

31st May 2011

Free workshop for seniors on wheels

A free workshop on the ownership and operation of motorised wheelchairs will be held at Ulladulla Civic Centre on the 17th of June between 10am-12pm.

The workshop will be of interest to users of electric scooters and motorised wheelchairs or people thinking of buying one. The aim of the workshop is to increase knowledge and understanding of the responsibilities required for the safe use of a motorised wheelchair otherwise known as a special mobility vehicle.

A person driving a motorised wheelchair which cannot travel over 10km per hour (on level ground), is defined as a pedestrian under the Australian Road Rules and does not require a licence.

In addition, providing the motorised wheelchair is also solely for the conveyance of a person with a disability, you do not require vehicle registration.

Shoalhaven City Mayor, Cllr Paul Green said "there are a number of safety factors to consider before purchasing a motorised wheelchair and it is best to check first with your Aged Care Assessment Team, occupational therapist, doctor, or the Road Safety Officer here at Council or check the RTA website www.rta.nsw.gov.au under "Motorised Wheelchair".

When operating a Motorised Wheelchair:

- Plan your route in advance to make sure you can safely use your Motorised Wheelchair.
- Use the footpath or nature strip where provided.
- Find kerb ramps or driveways with clear site distances that you can use for road crossings.
- Keep to the edge of the road if no footpath is available.
- Travel along quieter streets if possible, even if it means a longer journey.
- Choose shops, toilets or other facilities designed to accommodate Motorised Wheelchairs.
- Attach a brightly coloured flag to your Motorised Wheelchair to assist others to see you.

"I encourage all those who use a motorised wheelchair to attend this important workshop. It's free of charge and will offer advise and information on the safe use of such devices." Cllr Green said

Bookings are essential for catering purposes and morning tea will be provided. Please contact Shoalhaven City Council's Road Safety Officer Kathy Wiseham on 4429 3484 or email wisehamk@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au.

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