



Media Release  
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## **Courses help to increase Confidence on the Road**

Selwyn's mature drivers are refreshing their knowledge and building their confidence on the roads.

More than 80 residents attended free Confident Driving Courses in Lincoln, Darfield, Rolleston and Leeston held between February and April.

Selwyn Road Safety Co-ordinator Ngaire Tinning says it is pleasing how well classes have been received by the community.

"It is great to see so many mature drivers coming along to these refresher courses. You can see the satisfaction on their faces when they walk away feeling more confident and with a certificate to show the family," says Mrs Tinning.

The number of older drivers is increasing nationally, and this is also the situation in Selwyn. Mrs Tinning says it is important to remind these drivers that it is okay to ask questions and talk about problem areas.

"With driving it comes down to education. The Confident Driving Course improves the way they assess the traffic environment and also other road users - no one is bulletproof," says Mrs Tinning.

Greendale resident Mavis Jefferis was one of the 25 locals who attended the Darfield course and says it has increased her driving awareness. "It has reminded me I can be independent when I'm driving and should plan safe routes to drive before I leave home to do my shopping. I usually only drive in Selwyn but I would feel comfortable driving further now if I had to," says Mrs Jefferis.

Catherine Bernard from Whitecliffs also attended the course and says she enjoyed the refresher lesson to help boost her confidence on the road. "Often I feel nervous about having to go somewhere because living in a rural area means I rely on my car to get around so doing this course has been great for my confidence," says Mrs Bernard.

Betty Wall from Darfield says discussing driving rules for roundabouts was helpful. "Having rural roads in Selwyn means we don't come across a lot of roundabouts so it was fantastic to jog my memory on how to use these both as a driver and as a pedestrian," says Mrs Wall.

The courses are delivered by Age Concern on behalf of the Selwyn District Council as part of the Council's road safety programme.

To register for the next round of classes to be held either in winter or spring 2014, contact Ngaire Tinning on 03 347 2901.

ENDS

Image attached: some of the participants at the Darfield Confident Driving Course with their certificates.

For more information, contact:

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