

ADTA NEWS

"The Instructor"

Print Post Approved PP25 1088/00031

December 2012



To all ADTA Members and their Families

As another year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continuing support of safe driving and of your association.

On behalf of the ADTA board, I wish you all

**A Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year**

David Wrigley, President

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Change remains a constant

As another year draws to a close we take the opportunity in this newsletter to review all of the activities that have occupied the Board's time in maintaining the pursuit of all objectives that will help our Members.

What has been clearly evident throughout the year is that 'change' is the one constant that remains a challenge and the Board has been closely involved, and in many cases, the lead agent in helping to achieve satisfactory outcomes.

The development of a safe driving course for new drivers and the change to the way truck driver training and licensing is delivered are examples to the ongoing commitment made by authorities to ensure outcomes achieve an end result of safe and competent drivers.

At the well-attended Annual General Meeting held on November 23, 2012 a full report of the year's activities was presented. The summarized report is in this newsletter.

But first, we must thank the Board that has served through the past year. It is only through their dedication and unselfish contribution and at some personal cost to each Board Member that we are able to maintain and further develop, the already close ties and working relationship we have with all decision makers.

Those who have served on the Board through the year include –

David Wrigley, President; Larry Rowe, Vice-President; Bill Bernard; Peter Camilleri; Life Member Alan Cooper; Daniel Vitale D'Amico; Scott Holding; Stephen Nemeth-Taylor; Stephen O'Sullivan and John Zevlikaris. Allan Porter, Executive Director and Lara Vermeulen, Manager.

The challenges that lie ahead are now the responsibility of the new Board elected at the November 23rd AGM to which we welcome new Board Member, Mick Humphries. We are pleased that we have a highly experienced group that now consists of – David Wrigley, President; Larry Rowe, Vice-President, Life Member Alan Cooper, Peter Camilleri, Daniel Vitale d'Amico, Scott Holding, Bill Bernard, Stephen O'Sullivan, John Zevlikaris and Mick Humphries. Executive Director, Allan Porter; Manager Lara Vermeulen.

The urgency of some issues such as the changes occurring to truck driver training and licensing will leave no time for us to relax as we work through the finer details of the change process and keep heavy vehicle members up to date with a fast approaching deadline of December 31st. This issue will prompt email alerts. If you a heavy vehicle member, please watch for further advice.

The Year in Review

The year has been a very busy one with major issues affecting all classes of training.

Government Advisory Panels have been reviewing logbook training and the senior driver scheme.

In heavy vehicles, the transition of the training of drivers to a new national authority is one of the biggest changes ever introduced to our industry.

In every respect and in all areas of consideration of these issues, we have played a key advisory role to ensure that a fair & just outcome is achieved.

Safer Driver Course for Learner Drivers

An Advisory Panel is proceeding with plans to make recommendations on a Safer Driver Course to improve the competency of young drivers.

ADTA representatives have briefed the Panel.

The format of the Course and how it will be delivered are under consideration. Our representations to the Review process have emphasised the importance of professional trainers being involved in the delivery of any proposed course

It is anticipated that learner drivers undertaking professional driving lessons will be further rewarded with benefits in the Learner's Logbook.

Senior Driver Assessment Scheme

A review committee is examining the testing and assessment of older drivers and again, we have made an input to the review, which is on-going, with further work to be undertaken in the near future.

It is a widely held view that the assessment scheme that allows older driver the benefit of choosing an accredited instructor/assessor to help older drivers is working very well.

We remain actively involved with the review committee and will be seeking opportunities to introduce improvement.

Dual Controls

The concern that has been expressed by members about the increased cost of having dual controls fitted under the new Certification requirements of the Vehicle Safety Compliance Certification Scheme (VSCCS) has been the subject of several discussions with senior government representatives in an endeavour to achieve a more satisfactory arrangement.

We are hoping a Type Approval process might be introduced where Dual Control suppliers have an approved type of product suitable for listed makes of cars which is approved by the VSCCS for installation in those vehicles. Such a scheme would not require instructors to obtain an inspection certificate, fees for which are known to be quite considerable.

Alternative methods of licensing

Proposals to promote alternative methods of licensing have been a major issue of discussion during the year. The Board has used the experience of other states and jurisdictions to draw upon ideas that it is hoped will find favour with decision makers in NSW.

Working with children check

A new Working with Children Check will be introduced in NSW from February 11, 2013. Until then, the current check will continue.

We made representation to the Review of the processes to obtain the necessary clearance for it to be made simpler, recognising that driving instructors already have to comply with rigorous processes to obtain a Driving Instructor Licence.

The new check will: be “owned” by the worker rather than the employer, last for five years and be valid for any child-related work or volunteering over its five-year life.

Under the new system, a person will need to have a check done only once every five years.

If someone wants to know you’re Working with Children Check status, all that will be required is to give them your clearance number.

Those who already hold a Certificate for Self Employed People will be able to keep using their certificates until they expire.

The new Working with Children Check will not involve either a card or a Certificate. It will be a number, like a tax file number, that you can store on your phone or your computer or print on your business cards.

The new check will operate on-line for both applications and verifications.

Professional Development

Our objective of bringing members together to hear & discuss topical issues about driver training remains a priority.

Workshops have again been held in metro and regional areas of the state.

We urge members to attend Workshops as they are an important means to be updated on issues all issues of importance. In the future Heavy Vehicle Assessors will need to demonstrate to their RTO's that they are continually updating their skills and are remaining industry relevant, these workshops along with the Big Day Out can contribute towards that requirement.

Insurance for Members

We have made new and improved liability & indemnity insurance arrangements that have resulted in further savings to our members.

One of our main objectives is to always ensure that members receive the best services possible and when the renewal rates for member insurance showed alarming increases – we had to work hard to obtain a better service. We succeeded and the result has been very satisfactory with a reduction in costs.

Comprehensive Car Insurance

We are pleased to be able to offer members comprehensive car insurance and 'green-slip' insurance for driving school vehicles under an ADTA group insurance scheme. The insurance has been designed specifically to protect ADTA members' long term whilst building an insurance program that is specifically designed to cover the risks that are unique to our industry.

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The scheme will offer the ability to add Business Interruption (Loss of Income) cover so that income is not lost whilst a damaged vehicle is off the road.

The ADTA Record Sheets

A very successful and popular member service – The ADTA Record Sheets have been reprinted. They are updated to correspond to changes in the RMS Lesson Planner.

Research

We have remained actively involved in research in our partnership with the George Institute at the University of Sydney in an ongoing study of outcomes of new drivers. The program commenced in 2001 and is aimed at monitoring pre and post licence outcomes of drivers.

We are supporters of the P-Project, a joint NSW, Victorian & Federal road safety research project to develop and implement a trial behaviour change program for young P-plate drivers aged between 17 to 22 years.

And we maintain our close working partnership with the Annual Road Safety Research, Policing & Education Conference.

Website information

The ease with which web information can be accessed and copied has led to concerns being expressed that copying information from an existing driving school website and re-using the information on another site without the appropriate permission is a breach of copyright. Members are reminded that they can easily check for material that has been copied from their website by using the free plagiarism checker at www.copyscape.com – remember if you found it easy to find and copy, then the original author can also find it just as easy to find your website and then commence proceedings against you for breach of copyright!

And during the year ...

The NSW Auditor-General's Report into the effectiveness of the driving testing & licensing system was released.

Last year, we were invited to meet Auditor-General representatives to make input into the review.

The report has found that –

The numbers of fatal and injury crashes involving drivers less than 26 years of age have fallen in NSW since 1999-2000, and have fallen at a greater rate than for older drivers. Overall, the rate of fatal crashes involving young drivers declined by 51 per

cent between 1999-2000 and 2009-10, compared with a reduction of 35 per cent for drivers aged 26 years and over. This reduction in crash rates coincided with the introduction of the RTA's revised GLS in 2000.

Research evidence both nationally and internationally supports the graduated licensing approach implemented by the RTA, with restrictions and sanctions that are progressively reduced as experience is gained.

Whilst there has been a significant reduction in fatalities and injuries involving young drivers in NSW, this has mostly occurred in metropolitan areas. For example, the fatal crash involvement rate (per licence) for young drivers declined by 68 per cent between 1999-2000 and 2009-10 in metropolitan areas, whereas it has only declined by 25 per cent in country areas over the same period. In recent years young drivers in the country have been around three times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than young drivers in metropolitan areas.

Many of the issues presented by the ADTA representatives at last year's meeting are either totally, or in part, included in the notable recommendations, particularly with regard to young drivers having the benefit of tuition of a professional instructor in being trained to drive at sign-posted speeds.

And we have ...

Continued our representations to Government on all issues associated with Driver Training and Education with meetings with The Minister, The Hon Duncan Gay MLC and his advisers as well as Senior Managers in Transport for NSW and the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS)

Presented our concerns to a Parliamentary Enquiry about the number of driver distractions which are a road safety hazards for all drivers.

The Enquiry has taken evidence from ADTA representatives covering issues such as mobile phone usage, CD players, distractions caused by passengers, GPS's and most importantly signage – roadside or advertising on buildings and other issues.

Bid farewell to ...

Duncan McRae

A former Board Member of ADTA who rose to take on major responsibilities in the Roads and Traffic Authority and Roads and Maritime Services.

Duncan McRae was a Senior Executive for more than 10 years in what is now Roads and Maritime Services, always known as the poacher who turned into a game keeper,

after having worked in the industry and served on the ADTA board before his entering government service.

Duncan possessed a vast amount of knowledge and experience gained as a service provider in the driver education industry and which was put to good use by government.

He is particularly remembered for his contribution for achieving the new driving test, older driver reforms and motor cycle rider graduated licensing scheme.

Stephen Nemeth-Taylor

And we farewelled ADTA board member, Stephen Nemeth-Taylor, who has had to leave us mid-term, given the pressure of his commitments.

Communications & Publications

We have maintained our practice of issuing quality news and information to members by newsletter and email alerts and updates.

Heavy Vehicle Issues

The changes to truck driver training & licensing that were announced in July 2009 represent one of the biggest changes to occur in the training and licensing of truck drivers.

We are pleased to have played a lead role in the development of procedures as the responsibility for training moves to a new federal authority, The Australian Skills Quality Authority. (ASQA).

The changes include a VET training scheme and we have been fortunate that New South Wales, given its progress in consultation with the driver training industry is the lead referring State to the establishment of the new scheme.

As all ADTA heavy vehicle members will be aware from the communications and meetings held on this issue, the processes of training and the provision of licences will change in January 2013.

Accredited RMS Heavy Vehicle Assessors will have to comply with ASQA requirements.

Timeline –

January 2013 RMS will require all accredited assessors to work under an approved RTO.

July 1, 2013 ASQA will require all Heavy Vehicle Instructor/Assessors to have TAE10 or TAA04 in order to continue assessing.

RTO status can be achieved by becoming an RTO, partnering or working with an RTO, or as a trainer working with an RTO.

Once again, the annual “Big Day Out” for ADTA’s heavy vehicle members was well attended with a top line-up of speakers.

ADTA NSW Members who are RTO’s and who are inviting members who are heavy vehicle assessors to partner with them have been contacted and all heavy vehicle members informed.

The RMS Assessment Guide, NSW Business Procedures Manual, FCA & CT Score Sheets and a host of other new documentation either have, or are being prepared, for the new system.

We have been assisting in the trouble-shooting of these documents and procedures, to try and ensure that on 1st Jan, 2013 we have as few problems as possible.

We are confident that the vast majority of HVCBA Assessors will find that the new procedures are not that far removed from what we currently do and with a little adjustment it should not be that hard to implement the new system.

ADTA Email Alert and Updates to members have provided new information as soon as it is available.

Distances travelled by vehicles used solely for driver training

Arising out of our submissions to government the Standing Council on Transport and Infrastructure has approved measures aimed at significantly reducing heavy vehicle A-trailer charges.

The Council requested that the National Transport Commission (NTC) urgently review A-trailer registration charges following calls from industry that the charges were adversely impacting some operators.

Meeting the decision makers

We have maintained our close working relationships with all of those who have an interest in driver training and we are pleased to report that our efforts are being rewarded with ideas taken on board for serious review.

We have put our points across with the Minister, Transport for NSW, the RMS and all those who have an interest in our industry.

Other states/territories

We continue to monitor events in all states/territories, in New Zealand and overseas and share information wherever possible.

We note that New Zealand has introduced an outsourced form of driver testing supported by advanced GPS logged, in-vehicle technology. And we note that electronic logbooks are under review in Australia.

More on this issue – and all others – as we progress.

Membership

In order to facilitate the payment of membership fees, we added to our already popular web-based payment system a fast credit card payment method. This has found favour among many members.

The ADTA Workshops

ADTA Workshops – it's recognised that the ADTA Workshops that have become a feature of our activities over many years in metro and regional areas are highly valued by Members as forums for airing a wide range of topics. They also provide members

with a means of being able to meet & greet, get together and share information for the benefit of all concerned.

The Workshops are on again in 2013. Please watch for further details.

Welcome & Best Wishes to our New Members

Welcome and Best Wishes go to Members who have recently joined us at ADTA, we are constantly striving to serve you better.

Please email or phone the office with anything you wish to contribute or to discuss

The Board

David Wrigley, President; Larry Rowe, Vice-President. Directors, Life Member Alan Cooper, Peter Camilleri, Daniel Vitale d'Amico, Scott Holding, Bill Bernard, Stephen O'Sullivan, John Zevlikaris and Mick Humphries. Executive Director, Allan Porter; Manager Lara Vermeulen

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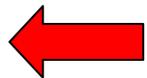
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