

# MEDIA RELEASE

13 May 2016

## Weekend Gearing Up mentors needed in the Huon Valley

The successful free **Gearing Up** program, which pairs mentors with learner drivers, is seeking mentors in the Huon Valley and Kingborough areas, but especially in the Huon Valley on weekends.

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.

The program is now being offered to all age groups in Kingborough and the Huon and with the onset of winter we need some more volunteers to help drivers 'get their hours up'.

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.

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

In areas such as the Huon Valley and Kingborough, isolation can be a major barrier to involving oneself with the local community. The lack of regular public transport means being able to drive is a necessity. You'll be helping other local residents to gain or regain their independence and self-esteem.

If you'd like to volunteer your time and become part of this deserving program and help local residents work towards obtaining their P-plates, contact the **Gearing Up** program on 03) **6264 0300**.

**More information about the program is available on the Huon Valley Council's website or email the Council [hvc@huonvalley.tas.gov.au](mailto:hvc@huonvalley.tas.gov.au)**



Contact: Communications & Media Unit, Huon Valley Council  
Ph: (03) 6264 0314  
Email: [communications@huonvalley.tas.gov.au](mailto:communications@huonvalley.tas.gov.au)  
Web: [www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au](http://www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au)  
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## Gearing Up mentor Croymden Hall with new P-Plater Josie Parker



Contact: Communications & Media Unit, Huon Valley Council  
Ph: (03) 6264 0314  
Email: [communications@huonvalley.tas.gov.au](mailto:communications@huonvalley.tas.gov.au)  
Web: [www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au](http://www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au)  
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