



**Media Release**  
**Friday 8 June 2012**

## **Learner driver training offered**

The Selwyn District Council learner driver programme for secondary students, 'Leading Learners', will next be held at Ruapuna racetrack on Wednesday 4 July.

This informative hands-on driver training day is delivered by a team of driving instructors and is offered to Selwyn district secondary students who have held a learner licence for at least six months, along with a parent or caregiver.

Course creator Carolyn Bennison said the course had proven successful with learners and parents alike, because it teaches them practical skills that other programmes don't.

"Our learners find out about driving on different road surfaces, stopping distances, hazards, distraction and peer pressure – it's designed to help learners prepare for getting their restricted licence and driving alone."

Senior Sergeant John Robinson said "The one thing that I know for sure, is that the more time young people and their parents practice driving, the safer they are. The Leading Learners programme allows young people to actually practice in the car that they will be doing most of their driving in, and not just do the theory. I have seen many parents who have learnt a lot as well!

As a parent, teaching our young people to drive can be a scary process – programmes like Leading Learners do a lot to increase the confidence of parents as teachers and young people as drivers and that in my view assists to create safer drivers."

This course is heavily subsidised by the New Zealand Transport Agency and Selwyn District Council, making the cost just \$20 per learner. In order to provide a good ratio of learners per tutor, spaces on the course are limited. If you are interested, please contact Carolyn Bennison at Selwyn District Council, 347 2944, [carolyn.bennison@selwyn.govt.nz](mailto:carolyn.bennison@selwyn.govt.nz)

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