Media Release

Thursday 11 June 2015

RAC educates South West students on road safety

RAC's Community Education Team is heading to Margaret River, Vasse and Busselton next week to educate students and young drivers about staying safe on the roads.

RAC Senior Manager Media and Government Relations Liz Carey said the Community Education Team has delivered the road safety message to over 400,000 Year 10 to 12 students since 2002.

"We teach students the importance of safe driving and the effects of alcohol, drugs and reckless behaviour on driving and being a responsible passenger," Ms Carey said.

"Last year, 184 died in road crashes and 25 of those were killed in the South West district.

"In 2014, drivers aged 17 to 24 accounted for 22 per cent of all WA road fatalities despite only making up 12 per cent of the population. These results are worrying, and reinforce the need to educate young drivers about safe driving."

Learning activities and presentations will be delivered to Margaret River Senior High School, Cape Naturalist College, MacKillop Catholic College and Georgiana Molloy Anglican School.

"Drug driving is a rising problem in WA so we ask the students to try on the fatal vision goggles to get a feel for the loss of balance and vision that drugs and alcohol can cause.

"We ask the students, "would you get in a car with someone like that?" to really get them thinking about the dangers."

RAC's most recent young driver survey showed almost 50 per cent of respondents used their phone while driving, while a further 20 per cent checked social media behind the wheel.

"These students are our next generation of drivers and we want to ensure they have a good understanding of road safety and the consequences of bad decisions. Education is one of the ways to help keep our young drivers safe."

Community Education travel across regional WA each year and will be making more than 12 trips in 2015.

For more information about RAC Community Education please visit the RAC website.

Media Contact: Georgina Forde 0466 559 551