



## MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Excellence on Display as Automotive's Outstanding Apprentices Recognised

The MTA Institute's (RTO. 31529) most outstanding apprentices have been recognised for their excellence and passion for the automotive trade, with the finalists confirmed for the 2023 MTA Queensland Apprentice of the Year award.

Presented at the annual Industry Awards Gala on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> November at the W Hotel in Brisbane, the Apprentice of the Year award is awarded to an MTA Institute apprentice who has demonstrated a dedication to learning while performing above and beyond expectations throughout their apprenticeship journey.

Thanks to tool sponsor Milwaukee Tool, the 2023 Apprentice of the Year will take home a 218-piece automotive starter toolkit A1, ensuring they are equipped with the necessary equipment to thrive as they continue to progress in the automotive trade. The runners-up, meanwhile, will receive a Milwaukee Tool 3/8" Drive 56-piece Ratchet & Socket Set.

Excitingly, this year, the 2023 Apprentice of the Year will also receive an all-expenses paid opportunity to spend a week in Melbourne with the Penrite Racing Team undertaking work experience, courtesy of Gates Australia.

The 12 individuals in the running for the 2023 MTA Institute Apprentice of the Year award are:

- **Melissa Smith** – 4<sup>th</sup> year auto electrical apprentice from Crank Auto Electrics and Air Conditioning, Deception Bay
- **Jared Rogers** – 2<sup>nd</sup> year mobile plant technology apprentice from CCC Rural, Alpha

#### Motor Trades Association of Queensland

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- **Aiden Zemit** – 2<sup>nd</sup> year light vehicle apprentice from Formula Automotive, Greenslopes
- **Tye Bugeja** – recently completed light vehicle apprentice from Smithfield Automotive, Cairns
- **Liam Shakespeare** – 2<sup>nd</sup> year light vehicle apprentice from Fulcrum Suspension Specialists, Capalaba
- **Levi Flanders** – 2<sup>nd</sup> year light vehicle apprentice from Rockhampton VW
- **Ryan Matthews** – recently completed light vehicle apprentice from Tye's Remote Mechanical, Georgetown
- **Emma Manzelmann** – 3<sup>rd</sup> year light vehicle apprentice from Jet Maintenance Services, Mackay
- **Liam Watt** – 3<sup>rd</sup> year body repair technology apprentice from McCarthy Panel Works, Mackay
- **Dyllon Browne** – 3<sup>rd</sup> year light vehicle apprentice from Hervey Bay Rent A Car
- **Alicia Byron** – 3<sup>rd</sup> year light vehicle apprentice from Mosely's Automotive, Slacks Creek
- **Jack Lancaster** – 3<sup>rd</sup> year light vehicle apprentice from Kinetic Fleet Services, Mackay

MTA Institute General Manager, Marcello Riotto said, "The aptitude and dedication to the trade displayed by the 12 individuals recognised for this award is inspiring to see and leaves me comfortable knowing the future of our industry is in good hands. The cohort represents businesses from all corners of the state and a wide range of automotive sectors and shows that the commitment to building skills for the future is evident across regional and metropolitan Queensland.

"With the automotive industry continuing to experience severe skills shortages, it is incredibly important that we highlight the outstanding achievements of the best and brightest apprentices, who are forging their way forward and standing out as role models to the future generation of automotive professionals.

"I congratulate all apprentices on their achievements to this point and look forward to celebrating with them at the Industry Awards Gala in November."

MTA Queensland would like to thank platinum supporters Spirit Super and Capricorn for their support of the 2023 Industry Awards Gala.

\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\*

**For more information:**

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**Background:**

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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 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 ecosystem that supports innovation and research for the motor trades.

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