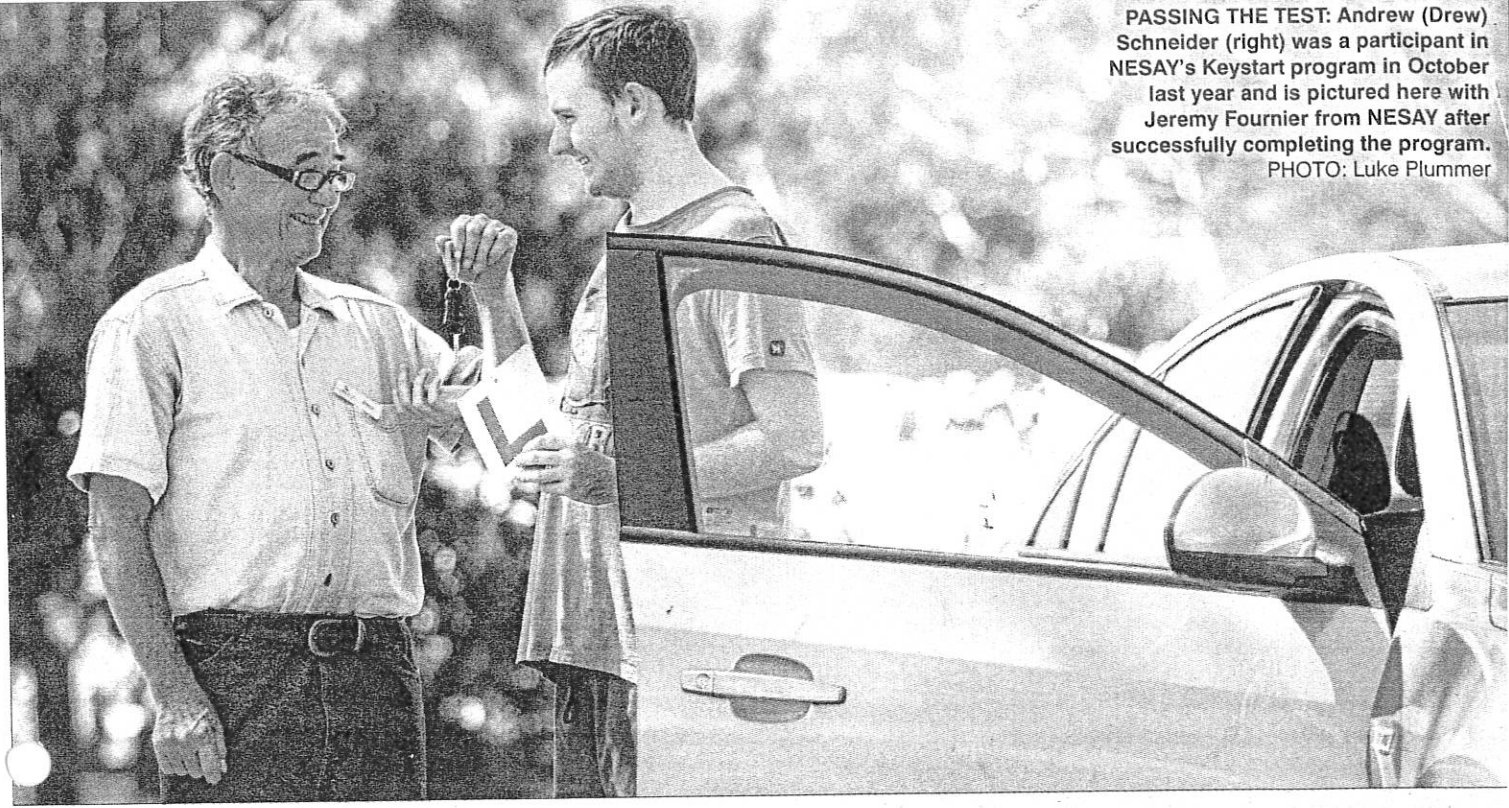


PASSING THE TEST: Andrew (Drew) Schneider (right) was a participant in NESAY's Keystart program in October last year and is pictured here with Jeremy Fournier from NESAY after successfully completing the program.
PHOTO: Luke Plummer



Help is out there for young learner drivers

SUPPORT is out there for young people ready to get into the driver's seat or just preparing for that momentous day.

NESAY runs two programs aimed at giving learner drivers the edge: Keystart and L2P.

KEYSTART is a pre-learner driver education program that helps people of any age, prepare to sit for and pass their learner permit test and is open to anyone who needs to get their learner permit.

"NESAY helps participants prepare to sit their learner permit test via group work, and one to one intensive assistance, using computer and paper based activities," Jeremy Fournier from NESAY said.

"We also provide help with the required paperwork and understanding the VicRoads

Learner Permit process."

The next Keystart program will be held on Wednesday, March 9, Thursday, March 10 and Friday, March 11 at NESAY, 86-90 Rowan St Wangaratta.

Cost for the program is \$150 per participant payable upon enrolment.

People interested in the program need to ensure they have sufficient and correct ID so that they will be permitted to sit the test by VicRoads' staff.

Participants with a medical condition are responsible for checking with VicRoads to see that they can meet requirements to allow them to hold a learner permit.

A recent graduate of the program Andrew Schneider said it was a worthwhile experience.

"It really helped me get started," Andrew said.

"It helps to not only understand the road rules but also the signs.

"The instructor was also friendly and supportive and I would encourage others to give it a go."

If you are interested in joining the NESAY Keystart program or require further information, please phone Jeremy Fournier at NESAY on (03) 5720 2201. The program requires sufficient enrolments to run.

L2P on the other hand is a learner driver mentoring program which helps young learner drivers who are unable to get sufficient driving experience to gain the 120 hours practice required by VicRoads.

"Young people 16 to 20 years of age are eligible for the program if they can demonstrate a disadvantage," Mr Fournier said.

"Categories of disadvantage range from no available or suitable adults to supervise their driving, to families where both parents work full time and have other family responsibilities which make them extremely time poor.

"There are many reasons why a young person may have trouble obtaining their required driving hours and we encourage anyone to contact us and ask about the program."

The L2P program provides assistance at all stages of the young learner driver's driving experience and is capable of providing all the required driving experience from the acquisition of their learner's permit until their probationary licence test.

It's a free program and young people who feel they need help are welcome to apply by contacting NESAY on 5720 2201.