



ROAD MATTERS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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



THIS MONTH: Road Safety Review

One thousand, three hundred and twelve individuals lost their lives on Australian roads in 2025. Continuing the upward trend, this number is not only higher than the fatality rate in 2024 but also only representative of those who were fatally killed, and not those who were seriously injured or impacted by road trauma.

Oftentimes, it's easy to gloss over this number, especially if you are not directly involved with anyone who has experienced a fatal crash. However, it is important to remember that these deaths, while not always broadcasted, impact more than just inner circles or immediate family members and friends. They impact the greater community and the knock-on effects are always more wide-reaching than they may initially seem.

No one thinks it will happen to them or someone they know, until it does. With Australia already not on track to meet National Road Safety goals of reducing road deaths by at least 50% by 2030 overall, and by at least 55% per 100,000 people by the same year, we urge all road users to stay mindful, alert and aware of their own behaviours on the road, and the behaviours of others. While it's impossible to control what everyone else does, you can control your own actions.

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Three Charged Over Queanbeyan Road Rage

A third person has been charged over a road rage incident that took place on Sunday, 19 April 2026, in Jerrabomberra, approx 10 minutes south-east of Queanbeyan.



Officers were called to a scene in Jerrabomberra at about 4:30 pm on the 19th of April with reports of a man threatening vehicle occupants with a wood plank. When officers arrived, no one was there. It was alleged that people from the vehicle had verbally abused a woman known to the man earlier in the day.

Upon further enquiries about the incident, police spoke to a 42-year-old Jerrabomberra male.

On the 22nd of April, two of the vehicle occupants presented themselves to the Queanbeyan police station. A 20-year-old male was charged with drive motor vehicle menaces another with intent and will appear before the Queanbeyan Local Court. A 15-year-old female was charged with two counts of behave in an offensive manner in/near public place and will appear before a children's court. Both will appear on Monday, 15 June 2026.

The 42-year-old man attended the Queanbeyan Police station on the 19th of May. He was given a court attendance notice for assault occasioning actual bodily harm, common assault and have custody of an offensive implement in a public place and is set to appear before the Queanbeyan Local Court on Monday, 6 July 2026.

WHAT'S ON NEXT MONTH?

June is our Heavy Vehicle Safety month!

We will be looking at some heavy vehicle safety statistics, as well as some common myths about them and what the facts actually are.



Most importantly, we will be discussing the ways that we can safely share the road with heavy vehicles and what things we need to consider when we're around them.

We'd also love to hear any ways that you stay safe while sharing the road with them, either in an email or on our social media.

MONTHLY ROAD FACT

DID YOU KNOW?

Ralph Teetor is known not only for his inventions but also for being the first blind engineer on record in the U.S.

Born in 1890 and passing in 1982, he lost his sight at age 5 due to an accident, but this didn't deter him. He registered over 40 patents in his life and served as the president of the Society of Automotive Engineering.

What car feature, still widely used, did Ralph Teetor invent?

- A) Three-point seatbelt
- B) Power Steering
- C) Anti-lock braking system (ABS)
- D) Cruise Control

ANSWER: D

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ROAD TIP OF THE MONTH

HEAVY VEHICLES NEED MORE SPACE TO STOP

It's not uncommon to come across a road train while driving in Australia, even in more urban areas, so navigating the road with them is just another part of being an Australian driver. People tend to be aware that heavy vehicles take longer to come to a stop, but don't always know what that actually means. A B-double travelling at just 40km/h can require up to 44 meters to come to a stop, which is more than 60% longer than the approximate 27 meters a car needs. This trend continues as speed increases, with them needing up to 90 meters at 90km/h, which is 34 more meters than what a car requires.

When merging in front of heavy vehicles, make sure you leave a large enough gap for them to stop before they hit you.



KEY DATES • EVENTS TO REMEMBER

3rd World Bicycle Day

10th Thank a First Responder Day

13th Global Wellness Day

5th International Level Crossing Awareness Day

14th World Blood Donor Day

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