



REVIVER Newsletter

Volunteers Saving Lives Across Australia

Summer 2008-2009

Summer Dec 08/Jan 09 period.

In spite of or maybe because of the economic woes spread across our media recently, Driver Reviver volunteers across Australia have been anticipating a busy year.

It is widely expected that in 2009 many people will take their annual holidays in Australia rather than overseas. A good percentage of the increase in local holidays is sure to be taken in the family car. Maybe we'll even see a resurgence in camping and fishing holidays.

Apart from their main role of reducing accidents at peak holiday times, Driver Reviver volunteers are a valuable yet often unrecognised asset to the local tourism industry.

Locals going away for a weekend or annual holidays, families, singles and grey nomads, even overseas tourists, all love the warm welcome they receive at Driver Reviver Sites. Sites are also a place where travellers can receive information about local attractions, travelling times, road conditions, weather and almost all human knowledge.

Victorian Bushfires, Queensland Floods,

Driver Reviver Volunteers were out in force during the recent disasters. Our hearts go out to all those who lost family, friends and community members. Of course a large proportion of Driver Reviver volunteers are also involved in other volunteer work. Many are with the SES, and Volunteer Fire Fighters who contributed so much to protecting life and property in Victoria.

The larconic sense of humour was never more apparent than during the disaster, in Queensland one flood bound, Site manager phoned his order in and said, "Don't worry, I can still see the roof of our shed, that means the walls are still standing so we'll be right for Easter".

In Victoria, the good humour and commitment was apparent with volunteers throughout the State making sure their orders were placed for Easter, some phoning orders through with a phone in one hand and a hose in the other.



Port Macquarie NSW. Bride Melissa Morgan and her Bridal party .It had just started to rain and the ladies received a call to wait a few minutes whilst all the chairs were moved indoors.

Being very smart girls Melissa and her Bridesmaids called in to enjoy a quick cuppa with the Driver Reviver volunteers. A perfect recipe for a long and happy marriage.

Following the excitement the volunteers got on with the job putting in 678 hours and serving 3577 motorists with 200 volunteers on duty over the October long weekend period.



Above: Bathurst NSW, no it's not a V8 Super Truck but, it's probably just a quick.

Right: Bulahdelah, NSW Christmas lights and Santa land attracts visitors.

Below: A Driver Reviver Cake. yum



Mildura, Vic, thanks SES

Denis Jewell our long term Site manager in Mildura tells us the SES Vic, did a fantastic job in 2008, particularly over Easter, to promote the Driver Reviver Site and driver fatigue awareness. Many articles were published in Newspapers as well as strong Radio and Television coverage.

Mildura's local ABC Radio reporter from the 'Drive' program visited the Site to relay information throughout Victoria, up to five Sites were featured.

Recognition in NSW

On Christmas eve, National Coordinator Allan McCormac was asked to participate in a media conference with the NSW Roads Minister, Hon. Michael Daley to give a last minute appeal to motorists to take care whilst travelling and in particular to visit Driver Reviver Sites.

Allan was surprised when the acting Premier Carmel Tebitt also turned up to address the media, specifically to thank all Driver Reviver volunteers for the great work they do and, for giving up their own time to help in preventing crashes.

This high level acknowledgement is a reflection on the value of all volunteers around the country. Great job team.



Volunteers and Proud

Most people realise that Driver Reviver is a 100% non profit volunteer operated program. It's easy to become accustomed to using the line, 'volunteers operate over public holidays and the beginning and end of school holidays'.

Many of our volunteers open on Christmas Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, children's birthdays and days when their footie team is playing. These may be very important events in peoples lives. To give them up to try to prevent strangers being involved in a car crash is an outstanding commitment.

Dedicated and long serving volunteers at Lincoln Gap in South Australia overheard truck drivers making the comment; "there's those Driver Reviver dole bludgers again".

Just goes to show there is still ignorance out there. Thank you to everyone who is giving up their time to help save lives. Even though most of the people whose lives have been saved will never know; we know. (Editor)

Doubling up in Wallangarra Qld:

A railway station which is split into two, two schools, two police stations, two pubs, and a population of a few hundred. You're right, Wallangarra is a Qld, NSW border town, so with daylight savings, residents and visitors can celebrate events like New Years Eve twice.

The railway station has one end owned by Queensland and the southern end owned by New South Wales. It is a good example of how governments in the past went their own ways,- evidenced with the two different railway gauges.

The town has an excellent information centre, picnic facilities with barbecues and toilets. Best of all is the great Driver Reviver Site and friendly but shy volunteers, (if they were in the above pic, they'd be smiling).



Around the Sites

“Ballarat, Vic has had lots of international visitors and young people too,” says HeatherTurner, many visit the Rainbow Serpent Folk Festival at Beaufort. Joe Barry, Dimboola, Vic, Site says his team had a busy Christmas/New Year period in spite of the heat, something most Victorians know all about.

Denis Jewell, Mildura Vic, reports the SES did a fantastic job in 2008 promoting the Site and fatigue awareness, articles appeared in local newspaper, coverage was received on radio and TV. The local ABC reporter even relayed stories from the Site.

Nev Kunkel, Chevallum Qld, says travellers continue to appreciate the ‘Free’ break thanks to sponsors products and support, Overseas visitors can’t believe we give away free refreshments adds Nev.

Braidwood, NSW is another Site which sees lots of overseas visitors, Site Manager Kerry Crockertells us the 08/09 Christmas/New Year holiday season was busier than usual with more traffic and more people stopping.

The Waratah Guide Unit in charge of the Coonabarabran, NSW Site, sees it as an opportunity for the Guides to give service to the community. Thanks to astute management of funds including grants and donations, the Warrumbungle Shire owned shed from which the Guides operates, has been turned into a comfortable, “user friendly” facility. The Guides are trying to raise additional funds for hot and cold water. During 2008 the local View Club members were invited to assist at the Site, the collaboration has worked well and is a good example for those Sites with dwindling or aging volunteers.

Kempsey, NSW is celebrating its 23rd year of operation at Easter 2009. That’s a real achievement for a Site which has saved many travellers day and night, with many grateful motorists calling in for a cuppa and a quick nap in the early hours of the morning. Well done to long time Site manager Ray Walkden, his Lions Club and volunteers.

Port Macquarie, NSW Site operated for 28 days over summer, that translates to 1919 hours and 15250 visitors. Coordinator Gordon Toms assisted by Peter Goodwin manage the largest number of volunteers (over 600), available to any Site in the country.

Angela Williams, Ardrossan SA, Site tells us her Site will be promoted on SA Tourism, Web Site. We think all tourism Sites should promote Driver Reviver, well done, Ardrossan.

Lincoln Gap, SA, Site is a favourite with across the Nullabor travellers. Long serving Site manager Ray Hayes has moved to Adelaide for health reasons but, typical of Ray, he’s planning on making the long trip to the Site to help out. Welcome to Don ‘Bushy’ Watson who has taken over from Ray.

Tassie is steaming ahead with Sites at Parramatta Creek, Fossey River, Franklin River, Sidling Lookout and St Peters Pass.

In WA, the Derby RoadWise Committee will be at the “Erskine Halfway Boab” over Easter 2009. Norseman Lions operated its Driver Reviver over the March long weekend and will be out there again at Easter.

Thanks Media

Thank you to all the media around the country which supported Driver Reviver in 2008, the regional press and radio, ABC in South Australia and in particular Andrew Daddo (ABC) in Sydney. Special thanks to the TV Networks which run the Driver Reviver TV Community Service message.

Alaskan saved at Colac

A recent visitor from Palmer, Alaska, USA. wrote advising he had visited the Driver Reviver Site at Colac in Victoria, whilst there he left behind a green frisbee with an Australian sticker on the back. "Normally this wouldn't be a big deal, but it has sentimental value because it has travelled to many different countries including being on the Great Wall of China," wrote our friendly guest.

Cliff McAlicie, stalwart, Colac volunteer advises the priceless frisbee is now winging its way to Alaska, not with a flick of the wrist but by airmail.



Do you think they'll find a Driver Reviver Site on the Simplon Pass?

Yass, NSW long serving volunteer and Site manager John Hedges and his wife Fiona are on their way to Europe, lots of people do that, you say! But; this couple of adventurers are travelling 5000 k's through 7 countries in a 1941 Ford ex WW2 Ute. The occasion is to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the D-Day landing in Normandy.

The Driver Reviver Site at Yass, is one of the many with both sides of the road operation, it is one of the busiest Sites and largest too, with parking for every size vehicle imaginable. It's a favourite with people travelling Sydney - Melbourne.

You can follow John and Fiona's adventures on this Site: www.hedgesnormandy.blogspot.com

The Driver Reviver Newsletter is produced for volunteers and all those interested in the program.

Contributions to the Newsletter from Driver Reviver volunteers are encouraged. Send any material to Allan McCormac through the regular channels with authorisation to publish.



Cranbourne, Vic, setting up to revive people heading to the Moto GP, Oct., 08.

Below: Sue Martin, Site Manager with fellow volunteers



Below: Adrian Barton, centre and the enthusiastic team from Raymond Terrace, NSW. Adrian supplied the caravan used in the Driver Reviver TV, video. Yes he got to see the filming and meet the crew.



Thanks RTA

In NSW, the RTA organises regional meetings for Site managers. These meetings provide an unbeatable environment for networking, access to expertise in operational, sponsorship and road safety. They make a significant contribution to the effective operation of the States almost 90 Sites.