



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2023 Auto Women Scholarship Recipients Announced

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland) is pleased to announce the recipients for the second round of the 2023 Auto Women Scholarships. We extend our congratulations to Laura Luckie from Pat's Pro Resto's & Refinishing, who has been awarded the Leading Edge Scholarship valued at \$3,490, and Leah Davis from Cricks Tweed, who has been awarded the Executive Ready Scholarship valued at \$8,490.

The Scholarships, sponsored by MTA Queensland, Spirit Super, and Women & Leadership Australia, aim to support the career advancement of women working across the automotive industry through two, fully funded, high-impact training programs.

The first course, Leading Edge, is designed to assist females in early-career positions transition into confident, capable, and motivated leaders. This scholarship has been awarded to Laura Luckie, a fourth-year apprentice refinisher (spray painter) from Pat's Pro Resto's & Refinishing in Beaudesert.

After working many years in the automotive industry in an accounts/payroll position, Laura decided she was ready for a change. With a passion for cars and a desire to get hands-on, she signed up for her apprenticeship back in 2021 at Pat's Pro Resto's & Refinishing. Here, Laura gets to work on a variety of high-end vehicles, including Hot Rods, Street Machines, and Classics. From full restorations to custom builds and everything in between, Laura loves being an automotive refinisher and wouldn't change it for the world.

"I like everything about the job! It is hard work, but the satisfaction of completing a build is so incredible, it makes it all worth it," said Laura. "Nowadays you hear so many stories of strong, female leaders making a name for themselves, it is very inspiring. I want to be that for the

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next generation and believe the Leading Edge course will bring me one step closer to my goals. I am so grateful to have been given this opportunity and plan to make the most of it.”

The second course, Executive Ready, is designed to stretch mid-level leaders and propel them towards executive-level positions, bolstering skills and mindsets. This scholarship has been awarded to Leah Davis, the Financial Controller at Cricks Tweed.

Leah first entered the automotive industry as a trainee salesperson at the age of 18. After gaining experience across a range of different roles, Leah became the Administration Manager of her own Von Bibra branch. After a decade with the company, Leah was ready for the next best thing, joining the team at Cricks Tweed as Financial Controller. A valued member of their leadership team, Leah oversees the accounting activities in the organisation, including providing accurate and timely information to guide decision making.

“I absolutely love the automotive industry and am always looking for ways to further my knowledge. The more I learn, the more I realise there is still so much to learn! My passion for cars, and the industry, fuels my desire to reach my goals, and I definitely set them high!” said Leah. “I would like to be the Dealer Principal of my own dealership and I believe the Executive Ready scholarship is an incredible opportunity for growth, both professionally and personally, that will help propel me to where I need to be.”

Supporting career advancement is just one part of MTA Queensland's Auto Women initiative, and both the Leading Edge and Executive Ready courses are an exceptional opportunity to assist those working across the automotive industry to reach their career aspirations.

The next scholarship round will open 1 March 2024. Find out more [HERE](#).

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For more information:

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Images:

Laura Luckie
Leah Davis

Background:

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland (**MTA Queensland**) is the peak body representing the interests of employers in the retail, repair, and service sectors of Queensland's automotive industry. MTA Queensland has been performing its vital representative role for the automotive industry since 1929. In Queensland there are some 16,000 automotive businesses employing more than 90,000 people, that generate more than \$7.24 billion to the state economy annually. The automotive industry is estimated to contribute \$37 billion to the Australian economy each year. The Association represents and promotes issues of relevance to all levels of government. In 2019 MTA Queensland was

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announced as an ABA100 winner in The Australian Business Awards and a finalist in the Lord Mayor's Business Awards, for Business Innovation.

The **MTA Institute (RTO 31529)** is the leading automotive training provider in Queensland offering nationally recognised training, covering technical, retail and the aftermarket sectors of the automotive industry. The MTA Institute is the largest independent automotive training provider in Queensland, employing experienced trainers who are geographically dispersed from Cairns to the Gold Coast and Toowoomba to Emerald. In the last year, the MTA Institute delivered accredited courses to more than 2,000 students. The MTA Institute is the first trade RTO in Australia to be approved under the ITECA Industry Certification Program and was the winner of the Small Training Provider of the Year at the 2019 Queensland Training Awards.

MTAiQ, Australia's first automotive innovation hub established by MTA Queensland in 2017, is an eco-system that supports innovation and research for the motor trades.

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