

• WORST OFFENDERS

Kiss and make-up distracts drivers

Male drivers are more likely to be distracted by reading a newspaper, kissing or chasing insects while driving a car than women, research found.

An NRMA Motoring and Services survey of 1350 motorists found 8 per cent of men, but only 5 per cent of women, admitted to crashing because they were distracted.

And 30 per cent of men and

20 per cent of women reported near misses as a result of distractions.

Most participants admitted to risky behaviour such as adjusting the car stereo, listening to music, drinking a cold drink or eating.

Some admitted to talking on a mobile phone (not hands-free) or reading a map while driving.

More unusual distractions

included shaving, reading a newspaper, kissing, chasing insects or applying make-up while behind the wheel.

"Motorists clearly understand which behaviours were dangerous, but 75 per cent admit taking their eyes off the road," NRMA director Coral Taylor said. "While virtually all people surveyed (96 per cent) acknowledged that texting

while driving was the most dangerous behaviour, one in five drivers admitted to doing it.

"Many respondents also expressed their anger at seeing other drivers' unsafe behaviour, yet most admitted to being distracted drivers themselves.

"Everyone, particularly those travelling over Easter, need to keep their focus on the driving task," Taylor cautioned.



Smitten designer Peita Mages shows off her wares.

Picture: BRITTA CAMPION

• KITCHEN STYLE

Mitts off in cook's fight

When Peita Mages burnt her hand using an ugly oven mitt, it was time to create Smitten.

"I always wished there was something cute. Oven mitts have chickens and cows on them and they're ugly," she said.

"Everyone shoves their oven mitts and aprons in their drawers because they're ashamed of them - the whole idea is to have some that you look hot in."

Mages and her mum started designing vintage-style oven mitts, aprons and other domestic items for friends.

"To be honest, my whole life people have said I should have been born in another era.

"With my clothing, I'm very eccentric and we've always been into that '50s look and even the old-fashioned manners and hospitality, and that feeling of the '50s where scones and a cup of tea were always on hand when guests were over."

Smitten has branched the business into Soirees, where Mages caters for parties.

www.smitten.com.au

- KARINA DUNGER

It's true



Jellyfish are mostly comprised of water - 95 per cent - and have no brain, heart, bones or eyes.