



ROAD MATTERS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

PROVIDING COMMUNITY EDUCATION THAT CREATES RESPONSIBLE ROAD USERS AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

THIS MONTH: Vehicle Safety in January



Research released by Budget Direct in late 2025 revealed that the most common reasons for requiring roadside assistance included a flat battery, mechanical failure, a flat tyre, running out of fuel and being locked out of one's vehicle.

Despite their sample being limited to survey participants, the findings showcase a stricter need for preventable breakdowns through proper and frequent vehicle maintenance schedules. Neglecting your vehicle can mean ignoring a warning light on your dashboard, odd sounds from your engine, or that your vehicle is no longer driving as smoothly. Even if unintentionally dismissed, the compounding of issues can result in your car breaking down during a drive, or worse, in an unsafe spot on the road, leaving you at a higher risk of serious injury or harm.

While footing a bill for a car repair is never ideal, frequently getting your vehicle checked by a mechanic for a quick inspection and a small fee can mean the difference between getting home safely and finding yourself in a dangerous situation mid-drive, on the side of a busy highway or on a deserted road. Don't wait until it's too late, and make an effort of booking your car for a quick inspection of its battery health, belt and hose condition, tyre condition, wheel alignment, fluid levels and the like.

NSW Tragic Long Weekend Traffic Operation

Six people have died across the state during the NSW Police annual statewide traffic operation over the double demerit period.

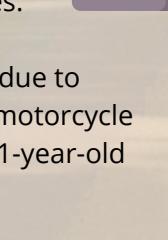
From Friday the 23rd to Monday the 26th, police presence was increased across NSW roads, targeting driving offences, including speeding, drug and alcohol use, mobile phone use, and seatbelt/helmet offences.

During these four days, six people died due to collisions, including a 21-year-old male motorcycle rider, a 25-year-old male driver, and a 31-year-old female driver.

There were a total of 11,344 infringement notices issued, as well as 208,355 breath tests and 9,319 drug tests.

The 298 drinking offences recorded included a 41-year-old male driver in Eastern Creek, who returned a result of 0.226 BAC, and a 45-year-old male B-double combination truck driver who returned a result of 0.236 BAC.

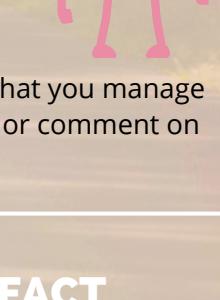
Further, there were 220 seatbelt/helmet offences, 365 mobile phone offences, and 3630 speeding offences.



WHAT'S ON NEXT MONTH?

Next month, we will be focusing on fatigue.

We'll cover what it is and how fatigue is related to driving. We will also give advice about how to spot it, ways to prevent it, and what to do if it takes you by surprise.



As always, we will look at the data around and what that means to the everyday Australian behind the wheel.

We'd also love to hear about the ways that you manage fatigue. Feel free to send us a message or comment on our posts.

MONTHLY ROAD FACT

DID YOU KNOW?

Fatigue is one of the Fatal Five factors that contribute to most road collisions, and to put it simply is being tired. It can slow reaction times, impair judgement, and in some cases cause you to fall asleep behind the wheel.

According to Transport for NSW, what percentage of road fatalities had fatigue as a contributing factor to the collision in NSW in 2024?

A) 15.82% B) 22.63%

C) 11.31% D) 18.24%

ANSWER: B

TRAFFIC OFFENDER INTERVENTION PROGRAM

ONE-DAY \$185 BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE PROGRAM



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BEING ANGRY MAKES YOU A WORSE DRIVER

Most of us have gotten behind the wheel after an argument, become frustrated with someone else's driving, or even begun to replay the responses they wished they had in the moment, but it's been shown that driving while angry, regardless of driving experience, negatively impacts your driving skills. It can lead to scanning a narrower area for hazards, more likely to speed, and decreased ability to handle emergency situations effectively. These impacts were seen across all levels of driving experience.

Check in with yourself and evaluate your emotions before heading off, and if you need to, take a few moments to calm down and refocus.

KEY DATES • EVENTS TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

February. Fatigue

11th

International Day of Women and Girls in Science

14th

Valentines Day

20th

World Day of Social Justice



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