



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTA Queensland Recognises Outstanding Apprentices

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland) has recently announced ten outstanding apprentices as the 2019 Apprentice of the Year finalists. The students have been selected from over 1,800 MTA Institute apprentices throughout Queensland.

To be revealed at the MTA Queensland Industry Awards Dinner on Saturday 16th November, the Apprentice of the Year award will be bestowed upon the apprentice who has demonstrated a dedication to learning and performed above and beyond expectations.

The Apprentice of the Year finalists include:

- **Bailey Locker from T&H Service Centre, Toowoomba** who recently completed AUR31116 Certificate III in Heavy Commercial Mechanical Technology apprenticeship.
- **Casey Steel from MSF Sugar, Mareeba** who recently completed his AUR30616 Certificate III in Light Vehicle Mechanical Technology apprenticeship.
- **Daniel Beckham from Prochem Haulage, Mackay** who is a fourth year AUR31116 Certificate III in Heavy Commercial Mechanical Technology apprentice.
- **Dusty Austin from Top Two Motorcycles, Warwick** who recently completed his AUR30816 Certificate III in Motorcycle Mechanical Technology.
- **Jesse Weatherhead from Atherton Smash Repairs Specialists, North Mackay** who is a fourth year AUR32116 Certificate III in Automotive Body Repair Technology apprentice.
- **Jett Santacaterina from Vanderfield, North Mackay** who is a fourth year AUR30416 Certificate III in Agricultural Mechanical Technology apprentice.

Motor Trades Association of Queensland

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- **Kade Hutchison from Noel's Progress Road Pitstop, Wacol** who is a fourth year AUR30616 Certificate III in Light Vehicle Mechanical Technology apprentice.
- **Karl Berlin from Barambah Machinery, Murgon** who recently completed his AUR30416 Certificate III in Agricultural Mechanical Technology apprenticeship.
- **Kimberley Wallace from Morgan Motors, Emerald** who recently completed her AUR31016 Certificate III in Sales (Parts Interpreting) apprenticeship.
- **Reece Haslam from McAully's Smash Repairs, Ipswich** who is a fourth year AUR32416 Certificate III in Automotive Refinishing Technology apprentice.

Kimberley Wallace a finalist from Morgan Motors in Emerald said, "Being named a finalist is a surprise and an awesome achievement and I would love to win, of course.

"It is extra special as a female. You don't see a lot of girls doing this and I feel that if I do win, then it might encourage more females into the industry. I think that they are out there and want to do it but are a little bit scared. But if boys can do it, we can too!"

Dr Brett Dale Group Chief Executive for MTA Queensland said, "The announcement of the Apprentice of the Year award is the highlight of the Industry Awards Dinner and it's an absolute pleasure to be able to acknowledge and celebrate the enormous achievement of these outstanding apprentices.

"I am thrilled to see apprentices from regional and metropolitan Queensland in the running as well as a cross section of automotive qualifications."

"I certainly am proud to be a finalist. I was actually very surprised to have been nominated in the first place," said Reece Haslam from McAully's Smash Repairs in Ipswich.

"However, should I win I would like to think I could use that to encourage more kids to come into the trade."

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For more information:

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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. MTA Queensland was announced as an ABA100 winner for Business Innovation in The Australian Business Awards.

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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 ACPET 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, is an eco-system that supports innovation for mobility and the motor trades.

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