



Martin Wrangle

My name is Martin Wrangle and on 9 October 2004 I was touched by the road toll. It was a normal Saturday morning and I was driving to work when my son's mother rang and informed me that our eldest son Trevor had been killed about 5.30 that morning in a single vehicle crash. I had heard on the radio that a P-plater had been killed in Skye but didn't give it thought as it only happens to other families. I went numb as a feeling of disbelief, then shock, horror, pain came over me.

So who was Trevor?

Trevor was 19-years-old, just three months short of his twentieth birthday, he worked as a landscape gardener and had just finished his apprenticeship. He lived with his mother, younger sister and brother in Karingal near Frankston, and on that Saturday morning instead of turning left into Skye Road to go home less than 500 metres away he continued down McClelland Drive. Why I will never know, but I do know that about two kilometres further on, he missed a sweeping right hand bend, lost control of his car as it then rolled several times before slamming drivers side into a large gum tree.

Trevor was speeding. Speed was mentioned in both the police and coroner's reports.

A man who lived close by heard the smash, and was first at the scene. He pulled Trevor from his Holden Commodore with dust, dirt and bits of car everywhere.

Trevor was alive but unconscious and the right side of his body had taken the full impact of the crash. The air ambulance was called to take his battered body to hospital but he died a few minutes later, with this kind stranger at his side.

Losing a child is a life changing event; nothing is EVER the same again. I see speeding drivers and my heart misses a beat. If only they knew what they were putting at risk.

The ripple effect is amazing; Trevor's death affected hundreds of people both directly and indirectly.

If telling Trevor's story can prevent road trauma from affecting just one other family, I will feel something positive has come from it. This is why campaigns such as **Shine a Light on Road Safety** are vital: to make people think when they are out on the roads. A road death makes today's news, but tomorrow it is just a memory for most people. For the family and friends involved their living nightmare is just beginning.



SHINE A LIGHT ON ROAD SAFETY

Road Trauma Support Services Victoria's **Shine a Light on Road Safety** campaign is to raise awareness, to stop deaths and injuries on our roads and to raise funds to support those impacted by road trauma: #shinealightonroadsafety.

Friday 4 May motorists are asked to turn on headlights to remember those impacted by road trauma and show your commitment to road safety.

Sunday 6 May there is a community walk at Albert Park Lake to enable community participation in advocating for safer roads.

ILLUMINATIONS

Australian landmarks will be illuminated in yellow for road safety from Monday 30 April to Sunday 6 May; thanks to the support of key partners including the Victorian Government, the Transport Accident Commission (TAC), VicRoads, Victoria Police and campaign sponsors.

KEY CAMPAIGN MESSAGES

- Road safety is everyone's responsibility
- Giving the community voice about road trauma
- Our counselling and support services are available free and unlimited to anyone impacted by road trauma.

OUR ORGANISATION

Road Trauma Support Services Victoria is a not-for-profit organisation contributing to the safety and wellbeing of Victorian road users. We provide counselling and support to people impacted by road trauma, and address attitudes and behaviours of road users through education. We are committed to educating the community and raising public awareness about road trauma and how it affects people's lives; we do this in part by sharing personal stories about road trauma.