



Media release

Tuesday 22 March 2016

Workshop helps young drivers become safer on the road

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 in April. The workshop is for young drivers and their parents to gain practical skills to improve their driving skills and knowledge.

The half-day course includes a variety of activities to learn about emergency braking, driving on different road surfaces, managing distractions and peer pressure and a driving lesson, for both learner and parent, with a driving instructor. All of the sessions are delivered by NZTA qualified driving instructors.

"The course will be hugely beneficial not only for young drivers, but also for their parents, as they work through the sessions together. The teens will also be spending time with the instructors practising the skills they are shown," says Selwyn District Council's Road Safety Co-ordinator Ngaire Tinning.

Over the past five years in the Selwyn District young drivers aged between 16 and 24 have been involved in more than 170 crashes resulting in 12 fatalities and 51 serious injuries.

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

"Parents and caregivers will also have an opportunity to refresh their driving knowledge. The course reinforces the importance of parents acting as good role models when driving, as young drivers may pick up on unsafe habits or techniques they observe," she adds.

Leading Learners sessions have been running since 2011 in Selwyn. Previous sessions have been extremely popular, with 64 young drivers and their parents completing the course in 2015.

The upcoming session will be held on Tuesday 26 April between 8.30am and 1pm at Ruapuna Park in Templeton. To participate, students need to be attending a secondary school in Selwyn, or live in Selwyn and be home schooled or attending secondary school. They also need to have a current learner driver licence which they have held for at least three months.

Registration for the course is essential. The course cost of \$20 is subsidised by Selwyn District Council. As the workshops often fill quickly, it is recommended that people book their place as soon as possible to secure a place on the course.

For more information on the day, and to register contact Ngaire on 347 2901 or email ngaire.tinning@selwyn.govt.nz.

Photo attached: *young drivers have the opportunity to practice their driving skills on a simulation of what it's like driving on ice or gravel as part of the course using a 'skid' car.*

Ends

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