

## Road ready at Tocal College for the Rotary Young Driver Awareness program

By SAM NORRIS

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*SAFETY TRAINING: Rutherford Telarah Rotary Club youth director Michael Weatherall and Tocal College principal Cameron Archer inspect the new road. Picture by CATH BOW*

Work is complete on a new road within Tocal College that's vital for young driver education – an issue close to principal Cameron Archer's heart.

The campus has in recent years hosted the Rotary Young Driver Awareness program, which Dr Archer has been eager to support for personal reasons. The college has lost two students to road trauma during his time. "These incidents happened 20 years ago but you never forget," he said. "It's part and parcel of why we did this and I still worry about students on country roads."

RYDA aims to better educate students on road safety while they're still in high school.

Rutherford Telarah Rotary took over the program two years ago but found it needed a dedicated road to best demonstrate stopping distances. With the college it pieced together a successful application to the state government's Community Building Partnership for the 300-metre stretch of bitumen worth \$29,000.

The project needed additional support and found it with donations of materials and labour from Scott Crisp & Hamblin Surveyors, Daracon, Boral, and Lantry Earthmoving.

Singleton civil engineer and Rotarian Ted Drayton oversaw the project with Rutherford Telarah Rotary's RYDA co-ordinator Mick Weatherall. "It was vital that we had a safe place to conduct the stopping demonstrations," Mr Weatherall said. "We're no longer having to close one of Tocal's internal roads and causing them disruption."

The road will also give access to Tocal Field Days visitors.