



National Motor Vehicle  
Theft Reduction Council  
*driving down vehicle theft*

# Theft TORQUE

National Motor Vehicle  
Theft Reduction Council –  
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## Melbourne International Vehicle Crime Conference



*Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police Christine Nixon opens the conference.*

The Melbourne International Vehicle Crime Conference was held on 13 and 14 June at the Melbourne Convention Centre, hosted by the NMVTRC and Victoria Police. With speakers coming to us from all over the globe and across Australia, the conference provided an excellent forum for sharing experiences and expertise in the field of vehicle theft prevention and investigation.

Over 250 guests attended the conference, which was split into separate strategic and operational sessions. There were also workshops and panel discussions which aimed to provide insight into specific issues such as re-birthing and juvenile offending.

# Melbourne International Vehicle Crime Conference continued

A brief background for the international speakers is provided below.

Dr Colin Roberts, from the University of Oxford, presented his research in relation to the criminal behaviour of persistent offenders who first commence in early teenage years and continue offending at high levels well into their late 20s and beyond. Dr Roberts has been a special expert of the Council of Europe on alternatives to imprisonment, undertaking advisory visits to former communist European countries and is an appointed member of the Home Office Correctional Services Accreditation Panel.

John Wagstaff, from Britain's Insurance Fraud Bureau (IFB), spoke of his extensive experience in insurance fraud. John recently retired from the Bureau, following 25 years' experience in the insurance industry. John successfully lobbied over 20 years for more effective fraud legislation with members of the Crime and Fraud Prevention Bureau, and then went on to join Royal & Sun Alliance as an intelligence coordinator for the Counter Fraud Unit.

Speakers from Finland and South Africa presented their assessment of transnational car crime in their regions. Kari Aaltio and Jari Tiainen are investigators

from Finland's National Bureau of Investigation and Lorinda Nel is a former public prosecutor and currently national project manager for Business Against Crime (South Africa).

For more information on the conference, including a full list of speakers and program structure, please visit the official website at [www.vehiclecrimeconference.com](http://www.vehiclecrimeconference.com)

## Dots Go Robots

DataDot Technology Ltd in partnership with Machinery Automation and Robotics, Prix Car Services and the NMVTRC has announced the deployment of a robotic applicator for high speed fitment of microdots. The robot is capable of spraying microdots to 26 designated locations on a vehicle in less than a minute and is a significant step towards overcoming the major technical barrier to fitting microdots in the high volume end of the automotive market.

The robot was unveiled at Prix Car Services' Melbourne service centre where microdots are currently manually sprayed to BMW, Audi, Lexus, Lotus and Porsche cars. A major challenge for the robot's designers was to meet the requirements of just in time delivery where supplying the correct VIN dot to the system in the correct order and responding to unplanned vehicle sequence changes required innovative solutions. The system employs optical character recognition software that enables the robot to automatically select the correct VIN dot to match the VIN of the next vehicle in line.

The robot is undergoing live production trials over the coming months to complete the systems mapping that is needed to guide the robot's spray patterns



*The underside of a vehicle being manually sprayed with microdots.*

for each individual make and model that will be fitted with microdots. At the completion of the trials it is expected that robots will quickly be deployed in other Australian fitment centres and centres in South Africa, Taiwan, New Zealand, and Europe.

DataDot's development of the robot was supported by a significant grant from the Australian Government's 'Commercial Ready' Innovation grants scheme with additional funding support from the NMVTRC.



*The new robotic applicator.*

The New Zealand government announced on the 3rd of May that microdot WOVN will become mandatory for all vehicles imported into New Zealand within the next 12 months. The decision means that more than 200,000 new and used imported vehicles per year will require microdot fitment in order to meet New Zealand's certification requirements. The decision was made following government consideration of a detailed cost benefit study prepared by the New Zealand Ministry of Transport.

# Glenorchy City Council Partners WIN Television and Village Cinemas as Part of Operation Bounce Back

Glenorchy City Council (GCC), winner of the 2006 International Association of Auto Theft Investigators' Outstanding Achievement Award, has secured partnership with WIN Television and Village Cinemas as part of its 2007 *Operation Bounce Back* program. Having initiated a partnership with the WIN Television Network to contribute to airing three television advertisements as during their 2006 *Operation Bounce Back* program, GCC will now be able to continue this partnership for the 2007 program. On top of this, Village Cinemas in Glenorchy have agreed to air the television adverts on all four movie screens for a period of 12 months, providing a fantastic partnership package to GCC.

GCC's *Operation Bounce Back* program has also just taken out the Local Government Association of Tasmania's (LGAT) Award for Excellence in the category of 'Invigorating Communities' at the LGAT annual conference. Projects in this category must address one or more of the following goals:

- contribute to a higher quality of life in the Local Government Area (LGA);
- strengthen and enhance the social infrastructure of the community;
- facilitate a safer community;
- raise the level of inclusion of the community in the development of council policy and decisions;

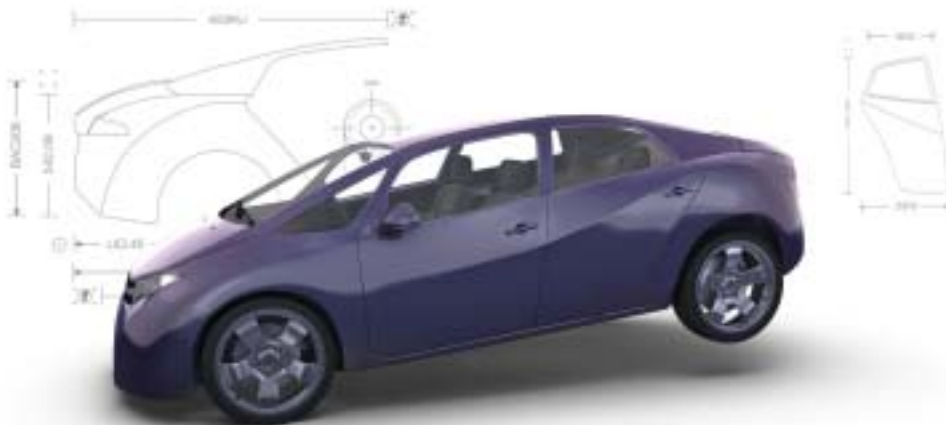
- improve residents' access to council services;
- reduce disadvantage in the LGA; and
- contribute to a sense of community identity.

GCC's *Operation Bounce Back* program addressed a number of these issues, in particular promoting a safer community, reducing disadvantage, and increasing the quality of life in the community. GCC also won the 2006 Award for Excellence in the category of Invigorating Communities for the 'Glenorchy on Track' project.

## Secure By Design

Secure By Design has now successfully launched in Hobart, Brisbane, Darwin, and Melbourne, and will visit all other remaining capital cities throughout the second half of 2007. With excellent media exposure at each location, the NMVTRC's flagship public awareness program has successfully captured the attention of print, television, and radio media across the four jurisdictions. The interactive 'virtual

secure car' has been particularly popular, providing a vivid representation of future technologies that are anticipated to become part of the secure family car of the future. Secure By Design aims to raise consumer awareness and applaud those vehicle manufacturers that are setting the standard in producing the most secure vehicles currently on the market.



A still from the Secure By Design Virtual Car presentation.

## Insurer Access to Registration Data

Facilitating insurer access to the online validation of vehicle registration data is a strategic priority for the NMVTRC to further reduce the community impact of vehicle theft and related fraud.

The NMVTRC is therefore partnering Austroads (the association of Australian and New Zealand road transport and traffic authorities) to procure the development of an online application to provide specific, non-personal vehicle registration data to motor insurers via an information broker. The application is notionally called the Vehicle Information Request System, or VIRS.

Austroads will shortly advertise nationally seeking proposals from potential information brokers interested in developing the service on a commercial basis. Full details of the project are available from the VIRS Project Manager, Robert Stein, phone: (02) 9218 6645 or email to [robert\\_stein@rta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:robert_stein@rta.nsw.gov.au)

# Bankstown Project Update – Creating a Stripped Vehicle Case File

The NMVTRC's joint initiative with the New South Wales Police Force and Insurance Australia Group (IAG) continues to provide useful information regarding the extent and impact of vehicle stripping in the vehicle theft hotspot of Bankstown, New South Wales. Police have been photo-documenting all vehicles recovered stripped in the local government area of Bankstown, with this information being sent to IAG for analysis. IAG has provided estimates for the value of parts taken from each vehicle in order to get a better understanding of the dimensions of the problem. The value of the illicit parts market could be as high as \$300 million each year.

The NMVTRC's CARS team has combined the photographic images with information matched from the CARS database to create a case study

for each recovered vehicle. IAG's estimates of the value of missing parts will be added to this to create a full case note for each vehicle. A sample case note can be seen in the image shown.

Each case study includes photographs taken of the vehicle from all angles, plus specific offense details such as incident date and location, time to locate, location of recovery, and so on. Features specific to the vehicle and insurance claim are also included, such as the VIN, make, model, year, vehicle value as reported to police, Glass's Guide estimated value, insurance claim total cost. The reinstatement cost as estimated by IAG will also be included in each case.

Event Ref. No.	2801555	Incident Ref. No.	20040255
Accident Date Range	From 18/12/2006 20:00	To 18/12/2006 04:00	
Reported Location	Foggart Rd, Westlawn, 2207		
Located Date	22/12/2006 00:00	Time to Locate	2 Days
Located Location	Res No. Georges Hall, 2187		
Vehicle ID	Plate AAJCTM VIN AB0812010180207		
Vehicle Description	GRZ4 KIAZDA J Di 0423 2005 Mercedesben A5		
Vehicle Value	Reported to Police \$12,000 Glass's Estimate \$17,800		
Vehicle Damage	Yes		
Reinstatement Cost	Yes. Estimated \$212,207 Total Cost \$229,977		
Reinstatement Cost			
CARS Match Process	Recovery 286,788, 8506, 2088, 10047		



Example of Bankstown case study.

## U-turn Tasmania Turns 18

The 18th group of young Tasmanians to graduate from the State's *U-turn* program will be honored next month at a ceremony hosted by the Hon David Llewellyn, Minister for Police and Emergency Management.

*U-turn* is the innovative offender diversion and restorative justice program based on the NMVTRC's best practice model, which to date has assisted more than 150 young offenders and those at risk of offending get their lives back on track. It uses

the fascination that most young offenders have with vehicles to help them to develop practical automotive repair skills that can lead to further vocational or educational opportunities. Most importantly it focuses on helping them with the skills to put some space between impulse and action when tempted to return to their former ways.

Around six in 10 participants make it through the intensive 10 week program. More than half of

graduates move into employment or other vocational training or return to mainstream education.

Pleasingly, the Department of Police and Emergency Management and the current service provider, Mission Australia (MA), recently reached agreement on terms to allow MA to continue to deliver the program in Tasmania through to 2010.



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