



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 6 August 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fionna Blackburne Announced a Finalist for Auto Awards

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland) is thrilled to announce the finalists for the 2021 Industry Awards have been confirmed, with some truly deserving nominees recognised for their contributions to the automotive industry.

Returning for the first time since 2019, the Industry Awards represent an opportunity to recognise and acknowledge the achievements of individuals and businesses in the Queensland automotive industry doing great things to promote the best interests of the industry. With many MTA Queensland member businesses showing great commitment and excellence in the face of adversity over the last 12 months, the calibre of nominations for the awards are as high as they have ever been.

The award categories celebrated at the Industry Awards Gala include the:

- 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.

Motor Trades Association of Queensland

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- 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.

Congratulations to Fionna Blackburne, owner of South East Auto Mechanical, Beenleigh on becoming a finalist for the Women in Industry Award. For the last five years, Fionna, owner of member business South East Auto Mechanical, has delivered the 'Women on the Move' initiative, providing an education on basic automotive maintenance training to women interested in exploring career opportunities in the automotive industry.

Fionna is up against Tania Meli from Frizelle Sunshine Automotive Group, Southport and Tracy Randall from Anzac Avenue Wreckers, Toowoomba for the Women in Industry Award.

Finalists for the Community Award include Bill Robertson Toyota (Gladstone), Filby's Motors (Proserpine) and Ireland's of Cairns.

Finalists for the Innovation Award include Australian Clean Energy Electric Vehicle Group, Electric Mobility Solutions and Superformance.

The finalists for the Apprentice of the Year Award will be announced shortly.

MTA Group CEO Rod Camm said, "It is extremely exciting to see the sheer talent, ingenuity and spirit on display from our valued members throughout the Queensland automotive industry. The industry has experienced extraordinarily difficult conditions over the last 18 months at the hands of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to be able to bring the industry together to recognise our member businesses who have gone above and beyond is incredibly important. I look forward to celebrating the success of all our finalists at the Industry Awards Gala on Saturday 20th November in Brisbane."

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

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Images:

1. Women in Industry Award Finalist Fionna Blackburne
2. Women in Industry Award Finalist Fionna Blackburne and South East Auto Mechanical Staff

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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