



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Excellence Recognised as MTA Queensland Announces 2022 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 2022 Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland) Industry Awards Gala on Saturday, 19th November.

Highlighting the incredible achievements of MTA Queensland members and MTA Institute apprentices over the last 12 months, the 2022 Industry Awards saw four award categories presented on the night, including the Apprentice of the Year Award, Community Award, Innovation Award, and the Women in Industry Award.

Taking home the much coveted **Apprentice of the Year Award** was **Britain Leotta**, a third-year auto electrical apprentice from Mackay Transit Coaches.

It was a momentous occasion for the 20-year-old, who has impressed not only with his passion for the job and skill level, but with his initiative. Britain has brought a range of new and exciting ideas to the workplace, including using his interest in the relatively new area of 3D printing to manufacture cost-effective replacement parts. Working with Mackay Transit Coaches has given Britain experience across a wide range of vehicles, where he has been able to grow his skillset and further ignite his passion for the trade.

Next up was the **Community Award**, which was presented to **The Garage Miami**. With part of their mission statement to 'become the first choice for locals,' it is evident that the community is at the heart of The Garage Miami's business operations. Among the many organisations that the business currently sponsors is the Broadbeach Cats AFL Club, Burleigh

Motor Trades Association of Queensland

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Golf Club, Bond Pirates Rugby Union Club, Burleigh Bowls Club, Magic United Soccer Club, and the Miami Nippers SLSC.

The **Innovation Award** followed, presented to **Benzina Zero**. Benzina Zero is leading the innovation game through a collection of compact, energy-efficient electric scooters and mopeds. Officially launching in Australia earlier this year, Benzina Zero currently has 10 outlets across the country, with an aim of growing to 25 by the end of the 2023 financial year. They have also signed up to the B-Cycle Battery Stewardship program, helping to reduce, recycle, and reuse old batteries.

The final award for the night was the **Women in Industry Award**, presented to Brendale-based **Skid Control**. For the past seven years, Skid Control have hosted regular driver training and performance events across Queensland. Recognising a noticeable lack of support for women looking to participate, the team introduced the “She’s in Control” series, a female-only initiative focused on teaching women performance driving in slide, high performance track, and dirt rally environments.

MTA Group CEO Rod Camm said, “The MTA Queensland Industry Awards are a chance to recognise and celebrate the individuals and businesses working to make our industry better. This year’s finalists were of extremely high calibre, and it was truly spectacular hearing about their achievements from the last 12 months. I congratulate all our finalists and winners for their hard work, effort, and determination.”

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. Britain Leotta - Apprentice of the Year Winner
2. The Garage Miami – Innovation Award Winner
3. Benzina Zero – Community Award Winner
4. Skid Control – Women in Industry 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 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

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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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