

Kings of the Road

A GROUP of young adults joined the 18-week Backswing project in Sorell in early 2019. Backswing is an Empowering Youth Initiative provided by Colony 47 to Southern Tasmania, funded by the Australian Government. The project is designed to provide out-of-work youth with real workplace skills and experience in project management.

The team took on the challenge of tackling the issue of youth employment in Sorell and surrounding areas. They identified that not having a drivers license is the number one barrier for young people in securing employment in their community. The group decided to develop the campaign 'Kings of the Road' and encourage community members to become Driver Mentors, as

they are desperately needed in south-east Tasmania.

With a little help from the King of Rock and Roll - the Backswing team has received some extra support from Elvis, the King of Rock'n'Roll. Don't be surprised if you see him around in the coming weeks. Elvis is encouraging everyone who can, to become a Driver Mentor. *Driver Mentors provide driving practice for learner drivers, allowing them to gain the required 50 hours of supervised on-road experience.* Backswing has also been partnering with Driver Mentoring Tasmania (DMT) and the Ready Set Go program in order to provide people professional support and guidance needed to become a successful Driver Mentor.

Local Support - this project was also supported by the following local panel members; Amy Bailey (Project Manager, *TasCOSS*), Andrew Hyatt (Workforce Engagement and Development Officer, *SERDA*), Depha Miedecke (Senior Manager for Community Engagement, *TASSAL*), Jackie Rafferty (Customer & Community Services, *Sorell Council*), Penny Goodland (Electorate Officer, *Office of Rebecca White MP*), and Rick Birch (Co-Ordinator, *South East Trade Training Centre Sorell, Triabunna and Tasman Campuses*).

"This is the second Backswing project out of 8 projects, delivered so far in Tasmania, that addresses the barriers of transport for young people. We are blown away with this creative approach from our Backswing team to make a positive difference in our community", stated Donovan Szytura, Backswing Co-Ordinator.

Campaign launch and mechanical workshop - The campaign will be *launched in May 2019*. An additional *mechanical workshop* organised by the Backswing team, along with Elvis, will offer some practical tips for the unexperienced on basic car maintenance, such as adding engine oil, additives and water or to learn how to change a wheel on a car. The workshop will take place on Tuesday, **14 May** at 2pm at 11 Fitzroy Street in Sorell.

The aim of Backswing, is to identify at least 6 "Kings of the Road" in the region, to help community members to obtain a driver licence. The registration can be done online and the first 6 community members who put their hands up will even win a \$50 fuel voucher. More information on www.kingsoftheroad.com.au.



Kings of the Road - Elvis Student.