

WHY WE ARE ALLOWED TO DRIVE AT THE TENDER AGE OF 17

I've always been amazed that people are allowed to hold a driver's licence to maim and kill at the tenderly irresponsible age of 17.

There was a time in Australia in the late 1960s when you couldn't vote or drink in a pub until you were 21 but could kill poor Vietnamese civilians and do the same to your fellow countrymen and women while behind the wheel of a car.

The blame for this can be squarely placed at the feet of Sid Hoskins (or so says *The Hoskins Saga* - p. 113):

"Some time in 1909 when the Superintendent of Traffic, Mr Alf Edward, was visiting the Hoskins family at Lithgow, he mentioned that a driving test for a motor license was to be made compulsory, with perhaps a minimum age of twenty. Upon hearing this, Sid protested strongly, saying that he was only seventeen and had been driving cars for years. He begged the Superintendent to make seventeen the age limit, which he did!"

Joseph Davis