



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Finalists Announced For 2022 Queensland Auto Awards!

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland) is elated to announce that the finalists have been selected for the 2022 Industry Awards, recognising some truly outstanding individuals and businesses for their contributions to the automotive and mobility industries.

To be announced at the 2022 MTA Queensland Industry Awards Gala on Saturday, 19th November 2022 at the Emporium Hotel, Southbank, the awards are a celebration of the incredible contributions MTA Queensland member businesses and individuals continue to make in driving the forward progress of the automotive industry. With so many member businesses under enormous pressures over the last 12 months, the calibre and volume of nominations were truly astounding.

The award categories celebrated at the Industry Awards Gala include:

- **Community Award** – presented to an individual or member business who is a role model in their community.
- **Innovation Award** – presented to an innovative individual or business that is supporting or implementing emerging technologies in the automotive or mobility industry.
- **Women in Industry Award** – presented to an outstanding female leader or business achieving success through their commitment to driving change in the automotive or mobility industry.
- **Apprentice of the Year Award** – presented to an MTA Institute apprentice who demonstrates a dedication to learning and performs above and beyond expectations and their peers.

Motor Trades Association of Queensland

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Finalists for the Community Award include:

- **Jeeepart Recyclers** (Hervey Bay) – For the last 7 years, Joy Beacham, owner of Jeeepart Recyclers, has participated in the Fraser Coast Dunga Rally for a Cause, raising over \$110,000 for local charities across the Fraser Coast.
- **Southeast Auto Mechanical** (Beenleigh) – Southeast Auto Mechanical has become an integral member of the Logan community, regularly delivering training programs to local school students, as well as hosting the quarterly 'Women on the Move' initiative to empower women and teach them basic car maintenance and repair skills.
- **The Garage Miami** – Dedicated to a mission statement of 'become the first choice for locals' The Garage Miami goes to great lengths to support various initiatives in the local community, including active sponsorship of the Broadbeach Cats AFL Old Boys, the Bond Pirates Rugby Club, Miami Nippers SLSC, Palmy in Pink Dinner Fundraiser, and more.

Finalists for the Innovation Award include:

- **Benzina Zero** - Benzina Zero are at the forefront of innovation in the automotive space as a leading importer and distributor of electric first and last-mile mopeds and scooters to more than 18 countries across Europe, Asia and Australia.
- **E-Motion Concepts** - e-Motion Concepts is a leading specialist of commercial and consumer light electric vehicles, offering a portfolio of vehicles that covers a curated range of business and lifestyle settings.
- **Sarfraz Ali Kyani** - As PhD Candidate from QUT, Sarfraz is exploring the topic of 'recycling of automotive parts for additive manufacturing', researching the landscape of the automotive industry to identify opportunities and obstacles for the establishment of sustainable business activities related to recycling plastics.

Finalists for the Women in Industry Award include:

- **Hatice Hutchinson** (Yatala) – Hatice is the Owner of All Car Engine Reconditioning Services and has over 25 years' experience across the automotive landscape. Hatice has taken on the role of mentoring countless young women that have come through her business over the years, while also encouraging a business environment that supports the needs of the many women who make up their customer base.
 - **Skid Control** (Brendale) – Identifying a lack of support for women looking to take part in driver training events, Skid Control introduced the 'She's in Control' event, an initiative that teaches women the skills to control their car in the wet in a safe, controlled environment. Since introducing 'She's in Control', Skid Control has seen female participation more than double at their events.
- Tania Meli** (Frizelle Sunshine Automotive, Southport) – Tania is the Dealer Principal of Audi Centre Gold Coast and Ferrari Gold Coast. As a mentor for young professionals, Tania is passionate about women in business, regularly opening up her dealership as the host venue for the Gold Coast chapter of 'Future Females', and often acts as a panel facilitator for the event.

The finalists for the Apprentice of the Year Award are made up of the 12 MTA Institute Apprentice of the Month winners from the preceding 12-months and will be announced shortly.

“Over the last 12 months, we have experienced extreme weather events, impacts from COVID-19, shortages in both skilled labour and parts and supplies, and ongoing disruption at the hands of technological advancements. However, the ingenuity, dedication, and excellence displayed by this year’s finalists in leading us through these challenges and continuing to prosper gives me comfort knowing our industry is in safe hands, and they truly deserve the recognition. I sincerely congratulate all finalists and look forward to celebrating their success on the 19th of November,” said Rod Camm CEO of MTA Queensland.

MTA Queensland thanks platinum event supporters BUSY At Work, Spirit Super, and Capricorn for their ongoing support of the Industry Awards Gala.

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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 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 eco-system that supports innovation and research for the motor trades.

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