

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

20 July 2015

## **Gearing Up expands to help people of all ages**

The Huon Valley Council is expanding its free Gearing Up program to include new drivers of all ages and to cover areas of the Huon/Channel and Kingston.

Following the success of the youth program, which pairs mentors with learner drivers, the program is now being offered to all age groups.

The Gearing Up program provides a vehicle and driver mentor to help people log the 50 hours of supervised driving required to qualify for the P-plate test, and start them on the road to independence.

Learner drivers have the choice of a male or female driver mentor, and the option of being picked up and dropped off at home if they are unable to travel.

Gearing Up is always on the lookout for new driver mentors. Anyone interested in volunteering to help local residents work towards obtaining their P-plates should contact the Council on 6264 0300.

The supervising mentors are not driving instructors, their role is purely supervision in the place of parent/guardian or any other fully licensed driver, and they can choose the hours they volunteer. Training and support is provided to mentors.

More information about the program is available at the Council's Customer Service Centre in Huonville and on the Council's website.



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Attached pic caption:

**Driver mentor Tony Duggan with successful new driver Rhiannon.**



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