



Media release
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Workshop leads to safer driving

Selwyn's youngest drivers are being given the chance to take the wheel and practise their driving skills.

A Leading Learners workshop is being held for people on their learner's license later this month. This will allow young drivers and their parents to gain some practical tips on improving their driving skills and knowledge.

The full-day course includes a variety of activities to learn about emergency braking, driving on different road surfaces, managing distractions, low speed manoeuvres and basic vehicle maintenance. There is a combination of practical and theory based workshops but most involve being in a vehicle with the qualified instructors.

"The course will be hugely beneficial not only for young drivers, but also for their parents, as they learn about coping with peer pressure, hazards and risk awareness. The teens will also be spending time with the instructors, practising the skills they learn in a hands on way," says Selwyn District Council's Road Safety Co-ordinator Ngaire Tinning.

Over the past five years in Selwyn District young drivers aged between 15 and 24 have been involved in more than 180 crashes resulting in 11 fatalities and 61 serious injuries.

"As those crashes make up more than a third of all crashes in our District during that time period, it's important to provide opportunities for young people to improve their driving skills and knowledge from the beginning in a safe and fun environment," says Mrs Tinning.

"Parents and caregivers will also pick up on how important it is to be a good role model when driving as future young drivers may pick up on unsafe habits or techniques they observe," she adds.

In the past three years Leading Learners has been extremely popular, with more than 240 participants completing the course.

The upcoming sessions will be held on Wednesday 16 and Thursday 17 July from 9am - 4.30pm at Ruapuna Park in Templeton. For more information, including the days programme or to register, contact Ngaire on 347 2901 or email ngaire.tinning@selwyn.govt.nz.

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For more information, please contact:

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