

Hitting the road



Lyndal Robb from Birrang with her happy graduates from the Western NSW Aboriginal Driver Program which finished in Brewarrina this week

Graduates in the driving seat

The Western NSW Aboriginal Learner Driver Program wrapped up yesterday in Brewarrina and Program Instructor Lyndal Robb, from Birrang, couldn't be happier.

"I am so pleased with what we have achieved here. There is no other town like Bre. I couldn't be more impressed with the results."

As for the results Ms Robb is referring to, the numbers speak for themselves. 67 participants registered for the program, of whom 18 already held a Learner License.

There have been 33 log book hours delivered for under 25 years (six participants were under 25), which for many would otherwise been difficult to notch up.

In total, 80 lessons were delivered to 25 participants, which resulted in 19 participants getting their learners license and 13 participants now have their provisional 1.

One participant gained a provisional 2 license and another has gained an unrestricted license.

But that, Ms Robb predicted, won't be the last of it, with the remainder of the group yet to sit their respective exams. "So far we have had 31 licensed, but by the end of November we expect the other 27 who have booked tests to be licensed as well, bringing the total to 58 licensed drivers out of a class of 67. "Considering we had a few drop outs on the way, you know, life happens, that is an amazing result no matter which way you look at it," Ms Robb said.

Ms Robb was particularly appreciative of the support the program received from external agencies. She was positively glowing when thanking those who had given the program a helping hand.

"We have had so much support from the community, "Liz Leyland has referred many clients, Sergeant Wheatley has also been behind us every step of the way, and Brewarrina Shire Council have gone out of their way time and again to help us achieve our goals. We couldn't have

done it without them," Ms Robb said. This isn't the first time the Get Licensed program has been run here, and most of us are aware of the success of the program, but earlier this month, the Western Aboriginal Learner Driver Program received formal recognition for the work they do in remote communities and received a NSW Premier's Award for Public Service.

They were awarded first place in the category of Strengthening the Environment and Communities, which recognises projects that improve people's lives and help build strong communities.

"Getting the award is just the icing on the cake," Ms Robb said.

"This program really does change people's lives. It means they can get mobile and in many cases get jobs," she said.

"Being recognised with an award is a good sign for the long term sustainability of the program and I look forward to coming back to Bre next year."

Footy funds up for grabs

Member for Barwon, Kevin Humphries has announced that the NSW Footy Facilities Fund is now open for applications.

The program is a joint initiative of the National Rugby League and the NSW Government, and offers funding for projects throughout NSW.

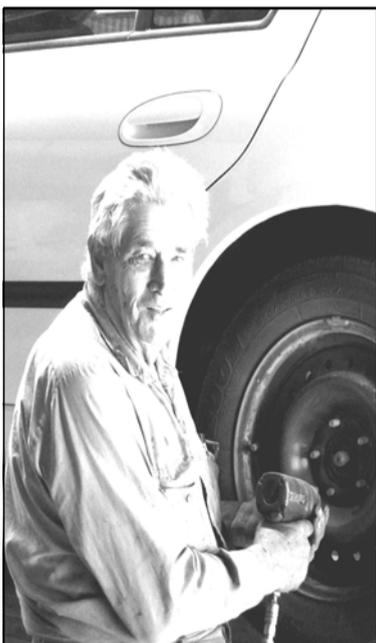
"This program is an important initiative that will help fund grassroots footy clubs in Barwon and throughout NSW," Mr Humphries said.

"Members of the sporting community understand that modern, safe facilities will increase participation in the future. "The NRL and the NSW Government want to get behind our local footy clubs, and support this vision."

The main objectives of the Footy Facilities Fund are to:

- *increase regular and on-going participation opportunities in Rugby League
 - *improve the standard of Rugby League grounds and facilities.
- Additionally, applications can be strengthened by addressing one or more of the following:
- *improve safety at sport and recreation facilities (e.g. upgrade of field to provide a safer playing field, access pathways for players, disability ramps)
 - *increase the security at sport and recreation facilities (e.g. installation of fencing)
 - *remove barriers to promote inclusion in Rugby League (e.g. upgrade of amenities to increase female participation, provision of disability access, upgrade of referee amenities)
 - *develop environmentally sustainable sport and recreation facilities (e.g. installation of drainage, rainwater tank, upgrade lighting for environmental impact)
 - *build strong communities

Applications close on 9 January 2015. For more information and to apply, visit www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/grants or phone 13 13 02.



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02 68392250

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BREWARRINA AGENT

Lexie Redmond

Ph: 02 6839 2242 Mob: 0427 733 207

(alternate ph: 6832 2257)

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