

m e d i a r e l e a s e

Date: 9th July 2010
Subject: Year 12 Students undertake Snowy Hydro Young Driver Training Program

Year 12 students from Jindabyne Central School and Snowy Mountains Grammar recently completed the Snowy Hydro Young Driver Training Program. The program, which focuses on the unique road conditions of the Snowy Mountains includes both theory and practical sessions designed to improve the attitude and driving behaviours of young people.

The practical sessions are held with a specially designed 'skid car'. The skid car is a Subaru Forrester with a custom designed, hydraulic skid frame which allows students, under direction and control of expert driver trainer, David Knowles, to experience what causes a car to lose control in a simulated skid situation. This improves the level of awareness of young drivers and demonstrates how easy it is to lose control in certain conditions.

Managing Director, Snowy Hydro Limited, Mr Terry Charlton said "The Snowy Hydro Young Driver Training Program has been running locally for over 8 years. Its part of our long standing commitment to young people in our local area and is consistent with our company's focus on health and safety."

"We are all too familiar with disturbing news headlines about young people killed or injured in car accidents. Through Snowy Hydro's ongoing success in the National Electricity Market, we are able to make a significant financial investment in the local community such as this program. If our program saves a life or prevents one crash, then it is money well spent. I congratulate and thank local high schools for partnering with us and in sharing our vision of improving road safety through driver education for local students."

Principal of Jindabyne Central School, Mr Garry Atkinson said "Jindabyne year 12 students learnt so much from the Snowy Hydro driver training program. The relevance of the subject and the practicality of the program engaged them and made them think very carefully about their driving and the way they will behave behind the wheel of their car. They all believed the program would change their driving behaviour and from a teachers point of view this has to be the ultimate goal to improve safety on the roads and decrease dangerous driving. We thank Snowy Hydro for a first class day for all."

Deputy Principal of Snowy Mountains Grammar, Mr Geoff Greentree said "The Snowy Hydro Young Driver Training Program provides students at SMGS with an invaluable experience as they begin to drive independently. Most of these young drivers will, at some time, find themselves driving in conditions unique to the Snowy Mountains and Monaro - snow, frost and black ice. This program helps them understand the driving techniques that will allow them to safely negotiate their way through or around these road conditions. SMGS thanks Snowy Hydro for the chance to be involved and we will continue to support it in the future."

The Program is run in conjunction with the Australian Driving Institute and local high schools and this year more than 250 students participated across the region, including 17 from Jindabyne Central School and 37 from Snowy Mountains Grammar. Snowy Hydro also thanks Perisher Blue Pty Limited for their valued and continued support to this program through use of the Bullocks Flat car park.

Photo: (L to R) Keria Barrett, Jacinta Fullick and Michael Dargan with David Knowles from the Australian Driving Institute.

Photo: (L to R) Camille Helsby, Ella Taylor, Lewis Dostine, Bradley Vale and Andrew Cogan with David Knowles from the Australian Driving Institute.