



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Excellence Recognised as MTA Queensland Announces 2021 Industry Award Winners

Business owners, entrepreneurs, and apprentices from across Queensland have been recognised for their excellence and commitment to the Queensland automotive industry at the 2021 Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland) Industry Awards Gala on Saturday, 20th November.

Highlighting the incredible achievements of MTA Queensland members and MTA Institute apprentices over the last 12 months, the 2021 Industry Awards saw a record number of nominations submitted.

Fourth-year light vehicle mechanical apprentice **Joshua Frampton** from Cricks Maroochydore was crowned MTA Queensland Apprentice of the Year, taking out the much coveted award from a highly credentialed field of finalists.

It was a momentous occasion for the 26-year-old, who is quickly closing in on completing his apprenticeship with the Cricks Auto Group, where he has already experienced working with numerous makes and models during his short time in the industry.

A keenly determined individual, Joshua has set his sights firmly on opening a mechanical and restoration business of his own in the future, a goal he has had since high school.

"I would like to thank Andrew Seeley, from Cricks at Maroochydore, for dealing with me for the past four years. I know I haven't been the easiest apprentice to deal with, but I have always been out there trying and trying to achieve some great things," said Joshua.

Motor Trades Association of Queensland

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"I want to say thank you to my parents for supporting me and getting me to this stage – I really appreciate it. And I want to say a big thank you to my partner for being my rock and supporting me through this, and I am going to cherish this moment for a very long time. I hope to extend my experience into the community and motivate the next generation of automotive apprentices."

Fionna Blackburne, owner of Southeast Auto Mechanical in Beenleigh, was named winner of the Women in Industry Award for her commitment to educating women in the community on basic vehicle maintenance skills and principles through the 'Women on the Move' program.

Fionna's business took out the Community Award back in 2018 and she has continued to expand education programs in recent times, taking them to local schools and universities, while continuing to be an advocate for the many employment opportunities available to women in the automotive industry.

In the evening's other award categories, **Bill Robertson Toyota** in Gladstone was awarded the Community Award for their long-standing support of the Gladstone and Central Queensland communities, while **Electric Mobility Solutions Australia** (EMoS Australia) took out the Innovation Award.

MTA Group CEO Rod Camm said, "The MTA Queensland Industry Awards provides the perfect opportunity to acknowledge the individuals and businesses who are making exceptional contributions to the betterment of the industry through community and innovation leadership, and excellence in their discipline. We are privileged to be able to celebrate them in person at such a spectacular event.

"As an industry we have faced, and indeed continue to face, shortages in both skilled labour and parts and supplies, and challenges with the pace of new technological advancements. However, we continue to face these head-on led through individuals like those recognised in the 2021 Industry Awards. I sincerely congratulate them all and look forward to following them as they continue to lead the industry into the future. I also applaud the field of strong candidates who made the finalist group. You are all outstanding and I congratulate you all."

MTA Queensland would like to thank event Platinum Supporters Spirit Super, BUSY At Work, and Capricorn for their support of the event.

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Images:

1. Joshua Frampton - Apprentice of the Year Winner
2. Fionna Blackburne of Southeast Auto Mechanical – Women in Industry Award Winner
3. Erin and James Robertson of Bill Robertson Toyota – Community Award Winner
4. Wolfgang Roffmann and Harry Proskefalas of EMoS Australia – Innovation Award Winner

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 15,500 automotive businesses employing more than 90,000 people, that generate more than \$20 billion annually. 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 eco-system that supports innovation and research for the motor trades.

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