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## **RACT urging Tasmanian motorists to get prepared for winter conditions**

The RACT is urging motorists to be vigilant about checking the condition of their vehicles this winter.

RACT community manager Will Oakley said RACT's annual free winter vehicle safety checks highlight ongoing safety concerns for vehicle owners.

"These include the need for tyre replacement, wiper blade replacement and the need for new light globes," he said.

"Last year during our annual checks we also found 20 vehicles that needed oil and we used almost 30 litres of oil topping up to required levels.

"Other vehicles needed a replacement battery and some seat belts required attention."

Mr Oakley said the key message for motorists was to closely check the condition of their vehicles this winter.

"Service checks will potentially save the need for costly repairs and prevent serious injury," he said.

"Depending on usage and distance travelled, vehicles should be serviced as per recommended intervals or at least annually for those who don't travel far.

"An inspection by a qualified mechanic is the best way to be sure your car is in safe condition."

Mr Oakley said poor tyre condition, insufficient tread depth and low pressure were potentially problematic for motorists as they could be dangerous in wet or icy conditions.

"Low tread levels can result in aquaplaning during wet weather, resulting in total loss of control when travelling at speed," he said.

"Tyre tread depth should be at least 1.5mm across the full surface of the tyre.

"Any less and motorists are exposing themselves and other road users to unnecessary dangers when the roads are wet, and to being booked for driving an unroadworthy vehicle."

The RACT's annual free Winter Safety Checks will be held on the following dates:

**Completed**

Tuesday 18 June - Channel Court, Kingston: 10.30am to 12.30pm

Wednesday 19 June - Northgate, Glenorchy: 10.30am to 12.30pm

**Today**

Thursday 20 June - Eastlands, Rosny Park: 10.30am to 12.30pm

**Upcoming**

Tuesday 25 June - RACT AutoServe, Launceston - 85 Cimitiere Street, Launceston: 10.30am to 12.30pm

Wednesday 26 June - RACT branch, Burnie - 24 North Terrace, Burnie: 10am to 12pm

Wednesday 26 June - Formby Road (CMAX Cinema) car park, Devonport: 1.30pm to 3.30pm

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