



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sharine Milne and Tim McRae Awarded the MTA Queensland 2022 VET Trainer Scholarships

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland) is pleased to announce the first round of the 2022 Vocational Education and Training (VET) Trainer Scholarships have been awarded to Sharine Milne from R.H.D Classic Supplies and Services in Townsville, and Tim McRae from Carline Automotive in Bundaberg.

The scholarships are a fantastic opportunity for automotive professionals to advance their careers by undertaking a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment (TAE40116); a highly sought-after course that provides the skills and knowledge to deliver training in the VET sector. Valued at \$2,500, the scholarships are awarded to one female and one male candidate each round.

Sharine Milne, otherwise known as 'Spanner,' is the owner and head mechanic of R.H.D Classic Supplies and Services, a motorcycle service and repair shop in Townsville. She is a qualified mechanic and parts interpreter and holds a Cert II & III in office administration and a Cert V in management. Spanner has worked in the industry for almost 20 years, owning her own business for the last 10. While she already provides on-the-job work experience to apprentices, Spanner hopes to use this scholarship to build upon her skills and deliver a higher quality of training.

Spanner said, "I was given a chance to show what I have achieved and my commitment to continuous learning. Now I want to be a better teacher and pass that on. It doesn't matter where you started, VET has a pathway that will pave your way to the next goal no matter where it lies."

Motor Trades Association of Queensland

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Tim McRae is a qualified light vehicle mechanic who has worked in the industry for over 25 years, owning and managing workshops for the last 17. Currently the owner of Carline Automotive, a mechanical workshop in Bundaberg, Tim hopes to keep both his staff and customers satisfied by offering high quality service. He has trained many apprentices during his time and is extremely passionate about sharing his knowledge.

Tim said, "It has been hard for everyone these last couple years, but in the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity. I feel very fortunate to be given this opportunity to expand my skills in training and can't wait to get started!"

The VET Trainer Scholarship is available twice per year and is open to trade-qualified automotive employees in Queensland with at least five years' experience. The next scholarship round will open 1 August 2022.

MTA Queensland is committed to addressing the skills shortage that exists across Queensland and supports the career advancement of automotive tradespeople.

For more information on the MTA Queensland VET Trainer Scholarship, [click here](#).

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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.

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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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