

Staying in tune

By Nicole Williams

HAND Brake Turn is still here and going strong.

After a battle for government funding last year, program manager Mark Binnington wants to ensure the community knows it is still going strong.

"We are around and we're still here and we've got secure funding for at least 12 months," he said.

"There's been a bit of a perception that we are shutting down."

But the program for disengaged young people is always calling for more backing from the community.

"We do have a lot of community support but we're always looking for more – whether its tools, equipment or vehicles," Mr Binnington said.

"We are always looking for more cars – that's something we're quite in need of at the moment."

The program is for young people aged between 15 and 20 years who struggle in the school environment or to enter the workforce.

The young people help repair a car over the eight-week program, which is then presented to a worthy recipient in the community.

Mr Binnington said that while the program tries to instil employment skills and training, it is also important the kids give something back to the community.



Hand Brake Turn participants Ann Williams (mechanics), Murphy Johnson (panel beating), Wuok Thiwat (spray-painting) and Awen Dearlove (mechanics) want to ensure the community know the program is going strong.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

(HBT) HAND BRAKE TURN

POLICE DONATE A CAR AND 2 MOTOR CYCLES
TO HBT FOR 15 TO 20 YR OLDS HELPING
TO GET THEIR LIVES ON TRACK.

28 July
2014

Auto classes for accelerated opportunity

By CASEY NEILL

DANDENONG police are helping local youths get a start in the auto industry.

They donated a car and two motorcycles to Concern Australia's Hand Brake Turn (HBT) last Wednesday, 23 July.

The not-for-profit Concern Australia program gives 15 to 20-year-olds a chance to get their lives on track through training in mechanics, panel beating and spraying.

It runs five nine-week courses throughout the year and students who complete it achieve a certificate II in autobody repair technology.

Dandenong Sergeant Joseph Herrech said the donation was a way of giving back to the local community.

"We've been working with Hand Brake Turn for seven years," he said.

"As part of the program, participants are given the opportunity to develop practical, hands-on skills which can be the first step towards a more positive and secure future.

"The vehicles that we're donating were part of a pool of items that were abandoned or unclaimed.

"They'll be used for training purposes to give participants the skills required to work in the automotive industry."

HBT manager Marc Clothier said many program participants had experienced difficulty within the mainstream education system.

"Without donations such as these, we wouldn't be able to run programs that not only develop practical skills but social development, positive thinking and confidence," he said.

Young people generally come to HBT through referrals from job agencies and schools.

spokeswoman Rebecca Kats



Sergeant Andrew Smart and Jonathon Moule work on the donated car. 124371

Picture: GARY SISSONS

said: "Most of the kids who do badly at school do really well here because they're using their hands."

She said the units they completed at HBT would count toward auto industry apprenticeships.

"Nine weeks here can literally cut 12 months off an apprenticeship," she said.

The course also sends participants into apprenticeships with a head-start in auto knowledge, an idea of what aspect of the industry they're good at and enjoy, and job interview techniques.

HBT also picks up donated vehicles to use for parts, to sell for scrap or restore.

Students must be aged between

15 and 20 years old and have basic literacy and numeracy skills, a willingness to learn and gain employment and a genuine interest in the automotive industry.

Call 9793 1466 for more information.

Hand Brake Turn is at 7 Hilton Street, Dandenong.

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Hand brake turns it on

By CASEY NEILL

HAND Brake Turn has helped to restore an elderly man's faith in young people.

Students have helped to restore a donated 1984 Ford Laser for Cranbourne man Ron McCurdy.

The two-time Casey Resident of the Year's 1996 Commodore was stolen from the Cranbourne Centro shopping centre and destroyed in May.

Mr McCurdy was there to collect food for the Salvation Army to distribute to people in need - a task he's been completing seven days a week for 14 years.

"I think they got the kids, I'm not sure if they did or not," he said.

"I wouldn't do a thing like that to anybody.

"It was a real good car.

"But, never mind, these things happen."

Mr McCurdy received another car shortly after the incident.

"But the head gasket blew and I was stranded in the middle

of the road," he said.

His wife Dorothy has been helping him to continue his Salvos duties.

"She's been in the Salvos a long time, I'm only a volunteer," he said.

The City of Casey recommended he contact Hand Brake Turn South Eastern to make the task easier.

Dandenong's Five Star Automotive supplied a roadworthy certificate free of charge.

"These chaps have been absolutely wonderful," he said.

"Seeing what you young kids are doing, it gives me a lot of faith."

One student replied: "I'm glad we can restore faith in humanity for you."

Hand Brake Turn is a not-for-profit Concern Australia program that gives 15 to 20-year-olds a chance to get their lives on track through training in mechanics, panel beating and spraying.

It runs five nine-week courses each year and students who complete it achieve a certificate II in autobody repair technology. Hand Brake Turn is at 7 Hilton Street, Dandenong. Call 9793 1466 for more information.



Student David Hayes, 18, hands Ron McCurdy the keys to his new car. 127987



Former Hand Brake Turn student Thouk Wol works on a car. 101454

Picture: STEWART CHAMBERS

Turn around young lives

HAND Brake Turn is holding a dinner to raise funds for new tools and equipment, heating for the workshops and updated training manuals.

The Concern Australia program gives disengaged youths a start in the automotive industry.

There'll be door prizes, music from writer, singer and producer Ceeko, and a guest speaker.

■ Dandenong Club, 1579 Heatherton Road, Dandenong. 24 October, 7pm. Tickets are \$50. Call 9793 1466 for more information.

Hand Brake mechanical training to turn troubled lives full circle

By CASEY NEILL

HAND Brake Turn is aiming to change even more lives through training.

The Dandenong automotive centre has opened applications to anyone aged 15 years and over, removing its previous age cap of 22 years following community demand.

Not-for-profit Concern Australia runs five nine-week courses hands-on, full-time automotive training course at Hand Brake Turn (HBT) each year.

It covers panel beating, motor mechanics, car detailing, occupational health and safety and more and students who complete it achieve a Certificate II in Auto Body Repair.

The next course starts on Monday 10 August.

Requirements include basic literacy and numeracy skills, a willingness to learn and gain employment and a genuine interest in the automotive industry.



Phil Bloy and Marc Clothier at Hand Brake Turn. 142342

Picture: GARY SISSONS

HBT administrator Rebecca Kats said the units counted towards auto industry apprenticeships.

"Nine weeks here can literally cut 12 months off an apprenticeship," she said.

The course also sends them into apprenticeships with a head-start in auto knowledge, an idea of what aspect of the

industry they're good at and enjoy, and job interview techniques.

HBT also picks up donated vehicles to use for parts, sell for scrap or restore.

Hand Brake Turn is at 7 Hilton Street, Dandenong.

Phone 9793 1466 for more information or to request an interview.

IT'S NONE OF OUR BUSINESS BUT...



HAND Brake Turn in Dandenong has received a \$10,000 boost from the Commonwealth Bank's Community Grant program. Not-for-profit Concern Australia offers Certificate II in Auto Body Repair at the automotive training centre to guide people into employment. Commonwealth Bank's Harsh Modi, Danyelle Prout and Avnish Shah last Wednesday presented the cheque to Hand Brake Turn staff Rebecca Kats and Marc Clothier and students Tamara, Harley and John. 142987

Picture: ROB CAREW

Students turn their hand to auto career

By CASEY NEILL

YOUNG people eyeing an auto-industry career now have more chances to get a head start at Hand Brake Turn in Dandenong.

Campus manager Sonia Clark said that instead of nine-week courses, the automotive training centre was offering six-month courses with rolling intakes every few weeks.

"We continuously take students in now," she said.

Ms Clark said other TAFE colleges only offered two intakes a year which was holding back students who were ready learn and get their hands dirty.

"You need to strike while the iron's hot," she said.

Up to 30 students aged 15 to 20 can be enrolled at any one time, and they attend the Concern Australia centre two to three days a week.

The course covers panel beating, motor mechanics, car detailing, occupational health and safety and more, and students who complete it achieve a certificate two in auto body repair.

Requirements include basic literacy and numeracy skills, a willingness to learn and gain employment, and a genuine interest in the automotive industry.

The course also leads students into apprenticeships with a head-start in auto knowledge, an idea of what aspect of the industry they're good at and enjoy, and job interview techniques.

Ms Clark is looking at supply and de-



Sonia Clark watches students at work. 152752 Picture: STEWART CHAMBERS

mand in the area and considered other accredited and non-accredited courses that the centre could offer.

"I would like to grow it," she said.

Hand Brake Turn is at 7 Hilton Street, Dandenong.

Call 9793 1466 with any queries or course suggestions.

A council report recommended endorsing sick leave for Mr Bennie from 30 March for "an indefinite period" and for corporate services director Mick Jaensch to step into the CEO role.

But Cr Maria Sampey called for a time limit to be placed on the leave.

She said Mr Bennie should have all the time off he needed but that councillors should have the opportunity to review the situation.

"It's not that I don't think you're capable of doing the job, Mr Jaensch," she said.

Cr Sampey abstained from voting on the motion after her requests for an end date went unsupported. The 10 other councillors voted in favour.

Mr Jaensch indicated that Mr Bennie was likely to return at the end of May.