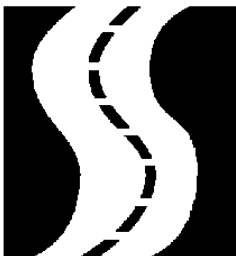


## Lake Ginninderra – Road Safety Program



## NRMA - ACT ROAD SAFETY TRUST

## Acknowledgements

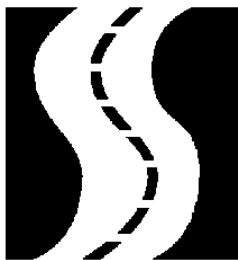
The grant recipient would like to thank the NRMA – ACT Road Safety Trust for the funding support and the ongoing assistance from Mr Eddie Wheeler and Ms Linda Cooke.

In addition, I would like to acknowledge the continued assistance and support from Mr Tony Commisso and the NRMA Safer Driving School with all aspects of road safety promotion at our college. Mr Babar Chohan, from the NRMA Safer Driving School, has also provided great assistance in the conducting of programs at the college.

The Canberra Rotary Club, in particular Mr Gerard Brennan, is thanked for providing opportunities for Lake Ginninderra students to participate in the RYDA road safety program.



**Canberra Rotary**



**NRMA - ACT  
ROAD SAFETY TRUST**

## **Project Background**

At Lake Ginninderra College we have been conducting road safety focus programs for a number of years, working closely with local community organisations and maintaining a strong focus on the issues related to youth in cars. It is our aim to continue the focus, develop better structures for placing emphasis on road safety and to work with the community to achieve our goals in relation to road safety.

The project aim was to enhance student awareness of road safety issues, provide opportunities for students to learn to drive and to improve the skills of those with licences. Funding for the project will allow the college to target as many activities as we can via classroom curriculum integration, guest speakers, presentations from community groups, focus day activities and BBQ's whilst promoting the road safety message and making the young people at Lake Ginninderra safer road users.

Road safety for 16-18 year olds encompasses a lot of areas which need to be addressed, including learning to drive, developing driving skills in all situations, texting / mobile issues, speeding, driving with passengers, driving and drugs, vehicle safety, seat belts and other topics which can be covered. These issues have been touched on in previous years but funding from the NRMA – ACT Road Safety Trust has allowed the college to undertake far more extensive activities and to provide a wider range of activities with greater depth and substance.

The funding for the project would allow a greater focus on road safety. It would provide our 800 students in the 16-18 age group with a continued focus on the issues facing young people when driving and when in a vehicle with friends. It would assist the students to develop better road habits, to improve their driving skills, to be aware of the responsibilities of road users and to make the local community a safer place.

## **Project Objectives**

Prior to commencement the objectives for the project were listed as follows:

1. Enhance student awareness of road safety issues
2. Provide opportunities for students to undertake road ready programs and develop driving skills
3. Conduct a young driver challenge aimed at P platers and their developing road behaviours
4. Conduct a car show with focus on vehicle / mechanical safety
5. Integrate road safety concepts into college curriculum in a number of subject areas.
6. Promote and reward positive driver behaviour.
7. Simulation of driving situations with booze goggles and car simulation games.
8. Create a safe environment in the college car park.
9. Prepare Lake Ginninderra College students to be responsible vehicle users.
10. A safer ACT community on the roads.

It was proposed that the project would incorporate a number of focus events complemented by an ongoing promotion of road safety at the college. Many of these objectives were met during the project and some activities allowed new and innovative methods of undertaking road safety education.

The project will be managed by the road safety coordinator who will work with a student services team to help ensure the programs are well supported by staff. The college has a student environment committee with the objective of developing curriculum for specialist programs within the college.

The road safety coordinator will ensure programs are kept to schedule and that the ongoing issues and materials are maintained throughout the year.

Students and parents will have every opportunity to be involved at all stages, to have input into all events and activities and to be major stakeholders in the program.

## **Road Safety Program**



The program undertook a number of major focus activities and also ongoing minor promotions to ensure students at Lake Ginninderra were kept aware of the importance of road safety. Following is a list of the various activities undertaken during the project.

### ***Young Driver Challenge***

The Young Driver Challenge provided **P plate students** with an opportunity to have a review drive with an accredited driving instructor.

Participants are made aware of any skill slippage within the 22 key competencies needed to gain a licence, and also received a small reward for wanting to further their learning in becoming a safer driver. Students underwent a ½ hour review drive with the driving instructor and they were scored against the competencies required.

Review drives were undertaken during the college day and took place along a strict time schedule. All students involved in the driver review were provided with a written evaluation of their driving performance. The four students judged by the assessor to be the safest drivers and displaying the best driving skills were then given a more intensive driving assessment to determine the Lake Ginninderra Young Driver of the Year.

Twenty six P plate students undertook the Young Driver Challenge and the activity provided an excellent opportunity to promote the road safety message as well as highlight the efforts and undertakings by the individuals involved.

*Young Driver Challenge* winner Kevin Pierre – Louis with driving assessor Babar Chohan.

### ***Roadsafe Youth Driver Awareness ( RYDA )***

During 2010 and 2011 the college, with great support from Rotary Canberra and the NRMA Safer Driving School, became involved in the RYDA program which had been a very well supported road safety program interstate, but had not been introduced to

---

University of Canberra Senior Secondary College  
Lake Ginninderra  
Road Safety Report 2011



Canberra. Lake Ginninderra were the first ACT school to trial the program and 180 students from the college have been involved in RYDA. The RYDA program was targeting Yr 11 students but we also incorporated Yr 10 students from our feeder high schools to ensure they become aware of the road safety message that Lake Ginninderra promotes.

The RYDA program was a whole day excursion to Canberra Racecourse. Six sessions on the following were simultaneously offered to groups of students during the day:

*Hazard Perception and Distraction:* a high-energy session aimed at familiarising students with the most common crashes involving young people and how to prepare to avoid or minimise the impact. This session explores the distractions that arise from use mobile phones, unruly passengers, loud music and peer pressure.

*Plan B: Alcohol, drugs fatigue and driving:* an interactive workshop focusing on the impact that alcohol, drugs and fatigue have on driving ability.

*Your Choice-Police:* this session is conducted by a police officer who invites an open discussion with the students about a video containing footage of a young lady whose life was cut tragically short after a crash.

*Crashes do happen:* personal stories about road crash survivors.

*My Wheels:* this session gives students the opportunity to identify what a safe car looks like. It covers such topics as car maintenance, brakes and insurance.

*Stopping Distances:* students are shown the impact of differing speeds, reaction time and vehicle traction on the length of time that it takes to stop a vehicle. They are given the opportunity to travel in a vehicle, driven by a licensed driving instructor, as well as observe from the outside.

## **MOTORVATE Talks**

During the year a series of MOTORVATE talks were conducted by the NRMA Safer Driving School at the college. The talks are part of a program which examines the attitudes and behaviours of young drivers as well as their driving skills. The Motorvate talks presented the college students with young driver information and issues on core

road safety concepts. The program also featured a series of videos with interviews with health professionals and car crash victims and initiated student discussion on various aspects of road safety.

Over 220 students were involved in the Motorvate program and gained valuable insights into how they can best develop good driving skills and how to avoid some of the risks involved with being in a motor vehicle.

### ***Drink - Driving Simulation Activity***

A popular activity undertaken to promote road safety at the college was the use of 4 driving simulators ( Daytona 500 racing machines ) used in conjunction with “booze goggles” or Fatal Vision Goggles to emphasise how driving skills are decreased after an intake of alcohol. The goggles simulate impairment ( the goggles have varied BAC readings and levels of impairment ) and demonstrate to the users how their motor skills suffer due to loss of visual clarity and response factors.

Students had the opportunity to drive the simulators and be given a score for their performance. They then undertook a similar simulated drive with the goggles on to compare driving performance. The activity combined the fun of driving the racing cars and the realisation of how motor skills can be impaired by alcohol. The driving simulators were set up in the college canteen and were in constant use for the 2 days of the activity.



### ***Road Safety In The Curriculum***

With considerable assistance from the Mathematics and English staff at the college we were able to integrate a number of road safety issues into classroom activities in those subjects. All students at the college underwent activities / tasks which focussed on such

topics as speed, stopping distance, blood alcohol content readings driving fatality statistics in Mathematics classes. Decision making and values clarification activities were undertaken in English classes to focus on road safety, young people and situations where risk taking behaviours were imminent.

### ***Ongoing Road Safety Promotion***

At the college we have utilised a wide range of promotional materials to ensure we maintain the focus on road safety. Posters produced by CIT students ( from a grant by the NRMA – ACT Road Safety Trust ) have been prominently displayed around the college, road safety slogans from a range of state based road safety programs have been shown on the college TV monitor system and various advertisements from RADD ( Recording Artists, Actors and Athletes Against Drink Driving ) and other sources have been utilised and shown on the college-wide television monitors.

Whilst many students undertake the Road Ready program at high school, the college has set up a strong relationship with the ACT Road Ready Centre to ensure those students at college are given the opportunity to learn to drive and obtain certification through a respected provider. Over 60 UCSSC Lake Ginninderra students have undertaken the Road Ready course in the last 2 years with funding support from the college.

### ***Focus Day Concert***

As part of the ongoing focus on road safety and health the college held a “Lake Idol” day to provide an opportunity for students to showcase their musical talents and for an opportunity to focus on issues which effect young people. The “Party Bus” from Directions ACT provided an emphasis on the dangers of drink-driving and the message throughout the concert was on the importance of all students to ensure they think and act responsibly when they are in vehicles on the road.



The students were provided with free BBQ, drinks and entertainment to ensure the audience remained involved and stayed for the duration of the concert. The “Lake Idol” component gave the many talented musicians and performers at the college a great opportunity to perform and compete for prizes and appreciation from their peers. Once again, the focus was on having a good time but reinforcing a message that benefits all.



## Conclusion

At the University of Canberra Senior Secondary College - Lake Ginninderra we have undertaken to support our students with programs to help them develop a positive approach to road use and to make good decisions when they are driving or out with friends. The programs provided in previous years have been well intentioned and well supported to a certain degree.

The funding provided by the NRMA - ACT Road Safety Trust in 2010 has made it possible to conduct a program which would provide greater depth and substance and to enable students to experience a whole range of activities which enhance their appreciation of road safety.

The college is committed to providing a dedicated and comprehensive senior secondary learning experience, including a role in fostering the personal development of students. Through the road safety program we hope to contribute to a safer ACT community and to enable the students of UCSSC – Lake Ginninderra to be safe and responsible when on the roads.

Once again, appreciation is expressed to the NRMA – ACT Road Safety Trust for providing the funding to allow the project to be undertaken.

Steve Walding  
Road Safety Coordinator  
University of Canberra Senior Secondary College  
- Lake Ginninderra