

**SLOW VEHICLE TURNOUTS**

A frustrated driver held up by slow moving traffic can become a dangerous driver.

When you are driving slower than the cars behind you, please look for and use the **SLOW VEHICLE TURNOUTS** along the Great Ocean Road.

Due to the winding nature of much of the road, there is little space for full overtaking lanes. However, turnout lanes are for slower vehicles to use to allow vehicles behind them to overtake.

**TOWING A CARAVAN**

Please consider avoiding school holidays, long weekends and special events when the road is busy. Plan your trip ahead and leave early.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

Each year, the Great Ocean Road hosts many major events (listed below). These can cause traffic congestion and often involve road closures.

**Jan** Pier to Pub Swim  
Mountain to Surf Fun Run

**April** The Apollo Bay Music Festival  
Ripcurl Pro Easter Surfing Tournament

**May** Go Marathon Weekend

**Dec** Anaconda Adventure Race  
Falls Festival

Go to [www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au](http://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au) or [www.colacotway.vic.gov.au](http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au) for more details.

**SCENIC LOOKOUTS**

Most scenic lookout carparks are on the ocean side of the road and are best accessed when traveling south-west along the Great Ocean Road – this avoids crossing the path of on coming vehicles hidden around blind corners when entering a scenic lookout.

When travelling towards Geelong use an inland route.

A joint initiative of:



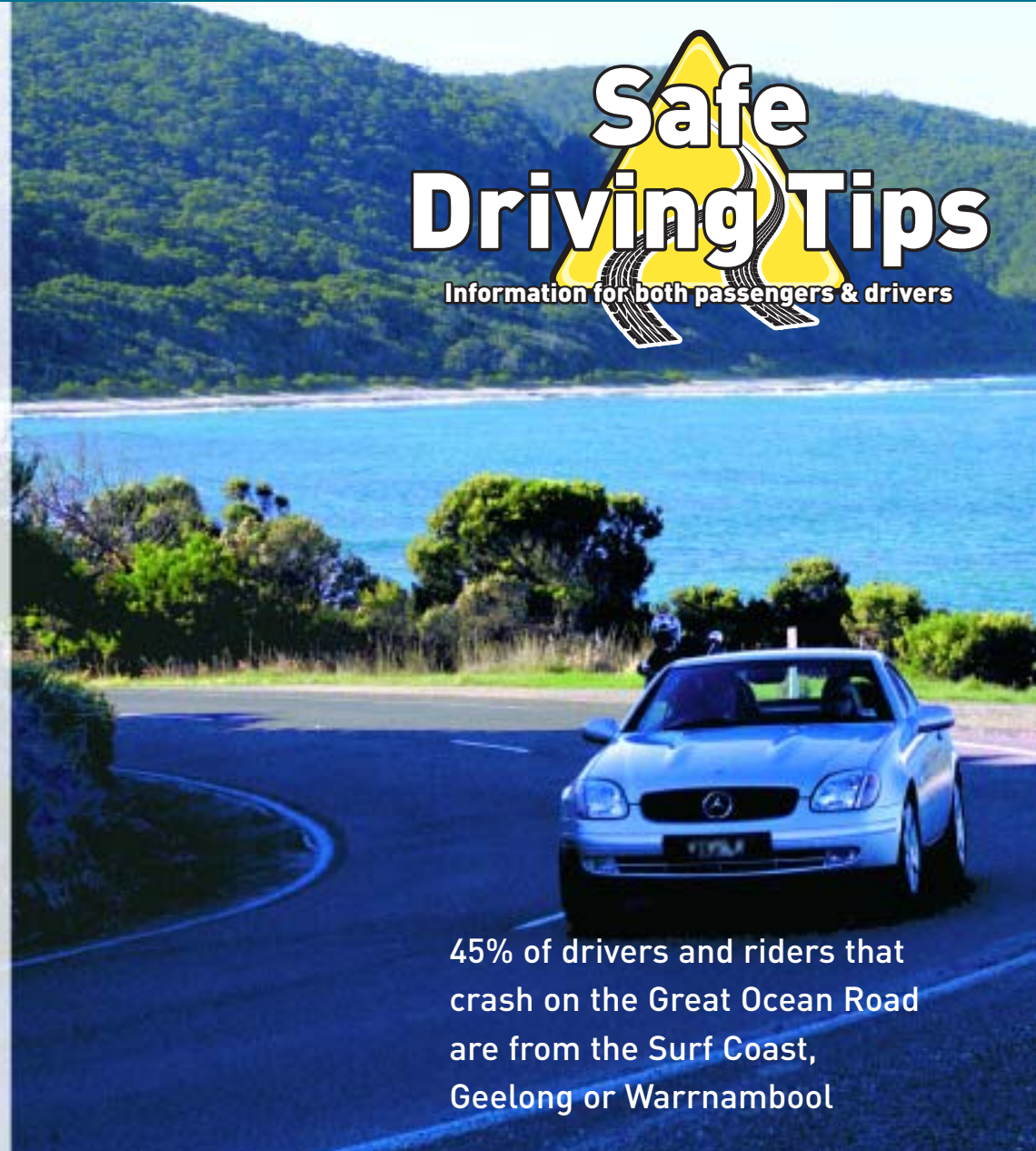
VICTORIA POLICE



Colac Otway SHIRE  
Naturally Progressive



Corangamite SHIRE



45% of drivers and riders that crash on the Great Ocean Road are from the Surf Coast, Geelong or Warrnambool

Lorne Community Hospital, Road Safe Barwon and local Police are working together to improve your safety while travelling along the Great Ocean Road.

GSDM 8382\_1207



HERE are a few safe driving tips to get you to your destination and home again safely

- Due to the mountainous terrain, the narrow windy road and slow traffic, the trip along the road takes longer than it looks on a map.
- The round trip from Melbourne to Port Campbell and return to Melbourne is a long way to travel in one day. Make this a 2-day trip.
- The road has many hazards hidden around blind corners, including fallen rocks, hidden driveways and erratic drivers. Please observe the advisory safety and speed signs.
- Watch the road well ahead for the many hazards on this road. Look beyond the car in front of you in case it has to stop suddenly.
- The faster you drive, the more distance you'll need to brake and stop in an emergency situation.
- Leave a 3 or 4 second gap between you and the vehicle in front of you.

- Police investigators know that excessive speed is a road safety issue because when they investigate a crash they measure:
  - the length and depth of tyre skid marks
  - the distance taken to stop
  - the extent of the impact



- Sleepiness does affect your ability to concentrate. Do not drive at a time when you would normally be sleeping. **Stop for power naps.**
- On the Great Ocean Road you are likely to drive into the setting sun at some point. Have sun glasses at your fingertips.
- Talking on a mobile phone has caused road crashes simply because it takes greater concentration levels than talking to your passenger. Also your passenger can see the road situation ahead, the person at the end of the phone cannot.

### BLIND CORNERS HIDE THE HAZARDS



**SLOW DOWN AND TAKE YOUR TIME ON THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD.**



## SLEEP, DRIVING & FATIGUE - NASA RESEARCH

NASA and also airline companies have conducted an enormous amount of research into how astronauts and pilots can avoid making fatal human errors.

The need for sleep is considered when preparing schedules. Compulsory 15 minute "powernaps" are built into pilot and astronaut flight schedules.

This has significantly reduced the number of accidents.

This concept also applies to drivers and riders. The TAC and other road safety agencies are promoting the message **"17 hours without sleep, is like having a Blood Alcohol Level (BAC) level of .05%"** which is considered unsafe for driving.



The comment: **"I can drive all night"**, really means that on that occasion the driver was lucky. A lack of sleep does affect your ability to concentrate.

Due to your body clock, no matter how confident you are, your body cannot stop sleepiness from affecting your concentration levels.

This applies especially on the Great Ocean Road as travel times are much greater on this road.

## TRAVEL TIMES

Due to sightseeing opportunities and other time delays travel times can be greater than expected.

### Example One - 'Round trip'

- Wake up at 6am
- Leave Melbourne at 8am
- Arrive Apollo Bay at 4pm
- Arrive Port Campbell at 6pm
- Arrive home at 11pm\*

By the time you arrive home you will have been awake for 17 hours. **This is like being .05**

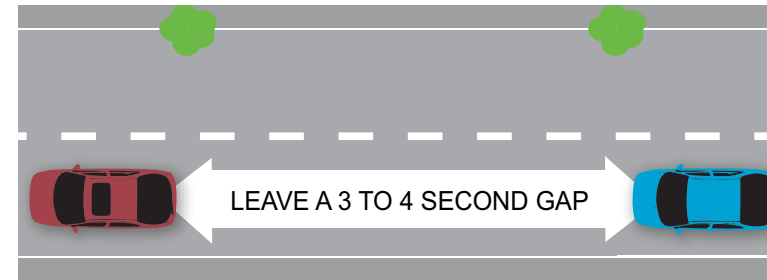
### Example Two - 'Weekend away'

- Wake up at 6am
- Work from 9am to 5pm
- Leave Melbourne at 7pm
- Arrive Port Campbell at 11pm\*

By the time you arrive at Port Campbell you will have been awake for 17 hours.

**This is like being over .05**

**\* By driving at night you are more likely to be fatigued and traveling at times when you'd normally be asleep.**



## DRIVE SAFELY

**Keeping a safe following distance is crucial on this road.**

In good conditions on normal roads good defensive drivers leave a 2 to 3 second gap between their car and the vehicle in front of them. But on this road make it 3 to 4 seconds. When the vehicle in front passes a tree or a post, count slowly one thousand, two thousand, three thousand. If your car reaches that tree or post within this time you are traveling too close and you need to slow down and leave a 3 to 4 second gap.

In unexpected situations, it takes time to determine that there is danger, react, then apply the brake safely or take evasive action.

## SLOW DOWN

**The faster you drive, the longer it takes to stop.**

This is why driving at speeds that are inappropriate for the conditions can cause crashes and why Police and other road safety authorities want drivers to slow down.

**Slow down and take your time on the Great Ocean Road.**





**CRASHES ON THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD**

Due to the high crash rate on this road, there is a deliberate high Police presence.

For those that crash on this road, where are they from? Residential address of driver, riders involved in crashes on the Great Ocean Road.

LOCATION	%
Melbourne	35
Local - Surf Coast, Colac & Warrnambool	33
Geelong	12
Rest of Victoria	8
Interstate	4
Overseas	4



	Rest area		Arterial road
	Fuel		Other road
	Fuel and Premium Unleaded		Number of crashes at this spot, 2002 to 2005 reported to Police
	Visitor information		
	Highway		