



DRIVER SAFETY: (from left) RYDA organiser Chris Kelly, Hillis Ford dealer principal Mark Hillis and RYDA co-ordinator Sue Honey are pictured ahead of next week's driver safety seminar at Wagga Showgrounds. Almost 1000 students from across Southern NSW will attend the seminar.

Safe driving workshops

ROTARY Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) co-ordinator Sue Honey has stressed the importance of "young people making better choices on the road" ahead of a seminar aimed at promoting driver safety next week.

Almost 1000 students will undertake a series of workshops at Wagga Showgrounds, designed to promote road safety and eliminate risk factors associated with getting behind the wheel.

With one-third of all road deaths involving people aged between 16 and 25, Ms Honey was confident the program would influence the attitudes and behaviours of drivers and passengers before obtaining their licence.

Ms Honey hoped the week-long seminar – starting Monday – would help curb the alarming statistics.

"The aim is to give students information so they make the right choices; whether that's getting into a car with a person who is drunk, driving themselves or dealing with an unfamiliar situation," Ms Honey said yesterday.

"Hopefully the things we've been able to teach them kick in and they make a good decision and we're able to lower deaths of young drivers on our roads."

RYDA was developed in close consultation with the NSW Department of Education as well as the Roads and Traffic Authority.

Students will gain exposure to a broad range of driver safety issues including hazard perception, safe stopping distances, fatigue, and the legal and financial responsibilities of motoring.

"These skills are so important in the country, too, because they are driving longer distances when living on a farm and in small communities," she said.

"Hopefully we can lower the death toll by helping young people make better choices on the road".

Students from high schools across Wagga, Cootamundra, Temora, Henty, Narrandera, Tumut, Coolamon, Lockhart and Culcairn will participate.

news riverina



LEARNING TO BE SAFE: Coolamon Central School students (from left) Emily Stead, 16, Courtney Warren, 17, and Stephen Grinter, 17, pose for a picture at the safe stopping distances workshop during the RYDA driving program.

First-hand safety tips for students

ALMOST 1000 high school students were put through their paces during a special program aimed at promoting driver safety at Wagga Showground yesterday.

The Riverina students undertook a series of workshops, designed to promote safer road practices in a bid to eliminate risk factors associated with driving on the road.

The program, called Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA), gave students exposure to safety issues including safe stopping distances, haz-

ard perception and fatigue.

Coolamon Central School student Emily Stead, 16, said the safe stopping distances workshop was an invaluable learning tool.

"It makes you realise that speeding is a really serious thing," Ms Stead said.

"I'm an L-plater and sometimes you don't think about how dangerous speeding can be until you get into a car in this kind of situation."

RYDA co-ordinator Sue Honey said speaking to a teenager who had been

involved in a car crash had been a highlight for students.

"The students were able to talk to a crash survivor, which was a powerful experience for everyone," Mrs Honey said.

"To speak with a real person from their peer group, whose life has been influenced dramatically by a car accident is something they'll remember forever."

RYDA is a driver safety program developed in consultation with the RTA and the NSW Department of Education.