



MEDIA RELEASE

2 October 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Recipients Chosen to Pursue VET Trainer Aspirations

Two automotive professionals are set to advance their careers in the training sector, with the Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland) announcing the recipients of its 2024 VET Trainer Scholarship. Congratulations to Lachlan Riddel from ChipTorque and Courtney Miles from Eagers Automotive Parts!

Lachlan Riddel is a qualified light vehicle technician with over 40 years in the automotive industry. He was named Apprentice of the Year by the Rotary Club of Geebung in 1988, before going on to win Queensland's Apprentice of the Year in 1989, as well as becoming a bronze finalist for the Australian Apprentice of the Year Award. Shortly after, he received a scholarship from the Queensland Overseas Foundation, which enabled him to gain international experience for 15 months in England with a company specialising in aftermarket tuning. After returning to the Gold Coast in 1993, he established ChipTorque, focusing on engine management products and tuning services. Lachlan has contributed to various significant projects during his career, including collaborating with Mazda Australia's MX-5 sports cars, Bullet Cars, and Absolute Pace Supercars. He aims to use the VET Trainer Scholarship to impart his knowledge to aspiring automotive professionals.

"Through my experience in motorsport support, wholesale trade, and retail sales with ChipTorque, I have acquired a wealth of knowledge in this industry. I believe it's time to give back and share what I've learned with others," stated Lachlan.

Courtney Miles works as a qualified parts interpreter at Eagers Automotive Parts in Pinkenba. With a robust background in sales within the automotive sector, Courtney began her career as a parts interpreter with the McGrath Auto Group in 2008. She has since gained valuable experience working with Repco and Supercheap, along with holding a senior parts specialist

Motor Trades Association of Queensland

Address: Freeway Office Park, Building 8, 2728 Logan Road Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113 (Postal: PO Box 4530, Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113)
Telephone +61 7 3237 8777 | Toll Free 1800 177 951 | Email info@mtaq.com.au | Website | www.mtaq.com.au

position at Toyota. Pursuing her TAE has been a long-standing goal for Courtney, and she is thrilled to continue her growth within the industry.

“I’m a very patient person and love to assist others in learning about this industry. I believe this scholarship will support me in achieving my long-term objectives while helping to shape future automotive specialists,” Courtney expressed.

Through the scholarship, Lachlan and Courtney will have the opportunity to undertake their TAE40122 – Certificate IV in Training and Assessment qualification fully funded, a program valued at over \$3,000. This course equips participants with skills and knowledge related to designing, conducting, and assessing VET training, as well as facilitating learning in diverse settings and evaluating the effectiveness of various learning programs.

MTA Queensland CEO Rod Camm said, “MTA Queensland is dedicated to advancing the careers of individuals in the automotive industry. To date, we have supported twelve individuals through our scholarship program. As the automotive sector faces essential skills shortages, it is crucial to have motivated individuals like Lachlan and Courtney expand their expertise to train the next generation of the automotive professionals.”

The VET Trainer Scholarship is available twice a year to trade-qualified professionals working in the Queensland automotive industry. The next round will open on 1 February 2025. For more details, visit mtaq.com.au/mtaq-vet-trainer-scholarship.

ENDS

For more information:

Jade O’Shea | Senior Marketing & Communications Coordinator | 37237 8721 | jadeo@mtaq.com.au

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

Motor Trades Association of Queensland

Address: Freeway Office Park, Building 8, 2728 Logan Road Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113 (Postal: PO Box 4530, Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113)
Telephone +61 7 3237 8777 | Toll Free 1800 177 951 | Email info@mtaq.com.au | Website | www.mtaq.com.au

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.

Motor Trades Association of Queensland

Address: Freeway Office Park, Building 8, 2728 Logan Road Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113 (Postal: PO Box 4530, Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113)
Telephone +61 7 3237 8777 | Toll Free 1800 177 951 | Email info@mtaq.com.au | Website | www.mtaq.com.au