



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2023 Auto Women Scholarship Recipients Announced

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland) is pleased to announce the recipients for the first round of the 2023 Auto Women Scholarships. We extend our congratulations to Lily Armstrong from Albany Creek Auto Centre, who has been awarded the Leading Edge Scholarship valued at \$3,490, and Angela Jones from ASR Collision Specialists, who has been awarded the Executive Ready Scholarship valued at \$8,490.

The Scholarships, sponsored by MTA Queensland, Spirit Super, and Women & Leadership Australia, aim to support the career advancement of women working across the automotive industry through two, fully funded, high-impact training programs.

The first course, Leading Edge, is designed to assist females in early-career positions transition into confident, capable, and motivated leaders. This scholarship has been awarded to Lily Armstrong, an apprentice mechanic from Albany Creek Auto Centre.

Inspired by her father, a fitter and turner by trade, Lily began a school-based traineeship back in 2019. After graduation, she continued working as a trade assistant, before taking on her light vehicle apprenticeship. Now, at just 20 years old, Lily is nearing the final year of her training, and has found her place at Albany Creek Auto Centre, constantly supported and encouraged by those around her. She hopes to use the Leading Edge program to further her career and develop new leadership skills.

“My goal is to one day become a workshop manager and supervisor. In such a male dominated industry, it is amazing to see so many women taking on leadership roles and making a name for themselves,” said Lily.

Motor Trades Association of Queensland

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“This scholarship is an amazing opportunity to invest in young women and help them better equip themselves to be future leaders, and I hope to use its teachings to do just that!”

The second course, Executive Ready, is designed to stretch mid-level leaders and propel them towards executive-level positions, bolstering skills and mindsets. This scholarship has been awarded to Angela Jones, the Manager at ASR Collision Specialists.

After 12 years of owning and managing her own mechanical workshop in Cairns, Angela sold the business in 2008. Having her Bachelor of Economics Degree, Graduate Program, and Cert IV in Accounting, Angela completed contract bookkeeping for a variety of businesses before becoming the Finance Officer at a solar company who controlled 24 entities across Australia. Unable to shake her passion for the automotive industry, Angela began working in the accounts team at ASR Collision Specialists in 2016 and stepped into the role of Manager in 2021, where she oversees a range of operations in the business and leads a diverse mix of people.

“I am a firm believer in lifelong learning and know that the knowledge I will gain from this Scholarship will not only benefit me personally, but my entire team. I stepped into the role during a time of COVID-19 chaos and navigated the company through challenging times to achieve an unprecedented financial milestone for the company last month,” said Angela.

“I understand there is a difference between management and leadership and hope to use the Executive Ready program to learn the skills and knowledge necessary to create the right environment so that both the company and its people can thrive.”

Supporting career advancement is just one part of MTA Queensland’s Auto Women initiative, and both the Leading Edge and Executive Ready courses are an exceptional opportunity to assist those working across the automotive industry to reach their career aspirations.

Find out more [HERE](#).

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Images:

Lily Armstrong

Angela Jones

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

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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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