



Media release
Wednesday 23 October 2013

Teen Coach

Are you teaching a teenager to drive? Need some advice on how to ensure they stay safe while learning and what they should know? Then Teen Coach is for you.

Teen Coach is a 90 minute workshop for parents, caregivers and mentors of teen drivers. It is facilitated by James Morrison of Aotearoa Driving Academy, who will give practical tips on how to safely coach learner drivers, enhance your knowledge of the Road Code and give you an insight about how driving instructors coach students. The course is also an opportunity to meet other parents and caregivers of teen drivers.

Two Teen Coach workshops are coming up on:

- Wednesday 30 October at 7pm at Lincoln High School, and
- Thursday 7 November at 7pm at Darfield High School

“Two Teen Coach workshops were held in March and they were very successful,” says Carolyn Bennison, Youth Road Safety Advisor for Selwyn District Council. “The course is open to any teen driver from anywhere in Selwyn and I encourage everyone who is interested to register.”

James Morrison says that Teen Coach re-educates driving coaches to bring them up to speed with the new licensing system and restricted test.

“It also reminds them of the challenges that our young drivers face today with having to deal with more traffic, higher powered vehicles and the ever changing pressure from friends, schools and media. People coaching young drivers need to know the importance of role modelling good road safety behaviour and think about how they drive and whether they could drive more safely themselves. This will, in turn, have a flow on effect which helps to bring New Zealand’s road toll down,” he says.

Parents and caregivers who have participated in previous Teen Coach courses have found the sessions helpful. One parent who recently attended the session said they found it very helpful as after years of driving rather than teaching they had become set in their ways and it was good to be reminded of what was expected and needed on the road.

This workshop is subsidised by the New Zealand Transport Agency and Selwyn District Council which enables the course to be offered for only \$10 per parent or

caregiver. Young drivers are also welcome to attend for free. Places are limited so prompt booking is recommended.

To register, or for further information, please contact Carolyn Bennison on 03 347 2944 or email carolyn.bennison@selwyn.govt.nz.

Ends

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