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## Rotary youth driver awareness program

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On Thursday 26th February, Year 11 students from The Henry Lawson High School joined students from Cowra, Canowindra and Boorowa to attend ROTARY's RYDA Program held at Cowra Gun Club and Cowra airport.

RYDA (Rotary Youth Driver Awareness) has been running for five years and is an important focus of Rotary's youth work in the local community.

Our day began with a session by Lloyd Garrett titled, "The Cost of Wheels". We learnt that a Registration Certificate is simply a "Birth Certificate" for a car and that the Pink Slip inspection notice can be compared to a Medical Certificate. We discussed types of insurance and why a REVs Check is so important. We were told that it costs about \$316.00 per week to run the family vehicle.

The second session on Drug and Alcohol Awareness involved discussion groups. Then it was off to Cowra airport.

A driving instructor for the NSW Police led the session on Collisions and Hazard Perception using toy cars on a magnetic blackboard to illustrate various collisions.

The significance of reaction times and the Three Second Gap between vehicles was demonstrated. Now we all understand why tyre treads and tyre pressure matter. The advice on cornering and how to avoid collisions made us realise how vulnerable learner drivers really are and how easily accidents can occur.

A Police high way patrol car did some laps on the airstrip, took some fast corners and then tried to brake at different speeds. In turn we belted up and took off for our Live Driving Experience in the big V8.

Year 11 wish to thank Rotarians, Peter Diprose, Justyn Armstrong and Gerry Perceval who accompanied us on the day. However, we did notice that all of them declined a lap in the police car. Rotary also provided a BBQ lunch for everyone.

The final session on Parties and Drink Driving included a graphic video of a real car accident involving teenage drinkers. We were inspired by the courage of Sam Cooke, a farmer from Carcoar, and Rick from Cowra's Motor Registry who told us their stories of the spinal injuries that changed their lives forever.

It was an outstanding day.

More than one student later described how they practised counting their 3 second gap on the way home and one L-plater even drove to Young the next day at a very cautious 75 km/hr. Year 11 also agreed they will now show more respect at roundabouts !

RYDA was a huge success and Year 11 appreciate the generosity of Grenfell Rotary Club who covered all of the expenses and who shouted all of us to a great day out !!! You have certainly given us something to think about.



Jake Taylor looking for action.



**I SAT DOWN IN FRONT OF THESE BEARS AND CRIED.**

Christina Laps, Millions of Friends, Romania.

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World Society for the Protection of Animals  
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### A shot across the bows in unending battle of the sexes

4/03/2009 | IT'S International Women's Day this week and I'm wearing camouflage after my seven-year-old son handed me a tampon and said, "Here's one of your vagina bullets".

Australians were told this would ...  
The rules have changed and safety ...

<http://grenfell.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/rotary-youth-driver-awareness-program/1452280.aspx>

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