



## MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Auto Women Announces Round 1, 2024 Scholarship Awardees

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland) is excited to announce the recipients for Round 1 of the 2024 Auto Women Scholarships. We extend our congratulations to Sophie-Jo Forsythe from S J Fitting Services who has been awarded the Leading Edge scholarship (valued at \$3,490), and Maud-Ellen Berge from SEQ Campers, who has been awarded the Executive Ready scholarship (valued at \$8,490).

Proudly supported by MTA Queensland, Spirit Super, and Women & Leadership Australia, the Auto Women Scholarships aim to support females in early-career and mid-level positions from across the automotive industry advance their careers 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 Sophie-Jo Forsythe, Leading Hand at S J Fitting Services, Rubyvale.

A qualified light vehicle mechanic, Sophie-Jo is committed to promoting diversity and empowering women to thrive in a traditionally male-dominated automotive industry. By undertaking the Leading Edge course, Sophie hopes to gain comprehensive leadership training to support her ambition of becoming a role model for women and underrepresented cohorts in the automotive industry and pave the way for those entering the workforce.

“Being the recipient of this scholarship means a lot to me, it will help me to develop the necessary skills and knowledge on how to be able to contribute further to my trade and the people I work with and to be able to exceed expectations of being a leading hand and

### Motor Trades Association of Queensland

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knowing how to correctly communicate and manage tasks that may be thrown my way and delegated to me,” said Sophie-Jo.

The second course, Executive Ready, is designed to stretch mid-level leaders and propel them towards executive-level positions, bolstering their skills and mindsets. This scholarship has been awarded to Maud-Ellen Berge, the General Manager at SEQ Campers, Nambour.

With five years of experience in the retail industry, including the last two years as General Manager at SEQ Campers, Maud-Ellen is excited to take on the opportunity to complete the Executive Ready course to expand her leadership credentials and deliver growth in her career.

“I’m incredibly honoured to have been awarded this scholarship for the Executive Ready course. As the General Manager at SEQ Campers, Sunshine Coast, I’ve spent the last two years working diligently to drive our company forward, drawing on my five years of experience in the industry. This course represents a pivotal opportunity for me to enhance my leadership skills and strategic thinking, equipping me to better lead our team and also contribute to my future goals and aspirations,” said Maud-Ellen. “I’m excited about the challenge and the growth this course will bring. By expanding my leadership credentials through the Executive Ready program, I aim to leverage new insights and techniques to propel myself -and women in the industry- to new heights. I look forward to applying the knowledge gained to inspire our team, foster innovation, and achieve significant milestones.”

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. The next scholarship round will open 1 September 2024. Find out more [HERE](#).

\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\*

**For more information:**

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**Images:**

1. Maud Ellen-Berge
2. Sophie-Jo Forsythe

**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

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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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