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RACT and Taste of Summer warn against the dangers of drink driving

With countless Tasmanians planning to enjoy a festive drink with friends and family over the busy summer period, the RACT is teaming up with Taste of Summer to warn against the dangers of drink and drug driving.

RACT and Taste of Summer staff were given first-hand experience of the effects of alcohol today, taking part in an exercise which saw them attempt to complete tasks while wearing 'beer goggles' which mimic the visual impact of varying blood-alcohol concentrations.

RACT Chief Advocacy Officer Garry Bailey said the safest option for Tasmanians was to not drive at all if they were planning to consume alcohol at events such as the Taste of Summer, and throughout the festive period.

"While staying below the limit is a non-negotiable 365 days of the year, it's particularly important to reinforce the message during the festive period when social events and gatherings are commonplace," Mr Bailey said.

"Driving drunk or affected by drugs can impair vision, concentration, reaction time and motor skills, which increases crash risk. Unfortunately, we hear of an increase in infringements at this time of year, and around large events.

"Alcohol can also affect decision making and increase risk-taking behaviour.

"So, if you're planning on having even one drink, the safest option is to not drive at all, and find another way home."

Taste of Summer CEO, Stephen McMullen said the beer goggles demonstrated why patrons should plan ahead about how they will get home after enjoying a drink at the Taste.

"The Taste is about bringing friends and families together to have a great time celebrating the best produce that Tasmania has to offer," Mr McMullen said.

"It's a fun, family-friendly event and we encourage everyone to keep it that way. There's plenty of fantastic, locally made non-alcoholic drinks available, but if you do have a few glasses of the outstanding beverages on offer make sure you've got a plan to get home safely."