



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 19 December 2019
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Auto Camp Sparks Automotive Interest in Teens

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland's Auto Camp is helping high school students learn new skills and discover new career possibilities as they move towards the end of their schooling.

The three-day hands-on school holiday program offers teenagers aged between 14-17 the opportunity to experience the automotive industry, many for the first time, as they come to terms with what a career in the motor trades could look like.

With school out for another year, the December school holidays proved to be the perfect time to hold the final offering of the course for 2019, with yet another fully booked class of students making their way to the Sir Jack Brabham Automotive Centre of Excellence for three-days of immersive learning.

Samuel Higgs (15) was one student in attendance looking to check out what the automotive industry had to offer.

"I thought it would be good to come along and learn some new skills," said Samuel on his decision to participate in Auto Camp.

"I have an interest in cars but wasn't so sure if that would translate into a career. But it has been super interesting. I really enjoyed the spray painting and the panel beating was something I've never tried."

Fraser Johnson (14) was another student with a similar experience.

"I really wanted to learn some new skills that I could use for when I'm older when I work on my cars, as that's what I'm interested in," said Fraser.

"Auto Camp has been great for that. It's been interesting, and I've learnt a lot. My favourite part was learning about the engines."

Motor Trades Association of Queensland

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Auto Camp has also proven that it's not just for those with an interest in working in the automotive industry. It is also for those with an interest in design, manufacturing, engineering, as well as those who enjoy learning about cars but maybe more as a hobby than a career.

Thorne Lyons (14) is one of these students.

"I love cars and love learning about them, but I want to be a doctor. Pretty much my whole family are mechanics or work with cars, even my Grandma is building a Kombi right now.

"I just wanted to learn a bit more so I can help out my family members and Auto Camp was perfect for that.

"I particularly enjoyed learning about the electronics, as it's not something I've experienced too much. But it's only going to become more common in the future and getting the chance to learn about it now was really helpful," said Thorne.

As for what the future holds for Samuel and Fraser, both were keen to keep their options open, but both agree that Auto Camp was a great experience.

"After completing the course, I would say I am definitely more interested in looking at a career connected to the automotive industry," said Samuel.

This Advancing Apprentices Fund initiative is proudly funded by the Queensland Government.

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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 / mobility industry. There are some 15,500 automotive value chain businesses employing in excess of 90,000 people, that generate more than \$20 billion annually. The Association represents and promotes issues of relevance to the automotive / mobility industry to all levels of Government and within Queensland's economic structure. In 2019 MTA Queensland was announced as an ABA100 winner in The Australian Business Awards and a finalist in the Lord Mayor's Business Awards, for Business Innovation.

The Association is the leading automotive training provider in Queensland offering nationally recognised training, covering technical, retail and the aftermarket sectors of the automotive industry through the **MTA Institute (RTO 31529)** - a registered training organisation. It is the largest private automotive apprentice trainer 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 announced 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 for mobility and the motor trades.

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