez has been overtaken by Pink
No more meetings for Mentors at Beth's house - more wonderful Mentors and not enough space at #17.So...here's the thing...
Some of you Mentors don't know each other. "I see people in the street wearing my L2P shirt and I don't know them".
You didn't all do the training at the same time.
You haven't all been able to come to our evening extra sessions.
I respect your privacy. But perhaps you could send me a sentence or 2 about yourself, that could be shared??
What about having a coffee and cake night? Lemon meringue pie do? or Jelly slice? or strawbs and chocolate Robert????
Just so you can look at one another and maybe recognise how wonderful you all are.
Please let me know what you think about the idea of a casual hour at Community House some time soon before Christmas??
Regards Beth

How’s this for a lesson?

Driving Instructor on the way to collect a new 17 year old Learner for his keys2drive lesson.
Coordinator in the car too, as the Learner's father not eligible to accompany him at this time - due to loss of licence. Police see us and wave us on but Coordinator insists on chatting. Confirm that police will be continuing this roadblock for 15 minutes more.
Learner collected, lesson commences but in left & right turns comes upon...surprise!!...the road block.
“Goodness” says Coordinator. ”Gosh” says Instructor.
Learner pulled over, breathalysed and off we go. Learner's eyes huge!
Program Ponderings

Second car a boost

The L2P program will be able to expand to South Australia purchased a second car.

The program where young learner drivers f the L2P heaps of driving experience required for a probationary license by motoring them with a volunteer supervising drivers.

The program is a state-wide initiative funded through the TAC and managed by Voluntears.

L2P project coordinator Liz Smith said the sponsorship from the Moonee Valley Bowling Club had assisted the growth of the program.

She said a second vehicle was critical to ensuring the program could be offered to all young learner drivers within Campbelltown.

Since the program started in 2010, there has only been one vehicle, 07/2010.

But due to the high demand, Mr Smith had been looking outside the Murrumbeena area to help the growth of the program.

“The only way to obtain a second car was through community sponsorship and TAC funding does not include money for a vehicle,” she said.

Mr Smith said 90 young drivers were taking part in the program and 10 more were on a waiting list.

When asked if drivers had gained their licence through the program so far,

“Those drivers on the waiting list are mostly from the Wonderland area, vehicles will now be stationed,” she said.

--- Kathleen Tomlin

Rumour file:
Rumour is Fact - your reports are due now!!!!!

Road rage - How would you manage this?

- Mentor & Learner out in blue Barina Spark, almost at a roundabout near Harvey Norman.

- Spark stalls, Learner encouraged to just start it again, big 4WD starts backing out of parking spot, Learner toots to warn the person there’s a car behind him, then guess what??

- Man gets out of car and it’s on! Yelled at Learner and Mentor, carried on a bit. Learner in tears, Mentor not far behind.

- They manage to get further up and pull over near the Library. 4WD man pulls up behind them. It’s on again!

- Mentor shows man her beautiful green fingernails in a backward gesture, he says he’s got an issue with the Mentor and that he’ll be ringing the car sponsor to report this.

- Mentor rings 000… and the Coordinator.

- Result - Hugs for Learner & Mentor at the police station, police to try and find the chap and explain his reaction was hasty and harsh and that the Coordinator has requested he come to Community House to discuss undertaking Mentor training.

- Just another example of road rage. So what would you do if this happened in your program?

Statewide L2P Programs Activity

Active matches at 1 October 2012 = 1554
Active Mentors at 1 October 2012 = 1,161

The average turnover of learners is 15%

Total learner drive hours from the beginning of the program to 30 September 2012 = 88,000
Total probationary licences from the beginning of the program to 30 September 2012 = 650

For each licence on average mentors spend 56 hours and instructors 4.5 hours with the learner.

Greetings from Holmesglen

Well, I cannot believe that this year has gone by so fast.

I would like to thank all the Coordinators for their help and understanding throughout 2012, I know there have been a few trying times.

Bookings for 2013 are already rolling in with the weekends in February and March just about booked out!! March is particularly difficult with 2 weekends not available due to Labour Day and Easter.

Don't forget you are able to book training further into the year and then work towards filling the training sessions. For example I already have dates booked in for July and November. This has been quite a successful strategy for a couple of regions.

Please remember VicRoads stipulates that you must have your minimum number of participants (6 Regional, 12 Metropolitan) in attendance at all three sessions. To avoid having less than required numbers and have your training cancelled, it is always better to work on minimum numbers of 8 and 14 per session. Maximum number in any training session is 21 – that is all the attendance sheet has written in.

I will be away on leave from 12 noon Friday 21 December 2012 returning to the office on Monday 14th January 2013. Renu will also be away during this time returning to the office Tuesday 15th January 2013. We will respond to any emails after that date. During this time David Powell will be available on his mobile: 0408 135 182. If you want training to be organised for January you will need to book this in prior to Dec 21.

I hope everyone has a happy and safe festive season and look forward to working with you all in 2013.

Melissa

Melissa Stevens-Haldane
L2P Coordinator Liaison / Audit Officer
Holmesglen

Unfortunately there was a crash in one of our programs recently. Happily no one was injured but that was luck rather than good management.

This serves as a timely reminder of the importance of the 4 stages of learning to drive process all L2P programs are required to use. You will need to reinforce this requirement with your mentors every time you speak with them. At no time should learners be exposed to a situation they are not experienced enough to manage safely.

If, for example, you need to go through busy traffic to get to a quiet learning environment with an inexperienced learner, the mentor should drive in the busy section/s. You need to regularly refresh the mentors on the four stages (Lessons from the Road—see next page - is one good way to do this).

Also remember to schedule a lesson with a professional instructor before the learner moves on to the next stage. All this information can be found in these booklets.

Lessons from the Road

Supervising drivers:
make it easier to supervise your learner.
Tips and videos from parents who’ve been there.

View on the VicRoads website:
vicroads.vic.gov.au/supervisors

Clusters and meeting dates

**Eastern Cluster** - Alana McCallum. Monday 11 February 2013 10:30 -1:30  
VicRoads Conference Room, 120 Kay Street, Traralgon  
Bass Coast Shire, Baw Baw City, Latrobe City, Cardinia Shire, South Gippsland Shire, Wellington/ East Gippsland Shires.

**South West Cluster** - Greg Ryan. Wednesday 20/02/2013 10.30 -1.30  
Vic Roads Ballarat  88 Learmonth Rd, Wendouree, Victoria  
Ballarat City, Greater Geelong & Surf Coast, Glenelg Shire, Warrnambool City and Moyne, Hepburn Shire, Moorabool Shire, Horsham City, Hindmarsh, West Wimmera & Yarriambiack Shires.

**North Eastern Cluster** - Greg Ryan. Thursday 7/02/2013 10.30 -1.30  
VicRoads Office Benalla 50 - 52 Clarke St Benalla  
Alpine Shire, Benalla Rural City, Indigo Shire, Mansfield Shire, Mitchell Shire , Moira Shire, Murrindindi Shire, Shepparton City, Strathbogie Shire, Towong Shire, Wangaratta City, Wodonga City.

**Metro North West Cluster** - Greg Ryan. Tuesday 19/02/2013 10.30 -1.30  
VR-Meeting Room-Level Ground-Theatrette VicRoads 60 Denmark Street Kew 3101  
Banyule City, Brimbank City, Darebin City, Hume City, Yarra City, Whittlesea Shire, Port Phillip City, Maribyrnong City, Moonee Valley City, Moreland City, Nillumbik Shire, Melton Shire.

**Metro South East Cluster** - Roopa Umesh. Tuesday 19/02/2013 10.30-1.30  
VR-Meeting Room-Level Ground-Theatrette VicRoads 60 Denmark Street Kew 3101  
Casey City, Greater Dandenong, Bayside City, Yarra Ranges Shire, DHS Eastern Region, DHS Southern Region, Stonnington City, Frankston City, Mornington Peninsula City, Manningham City, Monash City/Kingston City.

**Northern Cluster** - Greg Ryan. Wednesday 13/02/2012 10.30-2.00  
Swan Hill Club 5-17 McCallum Street Swan Hill, Victoria, 3585  
Greater Bendigo, Buloke Shire Campaspe Shire, Loddon Shire, Macedon Ranges Shire, Mildura City, Swan Hill City.

Greg, Chris & Roopa wish all the L2P programs a very Safe and Happy Festive Season.

Looking forward to catching you all in 2013 to continue the fantastic work in this great Road Safety Program.