



Taking part in the Rotary Youth Driver Awareness program are driving instructor Tony Oliver with St Patrick's College students Kendra Smith, 16, and Connor Barron, 16. Picture: GEOFF ROBSON

Training program drives safety message

By COREY MARTIN

THE road is at times a lethal place to be.

About 2000 Northern Tasmanian year 10 students will participate in Rotary Youth Driver Awareness program in the next two weeks.

St Patrick's College students were among Tuesday's group to experience the interactive six-part training and road safety course at Symmons Plains.

Driving instructor Tony

Oliver said the one-day course covered high-speed braking, travel strategies and tips on how to protect themselves and passengers.

"We not only go into braking in a modern car but into the dynamics and physics of the car — seating, seat belts, ABS tyres and so on," Mr Oliver said.

"We also talk about police, drugs and alcohol, brain injury, hazard perception."

He said it was important

to teach people the dangers of driving before they take to the road.

Students also listen to a survivor tell her story about how one poor choice can change a life forever and watch confronting footage about the death of an 18-year-old Hobart provisional driver and her best friend.

St Patrick's students Kendra Smith and Connor Barron — both 16 and L1 drivers — said it was valuable experience.

Asked what they most took out of the day, Connor replied: "Look to be more aware and use our peripheral vision".

"Seeing (in the video) that that can happen to someone — you don't really want to go through that or have a friend that goes through that," he said.

The state government has provided \$75,000 to the program for three years, \$15,000 from MAIB and \$10,000 from RACT. The program started on Monday.