

Australia's Trade News Journal For Professional Vehicle Repair Workshops

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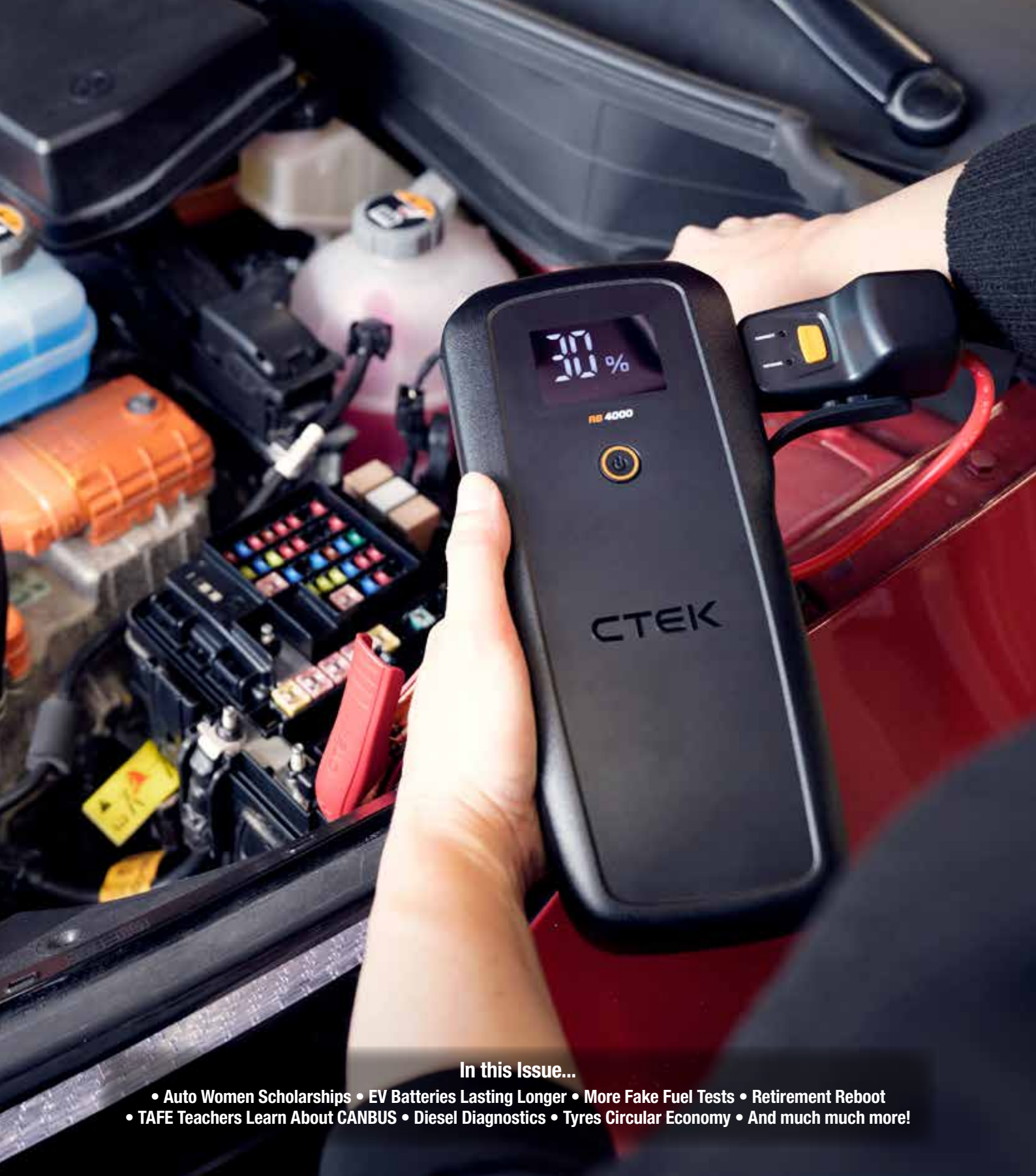
AUSTRALIAN

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**Tyre Business
AUSTRALIA**

MARCH/APRIL 2026



In this Issue...

- Auto Women Scholarships • EV Batteries Lasting Longer • More Fake Fuel Tests • Retirement Reboot
- TAFE Teachers Learn About CANBUS • Diesel Diagnostics • Tyres Circular Economy • And much much more!



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The Editor's Desk

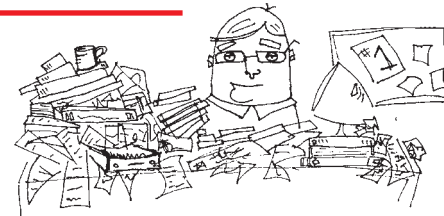
Welcome back.

If you're reading this, you're probably the owner or manager of a tyre shop or automotive workshop somewhere across this great country. You know the drill, long days, tight margins, staffing headaches and customers who want everything done yesterday.

But here's what's been on my mind lately... we are standing at the edge of a genuinely fascinating era for this industry, and I don't mean that in a vague, hand-wavy sort of way.

Think about what's already landing in your workshop. EVs are no longer a curiosity, they're on your ramps. And they're heavier than traditional vehicles, which means tyre wear patterns your team may never have seen before. Are you ready for that conversation at the counter? Meanwhile, ADAS calibration is quietly becoming one of the most valuable services a modern workshop can offer, yet plenty of shops are still leaving that revenue on the table.

Then there's the sustainability push. Customers, especially the younger ones, are increasingly asking what happens to their old tyres. Retreading, responsible disposal,



circular economy type thinking. These aren't just feel-good topics, they're becoming real business differentiators.

And digital engagement? If your business still relies entirely on walk-ins and word of mouth, you will find the article on page 31 by our contributor, marketing specialist Melanie Cahani of much interest.

I'll be honest, the conversations I have with people in this industry never get old. The ingenuity, the hard work, the pride that goes into running a good operation, it's something that doesn't get talked about enough. This magazine exists because this industry deserves a proper voice and even after 25+ years doing this, I reckon we're just getting started.

Over the coming year, we'll be diving into all of this, practically, honestly and in plain English. No fluff, no jargon. Just real conversations about where this industry is heading and how you can get ahead of it. So watch this space.

All the best, Ed.



Auto Women Scholarship Recipients

Auto Women, the rapidly growing initiative dedicated to empowering and elevating women in the automotive industry, is proud to announce its expansion from a Queensland-based program to a nationwide movement. This marks a significant milestone in the program's mission to connect, support, and advocate for women across every corner of the Australian automotive sector.

Auto Women has recently announced the recipients of Round 2, of the Auto Women Professional Development Scholarships, recognising outstanding women who are committed to growing their skills, advancing their careers, and strengthening the future of Australia's automotive industry.

Congratulations to Kameka Little, from Milini's Panel, Paint and Towing based in Tully North Qld, for being awarded the Leading Edge Scholarship, and Briohny de Vere, owner of Accelerate Auto Electrics on the Sunshine Coast Qld, for receiving the Executive Ready Scholarship.

The Leading Edge Scholarship, valued at over \$4,500, is designed for women in early-career positions to develop the essential leadership skills to become confident, capable, and effective leaders. This scholarship has been awarded to Kameka Little, Head Spray Painter at Milini's Panel, Paint and Towing.

Having completed her Certificate III in Automotive Refinishing Technology just two years earlier, Kameka has already fast-tracked her career into leading a small team, providing guidance and mentorship to an apprentice and fellow tradesman. Whilst Kameka is already proving herself a capable and confident leader, she is most excited to embed the course knowledge into real-world behaviour—from improving communication, managing different personalities, and setting clear expectations under pressure.

The Executive Ready Scholarship, valued at over \$10,000, is designed for women in mid to senior positions to develop the leadership skills, behaviours, and mindsets to lead high-performing teams and step into more senior roles. This scholarship has been awarded to Briohny de Vere, Co-Founder and Owner of Accelerate Auto Electrics and Accelerate Off-Grid Touring.



As Co-Owner, Briohny is the driving force behind the company's growth and culture. She has built systems, teams, and partnerships that have positioned Accelerate as an industry leader, while also continually championing diversity, mentoring young women in automotive, and investing in apprenticeships and training opportunities for her team.

As a 2025 MTA Queensland Women in Industry Award finalist, Briohny has been recognised state-wide as a leading influence in driving change for women in the automotive industry. Her story is one of persistence, adaptability, and vision—from answering phones as a teenager to co-leading one of Queensland's most innovative automotive businesses, she has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to her industry and her people.

Auto Women Co-Founder Kellie Dewar highlighted the importance of continuing to invest in women's professional development, noting that industry transformation and continuity rely on diversity and equitable access to training. "Every woman who applied is contributing to change in our industry," said Kellie. "Our scholarship recipients have shown incredible passion, drive, and commitment to building their skills, and we're proud to support their journey. These scholarships are not just about training—they're about creating opportunity, confidence, and long-term impact."

"When we invest in women, we invest in the industry."

HEARING TESTS FOR NSW WORKERS

MTA NSW wishes to remind NSW automotive trade businesses and workers about the deadline for mandatory worker hearing tests.

As of 1 January 2026, a new implementation phase has begun requiring that all tests—which have been mandatory since January 2024—take place exclusively in facilities meeting specific, rigorous acoustic standards.

From this date forward, all audiometric testing must be conducted in accredited facilities that meet specific, rigorous acoustic standards (e.g., soundproof booths or compliant quiet rooms). This ensures the accuracy and reliability of all test results and satisfies requirements set out in Clause 58 of the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017.

Action Items for Workshop Owners:

- Organise testing: Ensure all eligible workers have a baseline test within three months of employment and follow-up tests every two years.
- Fund the tests: Employers are responsible for the entire cost of the tests and must maintain confidential records.
- Ensure your chosen testing provider meets the strict acoustic requirements by the final deadline.

Failure to comply puts both your workers' long-term health and your business's compliance status at risk.



For specific details regarding legislative requirements and guidance material tailored for NSW businesses, visit www.safework.nsw.gov.au



High Output, Workshop-Ready: CTEK's RB3000 & RB4000 Raise the Standard

As vehicle electrical systems become increasingly complex, workshops are under greater pressure to deliver fast, safe and reliable service without compromising sensitive onboard electronics. From advanced driver assistance systems and integrated control modules to lithium battery adoption and start/stop functionality, modern vehicles demand more intelligent support equipment. Recognising this shift, CTEK has expanded its professional toolkit with the introduction of the RB3000 and RB4000 high-performance portable jump starters.

Designed specifically with workshop and heavy-duty environments in mind, the RB3000 and RB4000 deliver peak currents of 3000A and 4000A respectively, providing substantial starting capability across a wide range of 12V applications. This output makes them suitable not only for passenger vehicles, but also for larger petrol and diesel engines operating in more demanding workshop or fleet conditions.



Unlike traditional booster packs, the RB series has been engineered around controlled power delivery and operator safety. Both units incorporate spark-proof technology and reverse polarity protection, significantly reducing the risk of accidental damage to vehicle electronics or workshop equipment. For technicians working on late-model vehicles with increasingly sensitive control modules, this protection is critical. Incorrect connection or voltage spikes can lead to costly electronic faults; the RB3000 and RB4000 are designed to mitigate that risk.

From a practical standpoint, portability and durability have been prioritised. The units feature rugged housings suited to daily workshop use, while remaining compact enough to manoeuvre easily between bays or transport for roadside assistance applications. For workshops servicing multiple vehicles per day, the ability to quickly deploy a high-capacity jump starter without wheeling out larger auxiliary equipment improves workflow efficiency and reduces downtime.

Importantly, the RB range is not limited to emergency starting. Both units double as high-capacity power sources, incorporating USB-A and USB-C outputs to support diagnostic tools, mobile devices and auxiliary workshop equipment. This multi-functional capability adds tangible value in modern workshops where technicians increasingly rely on electronic tools and tablets for diagnostics and reporting.

Integrated multi-mode LED lighting further enhances real-world usability, particularly in low-light workshop conditions or roadside call-outs. While seemingly a small addition, practical features such as this reduce the need for additional equipment and streamline task completion.

Battery chemistry and performance stability have also been carefully considered. The RB3000 and RB4000 are built to maintain consistent output across multiple start attempts, ensuring reliable performance even when dealing with heavily discharged batteries. For workshops handling vehicles that have been stored for extended periods or fleet assets experiencing intermittent use, this reliability is essential.

While the RB3000 and RB4000 represent a more immediate solution for high-pressure workshop scenarios where rapid starting power is required, CTEK's new NXT 5 smart charger is also worth calling out as an important addition to the battery maintenance portfolio, providing controlled 5A charging and reconditioning capability for 12V lead-acid and lithium batteries.

As workshops continue adapting to the realities of electrification, higher electrical loads and more complex onboard systems, equipment selection becomes increasingly critical. The RB3000 and RB4000 demonstrate CTEK's continued focus on safety, intelligent design and professional-grade durability. For technicians seeking dependable starting performance without compromising vehicle electronics, the CTEK range offers a robust, workshop-ready solution built for modern service demands.

To find out more about the entire range of CTEK products visit www.ctek.com



World-Class Training Programs At The 2026 Auto Aftermarket Expo



They are joined by Robert Snook (UK), CEO of Business Success Global and world-renowned automotive business coach.

Supporting this global lineup is a hand-selected group of Australia's top trainers and business leaders delivering expertise across both technical and business management streams.

Global experts will join Australia's leading industry voices at the 2026 Australian Auto Aftermarket Expo to deliver a high-impact training program designed to build skills, strengthen businesses, and accelerate careers across the aftermarket.

Tailored for technicians and automotive professionals at every level, the program delivers world-class knowledge, practical insights, and future-focused education at Australia's premier aftermarket exhibition. Sponsored by Repco and co-located with the Collision Repair Expo, the event brings together hundreds of leading brands, global innovation, and industry-driven learning under one roof, from 14–16 May in Melbourne.

Steve Smith (UK), from Pico Technology is a highly regarded trainer helping technicians master complex diagnostics.

Scott Hicks (USA) from TOPDON USA, is an ASE Master Technician and globally recognised trainer and mentor.

Keith and Liz Perkins (USA), co-owners of L1 Automotive Group, are respected ASE Subject Matter Experts and a globally recognised authority in advanced diagnostics and module programming.

The Technical Training Program features high-impact free sessions addressing the most critical challenges facing the modern service bay. Topics include NVH diagnostics, oscilloscope fault diagnosis, ICE-to-electric diagnostic fundamentals, engine oil additives, and thermal imaging to improve workshop efficiency.

The technical training experience extends onto the trade show floor with the newly introduced Diagnostic Discovery Zone, where attendees can explore real-world techniques, tools, and workflows, alongside the ADAS Training Zone, offering hands-on calibration insights, equipment showcases, and live demonstrations — ensuring technicians remain at the cutting edge of repair technology.

The Business Management Training stream is designed for owners and leaders seeking to better understand the evolving industry and position their businesses for future success. Free sessions cover essential leadership skills, an interactive HR Q&A, ADAS Code of Conduct, customer expectations, business lifecycles, and strategies to make smart bets that drive productivity and long-term sustainability.

For those seeking deeper learning,



exclusive half-day Advanced Technical Masterclasses will be held on 13th May, the day before the Expo opens. These paid, limited-capacity sessions provide in-depth training with global experts including Keith and Liz Perkins, Steve Smith, and Scott Hicks, focusing on advanced programming, network communications, and diagnostic decision-making.

AAAA Chief Executive Officer Stuart Charity said, "There is huge demand for advanced skills, and Expo 2026 will deliver exactly what the industry needs to stay ahead," Mr Charity said. "Access to this world-class training is the single best move workshops can make to remain competitive."

The event will be held from 14–16 May 2026 at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, with more than 13,000 industry professionals expected to attend. Registration for the Expo and free training sessions is complimentary, making it the premier destination for learning, connection, and career advancement in the automotive trade.

For more information and to register for FREE, head to www.autoaftermarketexpo.com.au

MTA NSW Automotive Excellence Awards 2026

The Motor Traders' Association of New South Wales has announced the winners of its inaugural Automotive Excellence Awards 2026, celebrating the businesses and individuals driving excellence across the state's automotive industry.



and the Chair of CareSuper, Linda Scott, gathered at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth recently to recognise outstanding achievement across 16 award categories, including mechanical repair, collision repair, new vehicle dealerships, and member recognition.

MTA NSW CEO Stavros Yallouridis congratulated all winners and finalists for their exceptional contribution to the industry.

"These awards are about celebrating the very best of our industry, the businesses and individuals who raise the bar every day. I congratulate all our winners and finalists on this outstanding achievement," Mr Yallouridis said

"The Automotive Excellence Awards are our way of celebrating the people and businesses who form the backbone of our \$55 billion industry," he added.

Apprentice of the Year – 1st Year
(sponsored and presented by Penrite)

- Bridie Bennett – Certificate III Heavy Commercial Vehicle Mechanical Technology, Singleton Earthmoving, Singleton

Apprentice of the Year – 2nd Year
(presented by Jack Richards)

- Jack Berry – Certificate III Automotive Refinishing Technology, Taminda Smash Repairs, Tamworth

Apprentice of the Year – 3rd Year
(presented by Kody Garland)





Study Shows EV Batteries Lasting Longer

A large-scale real-world analysis has found that modern electric vehicle batteries are designed to last longer than the vehicles they power, with average degradation happening slowly and predictably over time.

Research conducted by global telematics firm Geotab analysed data from more than 22,700 electric vehicles across 21 different models, making it one of the most comprehensive real-world assessments of EV battery health to date.

The study found that EV batteries degrade at an average rate of 2.3 per cent per year, meaning a typical battery is expected to retain around 81.6 per cent of its original capacity after eight years of use.

According to Geotab, the results confirm that current-generation EV batteries can deliver long service lives that extend beyond standard ownership and fleet replacement cycles.

Charging behaviour has the biggest impact

How a vehicle is charged has the biggest effect on battery life.

The study found high-power DC fast charging above 100kW as the primary contributor to accelerated battery wear. Vehicles relying heavily on high-power fast chargers showed degradation

rates up to double those of vehicles that predominantly used lower-power charging options.

Vehicles that use DC fast charging for less than 12 per cent of charging sessions recorded an average degradation of 1.5 per cent per year. By comparison, vehicles that frequently relied on fast charging saw degradation increase to around 2.5 per cent annually.

Where high-power charging above 100kW accounted for more than 40 per cent of DC charging sessions, degradation rose further to approximately 3.0 per cent per year.

Climate and usage also influence battery health

Environmental conditions were also found to play a role in battery wear.

Vehicles operating in warmer climates, where temperatures exceeded 25 degrees Celsius on more than 35 per cent of days, experienced an additional 0.4 per cent degradation per year compared with vehicles in cooler regions.

Usage intensity had a measurable impact as well. High-utilisation vehicles completing a full charge cycle every one to two days degraded around 0.8 per cent faster annually than lower-use vehicles, though the study notes this is often



offset by higher productivity and vehicle utilisation benefits.

The research also examined state-of-charge behaviour, finding that moderate exposure to very high or very low charge levels did not significantly accelerate degradation. Increased wear was only observed when vehicles spent more than 80 per cent of their time at extreme charge levels.

The study recommends prioritising AC charging or lower-power DC charging where operationally possible, reserving high-power fast charging for situations where it is genuinely required.

Geotab said the results align with earlier research, noting that the observed 2.3 per cent degradation rate represents a return to levels recorded in 2020, following lower rates identified in 2023 studies. The shift reflects newer EV models, higher charging power availability, and evolving usage patterns.

Source: The Australasian Fleet Management Association.

- Roy Lardner Burke – Certificate III Heavy Commercial Vehicle Mechanical Technology, Heavy Diesel Specialists, Rutherford

Outstanding Apprentice of the Year (sponsored and presented by CareSuper)

- Roy Lardner Burke – Certificate III Heavy Commercial Vehicle Mechanical Technology, Heavy Diesel Specialists, Rutherford

Women in Automotive Apprentice of the Year (sponsored and presented by Women in Automotive)

- Jennifer Smyth – Certificate III Automotive Electrical Technology, John McGrath Auto Group, Belconnen ACT

NSW Metropolitan Business of the Year (sponsored and presented by Tyrepower)

- **Small Automotive Business:** Dulwich Hill Automotive, Marrickville
- **Medium Automotive Business:** Sylvania BMW, Sylvania
- **Large Automotive Business:** Penrith City Automotive, Kingswood

NSW Regional Business of the Year

(sponsored and presented by Capricorn)

- **Small Automotive Business:** Sampson's Car Repairs, Tamworth
- **Medium Automotive Business:** Geoff Richards Panel Beating, Dubbo
- **Large Automotive Business:** Thomas Bros Toyota, Wagga Wagga

Specialist Automotive Business of the Year

- **Automotive Mechanical Repair Business** (sponsored and presented by IMA B2B): Bold Trailer And Caravan Repair Centre, Miranda
- **Collision Repair Business** (sponsored and presented by Scott & Broad): L & M Smash Repairs, Seven Hills
- **New Vehicle Dealership** (sponsored and presented by CareSuper): Mercedes-Benz Parramatta, Granville

MTA NSW Member Recognition Awards

- **MTA NSW Member Recognition Award:** Lancaster Motor Group, Singleton
- **MTA NSW President's Award:** Thomas Bros Toyota, Wagga Wagga

The gala event was hosted by comedian and television presenter Charlie Pickering, with entertainment from award-winning speed painter Brad Blaze and Sydney band Bermuda Social.

The evening also included special guests, Foodbank NSW CEO, John Robertson, 2025 Aussie Racing Cars Champion, Kody Garland, the co-founders of Women in Automotive, Kate Peck and Rachel Butler, and a live charity auction, raising funds for Foodbank NSW and ACT, to help them tackle hunger and food insecurity in the community.

The event was proudly supported by Platinum Sponsor CareSuper, with Capricorn and Tyrepower joining as Gold Sponsors. Silver Sponsors included Women in Automotive, the industry's leading body championing women, as well as IMA B2B. Bronze Sponsors were Penrite, Scott & Broad and PMA Global. RT Health, Henry William Lawyers and Steadfast Workplace Risk rounded out the evening as Supporting Sponsors.



Natrad AutoCare is Growing

30 Sites Planned by EOFY26

With more than 40 years of history, the Natrad name is respected by vehicle owners and fleet operators across the country. Their vehicle repair group, Natrad AutoCare, is gaining more and more attention from automotive workshop operators wanting to partner with a powerful National brand that offers high recognition and support without high fees.

Natrad Operations Manager, Roy Lapedota, leads a team of Regional Managers—Martin Saffrett (QLD/NSW/ACT); Joe Calipari (VIC/SA) and Kerry-Anne Joseph (WA), along with Rhonda Skehan (Franchise & Licensing Coordinator) in supporting the Natrad Radiator & Auto Air Franchisees while targeting growth for the Natrad AutoCare group.

Recent new workshops have opened in Mornington & Carrum Downs in VIC, Gladstone in QLD & Armadale in WA—bringing the number of Natrad AutoCare sites to 18.

“Collectively, the Natrad team has over 100 years of experience in senior

automotive roles covering shop management, sales & marketing, administration, franchising and workshop ownership,” Roy said. “We are making sure that both the Natrad Radiator and Auto Air Franchisees & Natrad AutoCare Licensees continue to play a very important role in our industry’s future”.

Australian heat exchange manufacturer and automotive aftermarket products supplier, Adrad, also contributes with Marketing, Product Sourcing, Parts Distribution and Warranty Support provided to assist the Natrad business.



“It’s a privilege to work with such a talented team be constantly adding more quality workshops to our group” Roy added.

For more information about becoming a Natrad AutoCare workshop, call (03) 9795 1255 or visit natradautocare.com.au/franchise.



Carrum Downs VIC—Jeymi Dincal (right)



Gladstone (Calliope) QLD—Scott McAlary (left)



Mornington VIC—Glen and Belinda Avery (left)

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NEXEN Secures Fitment For New BMW iX3



NEXEN TYRE has announced that its premium sport performance tyre, the N'FERA Sport, has been selected as original equipment (OE) for the new BMW iX3.

The N'FERA Sport delivers strong dry, wet, and handling performance, supported by several key design features. These include a wider longitudinal groove to enhance drainage performance in wet conditions and an optimised block design to provide stable dry and wet handling at high speeds.

The tyre incorporates the latest tread compound technology to improve grip and braking performance, while reinforced sidewalls maximise high-speed stability, delivering confident handling and enhanced cornering performance.

NEXEN TYRE has steadily expanded its OE supply to global automakers in recent years, with this latest fitment further underscoring the brand's growing recognition within the premium automotive segment.

The company attributes this achievement to continued investment in research and development, driving the advancement of high-performance products built on advanced technologies. Most recently, NEXEN TYRE became the first in Korea's tyre industry to introduce a high dynamic driving simulator, enabling the development of next-generation virtual tyres.

Manufacturing competitiveness has also been strengthened through the implementation of an AI-based automated inspection system to enhance precision in product quality control.



"By strengthening our R&D efforts and enhancing collaboration with global automakers," said John Bosco Kim, CEO of NEXEN TYRE, "we will continue to deliver premium products to customers worldwide."

For more information, visit www.nexentire.com/international/.

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*Units subject to availability. Terms & Conditions apply.



More Fake Fuel Usage Tests

76% of Tested cars using more fuel than advertised

On-road testing undertaken by Australia's peak motoring body has found consumers and regulators still can't put their faith in the fuel consumption and emissions data being provided to them by carmakers.

The AAA's Real-World Testing Program tests new electric, hybrid, petrol, and diesel cars on local roads and compares results to each manufacturer's mandatory laboratory test figure that's promoted on the windscreen label of each car sold in Australia.

The latest batch of Program results shows 8 out of the 10 internal combustion engine vehicles tested used more fuel on-road than advertised, with the worst result being the GWM Tank 300 which used 25% more fuel in the real world than in the laboratory.

The Commonwealth funded Program has now tested 141 petrol, diesel and hybrid vehicles, with 76 per cent found to use more fuel in real-world conditions than advertised.

The latest batch also includes two battery electric vehicles (EVs), with one delivering a driving range 10% below that reported on the windscreen label (BMW iX1) and the other a driving range 25% below that reported on the label (BYD Seal).

The Program has now tested 11 EVs, all of which failed to match their reported laboratory driving range (travel distance on a single battery charge), with shortfalls ranging from -3% to -31%.

AAA Managing Director Michael Bradley said: "These results will help Australians wanting to make the switch to an EV, given our polling shows 60 per cent of people identifying as likely EV buyers nominate range anxiety as the main concern preventing them from choosing an EV.

"Giving consumers independent information on real-world battery range means they now know which cars perform as advertised, and they can worry less about running out of charge and make the switch with confidence."

The latest Program results come one week after the Government released the first batch of New Vehicle Efficiency Standard (NVES) compliance figures



for each car importer, which showed carmakers will come under increasing pressure to produce lower emissions – which are measured and regulated via the mandatory laboratory test.

Mr Bradley said, "The AAA supports the introduction of increasingly stringent vehicle emissions regulation, but we also want to make sure our car fleet is getting cleaner in the real-world, not just in the lab.

"By independently measuring fuel use and emissions performance in real-world conditions, this Program provides transparency about NVES-related emissions reductions, and the degree to which they are being realised on Australian roads."

All Program results are available at realworld.org.au

TYREXPO BANGKOK

Informa Markets has announced that the 15th edition of TyreXpo Asia 2026 will take place from the 13th to 15th May 2026 at the Bangkok International Trade & Exhibition Centre (BITEC) in Thailand.

This highly anticipated edition not only marks the return of TyreXpo Asia to Bangkok but also introduces the debut of AutoMROtive, an additional trade exhibition sector dedicated to the Asian and international automotive maintenance, repair, and operations (MRO) sector.

Mr. Sukumar Verma, Managing Director, Informa Markets says "The synergy between TyreXpo Asia Bangkok and AutoMROtive is both strategic and intentional. As together, these events will offer the industry a comprehensive platform to source products and services, whilst also connecting with new and existing business partners, and drive growth across the entire automotive value-chain."

Designed as a forward-looking marketplace, the inaugural AutoMROtive 2026 will showcase the latest innovations in automotive tools, equipment, and technology and effectively connect workshop professionals, solution

providers, and technology innovators to explore advancements shaping the future of automotive maintenance and repair.

Mr. Threepol Boonyamarn, Executive Vice President, Thailand Automotive Institute, adds, "Thailand's automotive industry continues to evolve rapidly, driven by advancements in electric vehicles, smart manufacturing, and sustainable technologies. TyreXpo Asia Bangkok and AutoMROtive 2026 provides an important platform for local and international players to do business."

The co-location of TyreXpo Asia Bangkok and AutoMROtive 2026 creates a unified and extended platform for collaboration across the tyre and aftermarket industries. Whilst apart from the exhibitions, attendees can expect the opportunity to attend expert-led seminars on trends and technologies shaping the industry.

Alternating between Singapore and Thailand, TyreXpo Asia plays a key role in shaping the tyre industry's future,



bringing together global manufacturers, distributors, and professionals to exchange knowledge, forge partnerships, and drive business forward.

Mr. Alwin Seow, Deputy Event Director, Automotive Portfolio, Informa Markets concludes, "We are thrilled to bring TyreXpo Asia back to Bangkok. The launch of AutoMROtive is timely and aligns with Thailand's position as an automotive hub in Asia. We look forward to welcoming industry professionals from across the region to discover new business opportunities, explore innovations and collaborate all under one roof."

For more info visit www.tyrexpoasia.com and www.automrotive.com.



Retirement reboot: What to know before you clock in again

By Prue Cheeseman-Goodes

Retirement used to mean a clean break from work—being presented with a retirement gift and not looking back. But times have changed. With Australians now living longer, retirement has shifted from full stop to flexible phase.

Around 33 per cent of Australians aged 65–69 are still working or looking for work. Many are blending part-time work with super drawdowns, using options like Transition to Retirement pensions.

But returning to work after retirement isn't as simple as clocking back in. It can have important implications for superannuation, the age pension, and tax obligations, so understanding the rules can help avoid surprises.

Accessing super while working

Those who have already started drawing an income stream from their superannuation through an account-based pension can keep accessing it even after returning to work. That's because they've met a "condition of release," and those funds remain accessible under the same rules.

However, any new contributions received from employer super guarantee payments (12 per cent of salary from 1 July 2025), or personal contributions, will go into a separate accumulation account. Whether these new funds can be accessed depends on your age and retirement status.

If you're over 65, you're automatically eligible to access super, regardless of whether you're working or not. You can start a new pension account at any time using the accumulated funds.

If you're between 60 and 65, you must meet another condition of release to access newly contributed super, which means ceasing an employment arrangement (including paid board roles).

If you haven't met that condition, you may still access funds through a Transition to Retirement Income Stream (TRIS) once you're over 60, which allows you to reduce your working hours and start drawing down on your super to make up for lost income. While a TRIS provides flexibility, earnings on the underlying super are still taxed, unlike a full account-based pension.

Impact on the age pension

Working while receiving the age pension requires reporting employment income, which is assessed under the income test and could see a reduction in your payment.

The Work Bonus helps offset this by allowing people to earn up to \$300 per fortnight from work without affecting their age pension. Any unused amount accumulates in a Work Bonus income bank, up to \$11,800, and can be used to offset higher earnings in the future.

Be aware that if income exceeds the threshold for more than six consecutive fortnights, the age pension may be suspended for up to two years.



Tax considerations

If income stays below the tax-free threshold of \$18,200, and no tax has been withheld, a tax return generally doesn't need to be lodged. But if you've had tax withheld or earn above the threshold, you may need to lodge a return.

Total income may also affect eligibility for tax offsets (such as the Seniors and Pensioners Tax Offset) and liability for the Medicare Levy or Medicare Levy Surcharge, particularly for those who don't have private health cover.

Making super contributions while working

Those aged 67 to 75 who want to claim a tax deduction for personal contributions must meet the work test; at least 40 hours of gainful employment within a 30-day period in the financial year. Volunteering doesn't count, and this test must be declared to the super fund. The work test no longer applies to non-concessional contributions or salary sacrifice contributions, thanks to rule changes in 2022.

Those who have recently stopped working and met the work test in the prior year may be eligible for a 12-month exemption to continue making personal deductible contributions, provided their total super balance is under \$300,000.

Other considerations

Returning to work might increase taxable income, so consider delaying major asset sales that could trigger large capital gains.

Review insurance; do you need private health cover to avoid the Medicare Levy Surcharge? Is your Life or TPD cover through super still active and relevant?

Working in retirement offers many benefits, but it's essential to understand the financial and regulatory landscape in order to make the most of super and entitlements.

Prue Cheeseman-Goodes is Director of Personal Wealth Management

At HLB Mann Judd Sydney.

Visit www.hlb.com.au for more information.





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JAX Tyres and Auto opens 97th store in Munno Para



JAX Tyres & Auto has recently opened its latest store in Munno Para, South Australia, becoming the organisation's 97th location nationwide.

The new Munno Para store is the organisation's third location in South Australia, joining Edwardstown and Gilles Plains, with JAX Tyres & Auto looking to continue to build its reach and breadth of services across Australia.

The store will provide residents with automotive services, including tyres, wheels, brakes, suspension, batteries, and full vehicle servicing.

Franchisee, Campbell Aldis, brings a wealth of local experience in mechanics and repairs, having dedicated 21 years to the South Australian automotive and insurance industry. Throughout his career, he has worked in workshops and provided assistance to the local community during vehicle breakdowns.

Campbell said, "We are thrilled to officially join the JAX Tyres & Auto family. The support we have received has been outstanding, and it is evident that the organisation is deeply committed to its core values. "We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to serve the residents of Munno Para and the surrounding areas, delivering exceptional service, while making a meaningful contribution to the community."

CEO and Managing Director of JAX Tyres & Auto, Steve Grossrieder, says, "This opening is an important milestone for JAX Tyres & Auto—it's our third location in South Australia and this consistent growth reflects the trust in the brand's quality and reputation.

"Across our 97 stores in Australia, we are governed by our consumer promise of Peace of Mind Driving, delivered through transparency, trust and professionalism—our customers expect and will always receive reliable, professional automotive services from us."

Recently recognised as the Most Recommended Car Servicing Chain in the 2025 Finder Customer Satisfaction Awards and the CX Team of the Year during the 2025 CX Awards, JAX Tyres & Auto has enjoyed a stellar 12 months.

JAX Tyres & Auto is also at the forefront of tyre retailing technology through a strategy called JAXIT, which encompasses digital deployment to stores and consumers from the central source of data, which allows consumers to search and choose a solution 24/7/365 for all their tyre and automotive maintenance needs from the convenience of online.



NEXEN TIRE Opens Tyre Testing Centre



NEXEN TIRE has officially opened the Purple Snow Ivalo Centre, a dedicated winter and all-weather tyre testing facility located in Ivalo, Finland, reinforcing its winter tyre development capabilities in the European market.

The centre is situated within the UTAC proving ground near the Arctic Circle, providing access to comprehensive indoor and outdoor testing infrastructure capable of replicating extreme winter road conditions. The facility includes snow handling tracks with varying gradients and curves, a large-scale flat track, and dedicated areas for evaluating studded tyre durability under severe icy conditions typical of Northern Europe.

To further strengthen winter R&D, NEXEN has also established in-house research capabilities, including a laboratory dedicated to analysing the surface characteristics of winter roads. This enables more precise correlation between laboratory data and real-world vehicle performance in snow and ice environments.

The new testing centre plays a strategic role as Europe accounts for more than 40% of the company's total revenue. In key markets such as Germany, Italy, the Czech Republic and Sweden, the use of certified winter tyres bearing the Three-Peak Mountain Snowflake (3PMSF) marking is mandatory during winter months. As regulatory requirements tighten and consumer expectations for winter safety increase, validated on-snow development capabilities have become critical to competitiveness.

The Ivalo facility also connects NEXEN TIRE's virtual development processes with real-world vehicle testing. Following the introduction of a high-dynamic driving simulator in Korea, performance predictions generated through simulation can now be cross-validated through physical winter testing. This integrated approach is expected to accelerate development cycles, enhance predictive accuracy, and expand opportunities in original equipment (OE) projects.



As part of its winter strategy, the company continues to expand its winter and all-weather product portfolio in Europe, strengthening its foundation in high-performance and regulatory-compliant tyre development.

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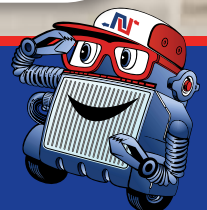
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Managing business through seasonal highs & lows

By Joelle Tabone

For many businesses fluctuations in sales across the year is the norm. For example, your business may experience a surge in aircon repairs/servicing in summer, while winter months might be much quieter, leaving you with more time on your hands to improve your business operations and plan for the year ahead.



Cost control is important, and avoiding overstocking during quiet periods which can keep cash tied up. So is ensuring trade debtors are paid on time providing essential liquidity when cash inflows are weaker.

In terms of strategies to adopt in more quiet months, small businesses might consider developing a tiered sales approach, where they offer discounts for services or additional projects delivered during the quieter months.

Effective financial planning is essential to managing seasonal swings in business. By understanding cash flow patterns, diversifying income, and prioritising financial forecasting, businesses can build the resilience they need to maintain steady income and long-term growth.

Small businesses should strategically plan for their cash flow at least 12 to 18 months in advance. A monthly cash flow plan should be developed to reflect the business current and forecast operating conditions and made decisions on how they operate. Scenario plan the business's monthly financial position and cash flow at different revenue levels.

Effective financial planning is essential to managing seasonal swings in business. By understanding cash flow patterns, diversifying income, and prioritising financial forecasting, businesses can build the resilience they need to maintain steady income and long-term growth.

It may also be worth considering revenue diversification, such as offering related services, or additional projects with discounts during slower periods. For example, if aircon keeps your staff super-busy in summer maybe a free winter lighting, battery or even aircon check-up in winter to maintain income.

There may be grants or local government initiatives available which can also provide financial relief, so these opportunities should be actively explored. Another option could be collaborating with other local businesses to refer customers to each other. Consider hosting joint events, sharing promotions, or participating in seasonal markets, businesses can draw a larger customer base even in quieter

months. Diversification of your service offerings are often the key difference between a business that flourishes over time and one that struggles in slower months.

Assets, such as property, can also become revenue-generating. If your workshop has an unused area, consider renting it out during hours when the business is closed, for example. E-commerce has also transformed the landscape for small businesses, so also investigate this area.

It is good business sense to maximise profitability during stronger months. By boosting margins when demand is high, businesses can create a financial buffer to carry them through leaner months.

It is important to view budgeting as a live management tool, not as a chore, and this can see small business owners turning financial forecasting into a key driver of adaptability, enabling particularly small business to remain nimble and responsive to change. When combined with strong seasonal planning and new revenue channels, this approach helps locally based businesses to reduce risk, smooth their income, and protect long-term profitability through the inevitable peaks and troughs of the year.

Joelle Tabone is the Director, Business Advisor at HLB Mann Judd. For more info visit www.hlb.com.au



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RUGGED TERRAIN



AT
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What's your adventure?

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TAFE Teachers Go Back to Industry with IONNIC

Staying current with the latest technologies and industry trends is critical for automotive educators – By Rick Sullivan, Senior Auto Electrical Teacher, TAFE Queensland Gold Coast

Recently, TAFE Queensland Gold Coast and TAFE SkillsTech Brisbane Auto Electrical teachers attended a full-day professional development session with the IONNIC Technical Systems team, hosted at IONNIC's head office in Archerfield, Brisbane.

The training focused on emerging auto electrical and electronic ancillary fitting technologies—now integral to vehicles across sectors such as mining, agriculture, and emergency services.

As modern vehicles increasingly rely on CANBUS (Controller Area Network Binary Unit System) and J1939 communication networks rather than traditional wiring, the need for educators to remain at the cutting edge has never been greater.



Brett Sawyers, Michael Martin and Rick Sullivan with the CANBUS Simulation Tester

As many technicians know, even simple installations—like an LED light bar or handbrake warning system—now require an interface with a vehicle's communication network.

IONNIC's technology simplifies this process, making their products invaluable to modern workshops.

IONNIC is a market leader in automotive safety and warning systems, and their training showcased how CANBUS signals can be interfaced with programmable electronic relays to control a wide range of accessories and automated functions.

These systems are now commonplace in Australian fire service appliances and mine-spec vehicles, ensuring that OEM wiring remains intact while allowing for tailored accessory integration.

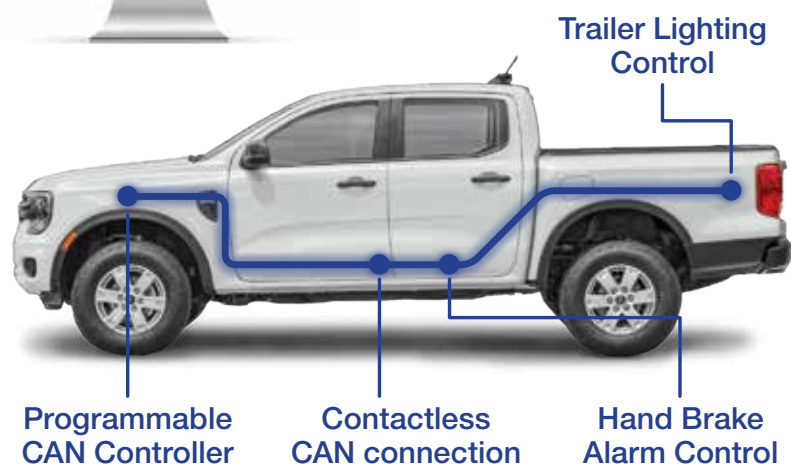
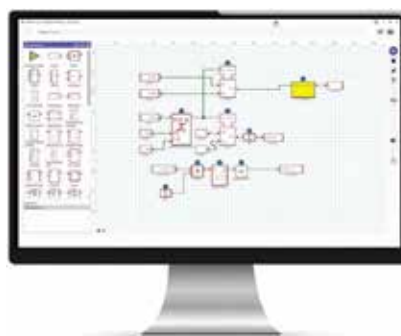
A highlight of the collaboration was the design and development of a custom-built multi-use simulation tester for TAFE Queensland Gold Coast.

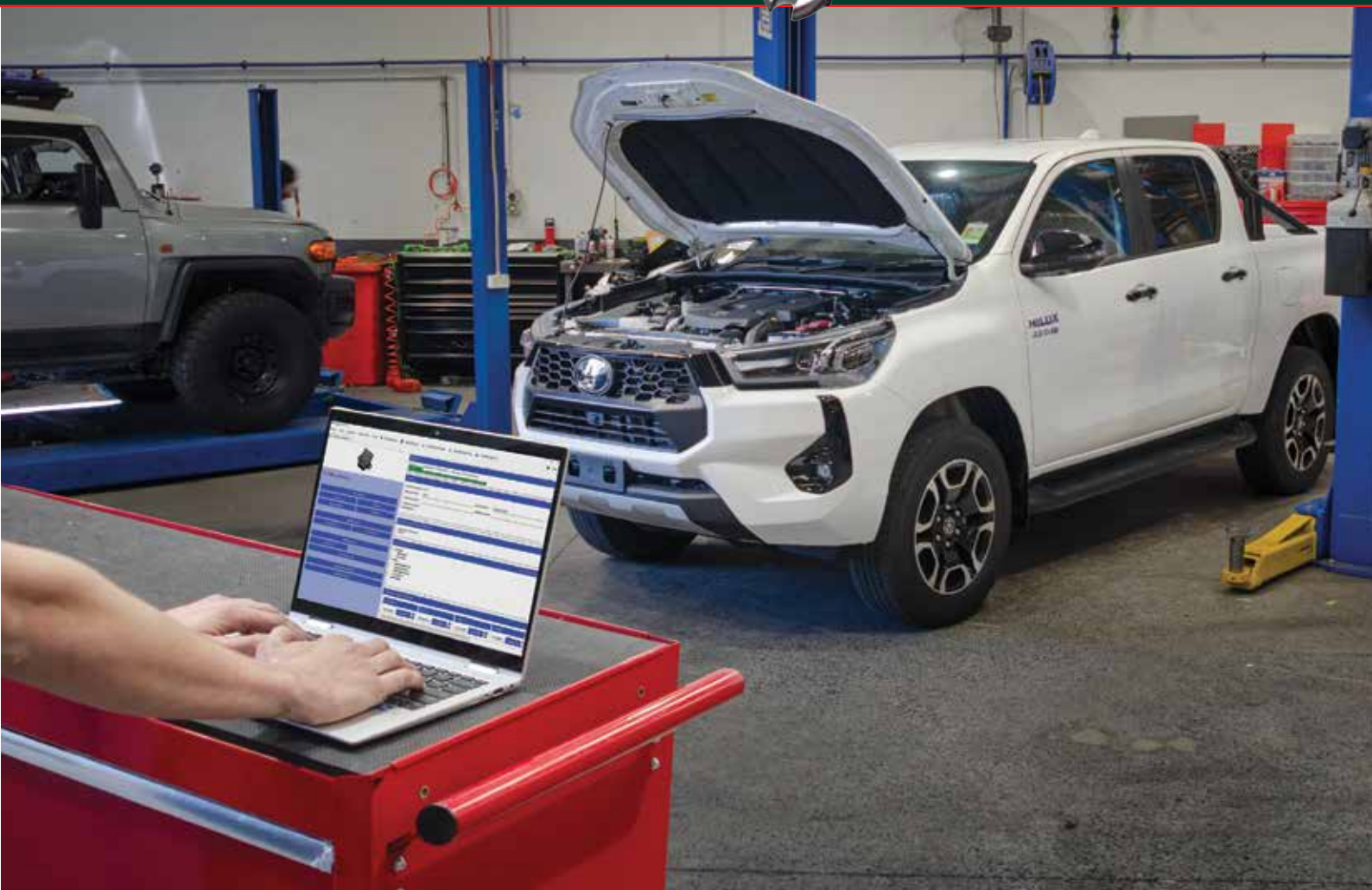
This unique training tool allows students to safely collect, interpret, and program CANBUS data just as they would in a real vehicle—without risking damage to communication circuits or components.

The simulator represents a significant advancement in the practical delivery of auto electrical training and will be used across Queensland's TAFE automotive programs.

As many technicians know, even simple installations—like an LED light bar or handbrake warning system—now require an interface with a vehicle's communication network. IONNIC's technology simplifies this process, making their products invaluable to modern workshops.

During the session, the TAFE teachers worked through CANBUS theory, software applications, and hands-on programming of modules in test vehicles.





The IONNIC team, including company founder and respected Queensland Auto Electrician Norman Haupt, shared their expertise and provided a behind-the-scenes tour of AEI's impressive warehouse and distribution facilities.

Thanks to this collaboration, TAFE teachers are now equipped to deliver advanced, industry-relevant training—ensuring Queensland's next generation of Auto Electricians are job-ready for the complex electrical systems of today and tomorrow.

A special thank you to Norman Haupt, Sam Draper, Tyler Haub, Michael Martin, Nathan Smith, and the entire team at AEI and IONNIC for their continued partnership with TAFE Queensland.

Together, they're building a stronger, smarter automotive electrical workforce for the future.



IONNIC head office, Archerfield, Brisbane

About the Author

Rick Sullivan is a Senior Auto Electrical Teacher at TAFE Queensland Gold Coast and the Chief Judge for Auto Electrical at WorldSkills Australia.

With over 50 years of industry experience, Rick is passionate about developing strong industry partnerships and preparing the next generation of automotive electricians for an increasingly technology-driven trade.



Mobile Tyre Shop Hit's A Hat-Trick

Mobile Tyre Shop has been named Australia's Top Rated Tyre Shop for 2026 by ProductReview.com.au for the third year in a row.

"It's a hat trick – and an accomplishment our team couldn't be prouder of," said Jamie Cartwright CEO.

"The recognition isn't decided by panels or judges either, it's earned through the voices of real Australians. Thousands of everyday drivers who've trusted us with their vehicles, their time and their safety, and who've taken a moment to say, "Yes — getting my tyres with Mobile Tyre Shop was a five-star experience."

Plus, MTS has just passed an incredible milestone of more than 10,000 customers who have rated their service a perfect 5.0.

"Our customers tell us they love the

transparency, the value, and the professionalism of our mobile technicians — and that's exactly what we work hard to deliver with every single booking. Because convenience only matters when it's backed by genuine expertise and service you can trust," Jamie added.

The Product Review Awards are especially meaningful to MTS because they're based entirely on independent customer feedback — not marketing claims, not brand size, and not advertising spend.

They reflect consistency. Reliability. And customer experiences that genuinely stand out.

"To be recognised as the top-rated tyre



shop in Australia for three consecutive years tells us we're doing something right — and more importantly, that Australians feel confident recommending us to others."

While we're celebrating this milestone, we're not slowing down, Jamie added.

"We'll continue investing in better technology, broader tyre ranges, sharper pricing, and even better service — because being the best-rated tyre shop in the country means showing up every day with the same commitment that got us here."

Since its establishment, Mobile Tyre Shop has consistently recorded 50% year-on-year

growth, disrupting the traditional tyre retail model through its digital-first, onsite fitting service.

For further info visit www.mobilitytyreshop.com.au

JAX Extends Partnership With Reynolds



JAX Tyres & Auto has confirmed the renewal of its partnership with Supercars champion David Reynolds and Team 18 for the 2026 Repco Supercars Championship, marking the eighth year of supporting Reynolds and the third year sponsoring Team 18.

The continued partnership reinforces the brand's alignment with high performance and precision at the highest level of Australian motorsport.

JAX Tyres & Auto's sponsorship of Reynolds and Team 18 extends beyond motorsport through initiatives such as the Pink Helmet program. Unveiled during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the hand-painted helmet is worn by Reynolds and auctioned after the Gold Coast 500, with 100 per cent of proceeds donated to the National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF).

Steve Grossrieder, CEO and Managing Director of JAX Tyres & Auto, says "Sponsoring David Reynolds and Team 18 is a natural fit for JAX. Supercars is built

on precision, performance and teamwork, and these same values underpin our Peace of Mind Driving Promise to customers every day.

"Having the JAX brand featured on the pit crew's helmets at every race gives us a powerful and authentic presence trackside, while reinforcing our long-standing connection to automotive excellence. We're proud to support Team 18 and look forward to showcasing our brand to fans nationwide throughout the season."

David Reynolds added, "The team at JAX Tyres & Auto has been incredible to work with, especially in backing initiatives like the pink helmet campaign that genuinely make a difference. To be able to race hard, while also supporting causes that matter, is something I'm really proud of."

MTA WA Student Graduation

The MTA WA recently held their annual Student Graduation, a fantastic evening celebrating the achievements of apprentices and students completing key milestones in their automotive careers.

Held at their Balcatta workshop, the event brought together over 120 guests, including graduates, family members, trainers, industry representatives and supporters, to recognise the hard work and dedication of the graduating students.

The workshop was transformed into a vibrant event space for the night, with a standout V8 car display adding to the atmosphere and making it a memorable occasion for everyone involved.

A highlight of the evening was recognising outstanding student achievements, with award recipients nominated and voted by their respected MTA WA trainers for their excellence and commitment throughout their training.

- Joshua Drayton, who successfully completed the Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation (AUR20720)
- Bailey Halden, who completed the Certificate III in Automotive Mechanical Technology (AUR30320)



These trainers' choice awards recognise each student's dedication, professionalism and development of practical, industry-ready skills, marking an important milestone in their automotive careers.

The event was proudly sponsored by CareSuper and SP Tools, whose ongoing support helps MTA WA continue to recognise and celebrate emerging talent in the automotive industry.

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Students Get A “taste” Of Auto Trades

MTA Queensland’s Brisbane state-of-the-art training facility was busy recently, as students, aspiring automotive professionals, and those wanting to learn just a bit about how to keep their vehicles on the road attended an Automotive Taster Day program and, separately, a Vehicle Maintenance Course.

For those attending the Automotive Taster Day, the program offered participants an engaging experience across a range of automotive disciplines, designed to give them a real taste of what a career in the industry could look like.

Over the course of the day, attendees were exposed to different workstations

including automotive servicing, electrical diagnostics, spray painting, and light vehicle mechanical. They were even able to use a Virtual Reality system to get a really immersive experience. Participants also learned fundamental workshop safety, as well as how to identify and use tools and equipment correctly.

“The Taster Day experience lets them explore different career paths in a supportive environment and, for many, it’s the spark that inspires them to take the next step into an apprenticeship,” a spokesperson said.

Held alongside the Taster Day, MTA Queensland also ran the Vehicle



Maintenance Course – a course designed for anyone who wants to better understand and maintain their own vehicles.

For further info visit www.mtaq.com.au

The Automotive Taster Day project is proudly supported and funded by the Queensland Government.

KUMHO TYRE AWARDED ECOVADIS GOLD MEDAL

Kumho Tyre has won a major global award for its efforts and outstanding performance in Environmental Sustainability and Governance (ESG) evaluations across 2025 by global sustainability ratings organisation EcoVadis.

It is the second year in succession that Kumho was awarded demonstrating its strength in sustainability management after having also earned the Gold Medal honour in 2024.

EcoVadis assesses the sustainability of global supply chains based on policies, actions, and certifications across four areas: environment, labour and human rights, ethics, and sustainable procurement.

According to EcoVadis, Kumho ranked in the top five per cent of approximately 150,000 companies worldwide for sustainability in 2024, and in the 2025 evaluation the company achieved notable improvements in labour and human rights and in ethics.

Kumho Tyre also received an integrated “A” grade in the 2025 ESG rating from the Korean Institute of Corporate Governance and Sustainability, an improvement of one-grade from the previous year.

The Korean Institute said the upgrade was driven by management enhancements such as the establishment of a human rights management system, setting employee diversity goals, increased investment in information security and the implementing of board performance evaluations.

Since 2022 Kumho has also continued its participation in the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP).

Last year the company also earned an A rating in recognition of its water resource management capabilities, as well as scoring the highest rating in the Supplier Engagement Assessment (SEA), highlighting its efforts in climate change response and ESG management.



Kumho has also maintained its AA rating in the MSCI ESG assessment and was also selected as a Yearbook member in the Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA) by world-renowned credit rating agency, SandP Global, which gives it a ranking within the top 15 per cent of the global auto components industry.

At the Korean Sustainability Conference 2025, hosted by the Korean Standards Association under the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Energy, Kumho ranked first in the tyre sector of the Korean Sustainability Index (KSI) for the third consecutive year. The company was also recognised for its excellence in the manufacturing sector in the Korean Readers’ Choice Awards (KRCA) for the second consecutive year.



HIGH PERFORMANCE WINDSCREEN WIPERS

From the What Will They Think Of Next File, comes the news that Trico, one of the world’s leading designers and manufacturers of automotive windscreen wipers have developed a swept-wing VorTec Aerofoil (spoiler) on the industry leading Trico Force range of premium quality replacement wiper products.

This swept-wing spoiler has been added to the robustly engineered Trico Force high wind beam blade to easily slice

through wind speeds up to 240 kph caused by cross winds, buffeting highway truck winds and general high speed traffic turbulence.

Features/Advantages:

- VorTec aerofoil converts wind force for maximum windshield contact
- HighGlide treated rubber element for a smoother and quieter wipe
- Robust superstructure for durable all-weather performance
- SWIFT easy connection technology
- Twin point multi-length coupler

offering superior load distribution across wiper

- Wiper blade size range available in lengths from 350mm to 700mm
- Performance cut wiping edge tested to perform over 1.5 million cycles

Auto service centres can now offer their customers the ultimate in performance vehicle windscreen wipers with Trico Force sizes covering over 95% of the Australian car parc.

To find out more visit www.tricoproducts.com.au or call (03) 9271 3288.

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One Brand, Zero Stress Braking with TRW

With more than 120 years of experience, TRW is one of the world's most trusted names in automotive braking and safety solutions.

As a brand of ZF Aftermarket, TRW combines original equipment expertise with proven aftermarket reliability, delivering a level of engineering and validation few can match.

TRW designs braking systems for more than half of all rear axle systems worldwide, building much of the original equipment they are fitted with when they roll out of the factory.

That same OE-level engineering underpins its replacement range, ensuring workshops and technicians can rely on consistent quality, performance, and safety throughout a vehicle's life.

The local TRW brake program includes more than 9,000 part numbers, covering everything required for a complete braking service.

From brake pads and high-carbon brake discs to hydraulics such as hoses, master and slave cylinders, calipers, repair kits, and essential consumables including brake fluid, grease, and cleaner, TRW truly offers a zero stress one-stop braking solution for workshops.

Its brake pads are designed and manufactured at TRW's own factories in Europe, North America and China to meet or exceed ECE R90 rating—a European regulation which mandates that all

replacement brake pads be tested and approved to ensure they perform comparably to the original equipment.

This development process is supported by ZF's own rigorous validation regime, which includes more than 17 different tests such as Alpine testing, AK-Master, and advanced AMS simulation.

TRW brake pads with COTEC coating deliver high friction from the first stop, reducing stopping distances by up to 47 percent during bedding-in. Independent tests show up to seven metres shorter braking, and around 95 percent braking power immediately after installation.

TRW brake pads are also free of heavy metals, making them environmentally friendly.

TRW has also developed DTEC, a premium quality ceramic brake pad which reduces brake dust exfoliation onto the surface of the wheel rim by up to 45 percent, all while making less noise.

TRW also produces 12 million brake discs every year for both original equipment and the independent aftermarket worldwide, delivering cutting-edge technology designed for real-world performance and safety.



Its industry-first Black Painted Brake Discs offer superior corrosion resistance, a premium gloss finish, and convenient oil-free installation thanks to VCI packaging.

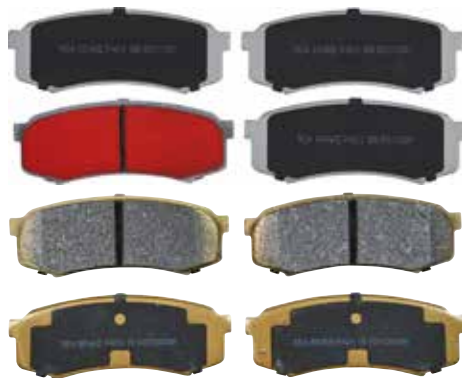
TRW High Carbon Discs exceed manufacturer standards, providing cooler operation, reduced distortion, improved stability, and quieter braking.

Each disc is manufactured with high-quality cast iron, tight machining tolerances, and optional integrated bearings or ABS rings, ensuring precision fit, durability, and reliable braking performance.

TRW also tests its brake fluids to the extreme to ensure they exceed international DOT standards, with products available for a wide range of vehicles.

For more information on the TRW braking range visit www.zf.com/au.

RDA BRAKES



The RDA range of brake rotors, pads, drums and shoes is one of Australia's largest!

The three-tier brake pad range accommodates different vehicle types and driving styles, from everyday general performance to light-commercial vehicles.

All RDA brake pads are backed by an 18-month/30,000km warranty.

The robust RDA Brakes range also includes standard replacement rotors incorporating features you would see in OEM manufactured rotors. RDA's standard replacement rotors are finished with the brand's Gen 3 Anti-Rust Coating, which is formulated to increase surface-rust resistance on non-braking areas.

To compliment RDA's Standard Brake Rotor Range RDA has a wide range of Slotted and Dimpled Rotors available. The range has been developed to meet the needs of the Australian driver. The directional slotting surface of RDA rotors is a formidable weapon against the dreaded brake fade. By countering "out-gassing," a phenomenon triggered by the



gas produced from the brake pad bonding agent. The result is a reduction in brake fade, ensuring consistent performance during demanding driving conditions.

All RDA Rotors come with a 12-month or 20,000km warranty.

RDA Brakes full range of brake drums suit small passenger vehicles to light commercial. RDA's brake drums also incorporate features that you would see from OEM manufactured drums like bearings and ABS Rings as standard.

The RDA Brake Shoe range has been specially formulated to ensure low noise, low dust and maximum stopping power. RDA also carries a range of Banksia handbrake bands which contain the minor hardware for faster fitment.

The full range of RDA Brakes are available from NAPA Australia. RDA Slotted and Dimpled Rotors are now also available from Repco Nationwide.



Bendix Expands Chinese Coverage

Recently, Bendix has released many new brake pad variations within its EV-Hybrid™, 4WD/SUV™, HD™ and General CT™ ranges, covering marques including BYD, GWM, Haval, Chery and LDV.



EV-Hybrid™

For BYD, more front and rear EV-Hybrid™ pads have been developed to suit selected electric ATTO 3, DOLPHIN, SEAL and the PHEV SEALION 6. New front and rear options from the EV-Hybrid™ range are also available for the electric GWM Ora.

Locally designed at Bendix's Ballarat R&D facility to suit the needs of EV and hybrid electric braking systems, EV-Hybrid™ pads feature copper-free, organic brake friction material that sees them certified to the Automotive Aftermarket Suppliers Association (AASA) 'N' rating, meaning the pads contain less than 0.5 of copper by weight.

4WD/SUV™

Increasingly popular with off roaders, GWM's Tank 300 and 500 are other models that Bendix has targeted, offering new front and rear options within both its HD™ and 4WD/SUV™ product lines. There are also greater front and rear pad choices in the 4WD/SUV™ range to suit Haval H6 and LDV D90, while additional HD™ options can now be chosen for LDV Deliver 9 models including dual wheel variants.

4WD/SUV™ pads are specifically formulated for 4WD and SUVs – both on and off road – and provide excellent low noise and dust performance and reduced brake fade at higher temperatures. They also benefit from Bendix's Titanium Stripe technology which provides instant positive pedal feel and smooth predictable braking straight from the box.

HD™

Perfect for vehicles that operate at high-loads and are engaged in frequent start and stop traffic during deliveries and other work, Bendix Heavy Duty™ pads are designed to last longer – up to twice as long as standard all-purpose pads – in high temperature conditions and also feature Bendix's unique Blue Titanium Stripe.



General CT™

Coverage of Bendix's General CT™ pads has grown as well, with extra front pad choices for BYD SEAL and SEALION 6; additional front and rear pads for Haval's Jolion and H6, and new front and rear pad variants for the Chery Omoda 5 and Tiggo 7.

General CT™ Brake Pads feature proven compounds that deliver reliable and secure stopping performance, coupled with a smooth and consistent pedal feel. Other qualities include noise and vibration absorbing shims for added driver and passenger comfort and Blue Titanium Stripe technology.

For more information free call the Bendix Brake Advice Centre on 1800 819 666 or email brakeadvicecentre@bendix.com.au or www.bendix.com.au

KYB Steering Components

With over 60+ years of experience designing and manufacturing steering components for OE customers, this extensive experience has enhanced the development and quality of the KYB aftermarket range.

KYB Steering components are developed and tested to OE specification as a minimum – ensuring any part users purchase matches OE quality or better. Every detail is engineered for superior durability and simple installation, and all components are subjected to advanced quality testing methods prior to production. These tests include:

- Hardness Control
- Material Load
- Ball Pin Strength
- Rotational Torque Testing
- Link Rod Pull

Within the Australian aftermarket, KYB initially introduced four Steering categories: Ball Joints, Tie Rod Ends,

Rack Ends, and Stabilizer Links. Since their release, these product groups have earned significant popularity within the aftermarket, with each range continuously expanded to meet the demands of customers.

KYB also offers a range of Control Arms. "Designed to withstand substantial stress and impact, KYB Control Arms are meticulously manufactured to ensure unparalleled quality and longevity. KYB has perfected the art of suspension technology with each control arm undergoing rigorous durability testing to meet exacting standard. This means reliability users can trust" explained Larry Coulthard, Group Product Manager for KYB. "Each KYB Control Arm is laser-etched branding for easy traceability, features electrophoretic deposition plating for corrosion prevention, and includes natural rubber bushings to ensure supreme control and comfort".

KYB Control Arms' exceptional performance and reliability is backed with



a market leading warranty statement of 6-years or 150,000km, which applies to all KYB Steering and Suspension automotive products (excluding heavy commercial shock absorbers).

To view the full listing of products please visit www.kyb.com.au



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Stockists & distributor enquiries welcome



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Skilled Migration Needed To Assist Auto Trades



The Motor Trades Association of Australia (MTAA) has contributed their input to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration's Inquiry into the value of skilled migration to Australia.

Australia's automotive retail, service and repair sector employs more than 320,000 Australians and is dominated by small, family-owned businesses operating across metropolitan, regional and remote communities.

Despite this critical role, the sector faces persistent skills shortages across almost every occupation, including mechanics, diesel technicians, body repairers, automotive electricians, tyre fitters, tow truck drivers and parts interpreters. These shortages are structural and have been building for more than a decade.

Declining apprenticeship commencements, low completion rates, an ageing workforce and increasing vehicle complexity have all contributed to current workforce pressures. Many businesses are now operating below capacity because they cannot recruit skilled workers, particularly in regional areas. These shortages affect more than individual businesses. Longer booking times, reduced service availability and closed service bays have implications for transport safety, supply chains and local economies.

MTAA's submission makes clear that skilled migration is a critical component of the automotive workforce. The MTAA says that domestic training alone cannot meet current demand or support the rapid technological change underway across the sector.

"As vehicles become more complex, skilled migrants help maintain service continuity and allow businesses to remain viable. Migration also supports apprenticeships by stabilising staffing levels so employers can continue to train and supervise new entrants."

Skilled migration and apprenticeships are complementary systems. Labour shortages limit employers' capacity to

take on apprentices, while rising costs and administrative burden further reduce participation in training. Without migration support to fill immediate gaps, the domestic skills pipeline weakens over time.

Current migration settings are not meeting the needs of the automotive sector. Employer-sponsored pathways are often slow and costly, occupation lists do not reflect real labour market conditions, and income thresholds can disadvantage regional employers.

MTAA is calling for a migration system that is responsive, evidence-based and aligned with workforce needs across all regions.

"A well-functioning skilled migration system is essential to maintaining transport safety and economic productivity. For the automotive sector, reform is about ensuring businesses can remain open, apprentices can be trained and communities can continue to rely on safe and reliable transport services."

To read MTAA's submission follow the **LINKS** from the www.mtaa.com.au website.

Bridgestone UK Survey: What Really Matters Is Trust, Familiarity.

A nationwide survey commissioned by Bridgestone has revealed that UK motorists are showing loyalty to their local tyre & auto businesses for reasons far beyond just competitive pricing.

The research based on the responses of 2,000 drivers, found that while 48% still regard product pricing as the main reason they remain loyal to an auto business, it's far from the only influence.

The study uncovered the human side of motoring loyalty, with 35% of drivers saying they return to the same business because of the relationship they have with the staff. For many, familiarity breeds trust, with 29% stating they continue to use the same garage because their family has always done so.

Interest in consumers wanting to see a garage with proven sustainability credentials (e.g. running on solar panels) is growing with 26% of those asked saying they would be prepared to pay more. This figure represents a growth from 2024 statistics, when 23% of drivers declared that they'd do the same when asked the same question.

Meanwhile, 30% said they would willingly pay more to a garage that has a comfortable and welcoming waiting area and in a lighter detail, 8% of motorists confessed that the quality of coffee on offer plays a part in where they choose to have their car serviced.

Drew Chapman, Consumer Sales Director for Bridgestone North Region, said the results pointed towards a more thoughtful, value-led approach amongst drivers, who were not driven by price alone.

"It's encouraging to see that motorists are increasingly looking for more than just the lowest price. At Bridgestone, we've always believed that true value is found in quality products and solutions, which provide superior levels of safety and longevity," he said. "It's also interesting to see emotional factors such as trust, familiarity and even a good cup of coffee playing a part in the decision-making process. These small touches help define what makes a motorist return."

Bridgestone continues to support garages that share these values and has underlined its commitment through initiatives such



as the e-CENTRE Excellence Programme. With more than £1 million invested to date, the scheme recognises tyre retailers who adopt best practice while delivering a premium service to motorists. Bridgestone aims to accredit 150 retail sites across Europe in the coming years, with the programme improving customer experience and reducing environmental impact. It also aligns with Bridgestone's global E8 Commitment – a pledge to create social and customer value across eight focus areas: Energy, Ecology, Efficiency, Extension, Economy, Emotion, Ease and Empowerment.

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More EV Research: Brand Origin Matters

A recent survey by money.com.au has found the majority of Aussie drivers (54%) say a car manufacturer's country of origin matters more when purchasing or considering an EV or hybrid vehicle than an internal combustion engine (ICE) model. The remaining 46% say it holds equal importance across both categories.



"EVs are still relatively new territory, so Aussie car owners are weighing up risks far more consciously than they do with traditional petrol cars. With less real-world evidence of an EV's reliability to base decisions on, drivers are particularly looking at the brand's country of origin, its reputation, and the engineering standards it's known for. In a market with so many new and unfamiliar players, that distinction really matters," he says.

Money.com.au's Finance Expert, Sean Callery, says EV buyers are increasingly using brand origin as a 'risk filter' as competition intensifies in the market.

Battery quality concerns top list of EV buyer worries

When asked why they apply tougher scrutiny to an EV brand's country of origin, drivers cited the following concerns:

- Battery safety/quality: 35%
- Reliability/build quality: 20%
- Cyber and data-security risks: 17%
- Brand reputation/resale value: 11%
- Warranty and service-network depth: 11%
- Environmental/ethical standards: 6%

Kumho's Road Venture Family

Kumho Tyre has started 2026 with what it is declaring as, its best and most comprehensive spread of adventure-ready Road Venture tyres ever, enabling vehicles and drivers to handle anything that the harsh Australian environment and conditions can throw at them.

Kumho Tyre's updated Road Venture family of tyres is now complete with the recent launch of its new RT 'Rugged-Terrain', joining the already established AT52 'All-Terrain' and MT71 Mud-Terrain tyres, to deliver the best range of performance, whether on the tar, dirt roads, rocks, mud or the desert sands.

According to Kumho Tyre Australia's director of sales and marketing, David Basha said, "Our Road Venture family is now complete and provides 4WD, UTE and SUV owners with a complete array of tyres to handle whatever adventure lies ahead. The question we are asking is 'WHAT IS YOUR ADVENTURE?', and the answer is, whatever that adventure is, Kumho can get you there."

Kumho Tyre launched its all new 'Rugged Terrain' tyre (RT) in late 2025 with its design making it the ideal on and off-road tyre, allowing 4WD, ute and SUV owners to get the best of both worlds in one tyre.

The Kumho Road Venture RT tyre has completed the totally revitalised line up for Kumho in its Adventure Tyre range and sits between the All-Terrain Road Venture AT52 and the tough maximum traction Road Venture MT71.

The new RT has been developed to answer the enormous and growing demand for a tyre that will deliver great on road performance along with excellent off road capability.

In a series of tests by Kumho Tyre in the USA at the Treadwell Research Park, where it outperformed tyres from rival brands in wet and dry handling, ride, road noise and both wet and dry braking.

The testers used both a Ford F250 and a Jeep Wrangler Rubicon for the tests with the tyres also outperforming rival off road brands in areas of mud traction and steering, off road trail performance, cut chip resistance and overall wear.

The Road Venture AT52 entered the Australian market in early 2023 as the direct replacement for its popular, top selling and highly praised Road Venture AT51 All-Terrain tyre, which earned plaudits and admiration from Ute, SUV and 4WD users over more than a decade on the Aussie market.

The Road Venture AT52 was the evolution of the AT51 and was awarded one of the most prestigious international design competitions on the planet, winning the 2022 Good Design Award (G-Mark) in Japan.

The AT52 was extensively tested across the globe in a range of harsh environments both here in Australia and in North America, where its combination of strong performance both on and off-road and in rough terrains including in dry, stony conditions, mud and sand, won it favour with both SUV and pick-up/ute drivers.

The AT52's sawtooth-shaped shoulder block tread design tread has been



engineered to improve off-road traction while also delivering comfortable and quiet ride.

The Kumho Road Venture MT71 offers premium off-road performance that has redefined the 4WD tyre segment and came to market in late 2020 after more than two years of development. It is available in an array of sizes that cover the vast majority of the mud-terrain segment. The MT71 is a cornerstone product for Kumho Tyre, delivering the highest level of performance whether in slippery mud, tackling dry outback gravel tracks or cruising down the highway. It also offers truly competitive pricing and has proved a revered and respected competitor in the serious 4WD tyre market.

David Basha said that most 4WD/UTE/SUV owners spend 80 to 90 per cent of their driving time on tarmac but also want a tyre that will cope with their off road adventures.

"This is a booming sector of the automotive market and Kumho Tyre's family of adventure tyres satisfies the need for a performance tyre on road, as well as when they hit the gravel, snow or mud," said Basha.

For more information visit www.kumho.com.au



AAAA Sets New Standard for ADAS Safety with Launch of Vehicle Modification Code

The Australian Automotive Aftermarket Association (AAAA) has officially launched the ADAS Vehicle Modifications Code of Conduct, introducing a standardized test protocol to ensure Advanced Emergency Braking (AEB/AEBS) systems remain fully functional following common vehicle upgrades.

The Code provides vehicle modifiers, engineers, and certifiers with a repeatable, evidence-based approach to validate safety compliance when modifications to suspension, mass, tyres, or frontal protection systems are made. By clarifying when recalibration is required, the Code helps industry professionals maintain ADR 98 compliance without the need for full first-stage approval testing for every minor modification.

Stuart Charity, CEO of the AAAA, emphasized that as vehicles become more technologically advanced, the aftermarket industry must evolve alongside them.

“The Australian aftermarket has a proud tradition of making vehicles fit for purpose—whether for trade, towing, or

off-road touring. That isn’t going away,” said Stuart Charity. “However, vehicles are increasingly defined by safety technologies designed to reduce the road toll, especially ADAS. Our responsibility is simple: if we modify vehicles, we must protect the integrity of those critical safety functions.”

Luke Truskinger, Managing Director of the Auto Innovation Centre (AIC), highlighted the need for objective verification in this space.

“The Code sets out a repeatable post-modification verification method for Advanced Emergency Braking,” said Luke Truskinger. “It enables objective checks that AEB functionality is retained and performing as intended. This new working group is a ‘deliverables group,’ focused on developing a contemporary, standardized test protocol for airbag compatibility that can be adopted nationally.”

The Code was developed by an expert technical working group, with rigorous testing and drafting performed by the Auto Innovation Centre.



In addition to the ADAS modification code, the AAAA has announced a new Technical Working Group (TWG) on Airbag Compatibility Testing for bull bars. This initiative aims to provide a clear, national definition of “airbag compatible”—a term currently used widely but inconsistently across the industry.

The AAAA is calling for businesses with “skin in the game”—including designers, manufacturers, and engineers—to register their interest in the working group to help shape these vital industry standards.

For further information visit www.aaaa.com.au

BMW Expands Its #NextTech Apprenticeship Program

BMW is addressing the country’s critical shortage of skilled automotive technicians through a highly successful BMW #NextTech Mentored Apprenticeship Program.

Delivered in partnership with NextGen Jobs—a group training organisation specialising in apprenticeships and traineeships—and the Bendigo Kangan Institute Automotive Centre of Excellence, the program combines industry-leading automotive training with practical, hands-on learning to develop the next generation of automotive experts.

Since its inception in 2021, the BMW #NextTech program has registered 167 light vehicle apprentices across Australia, achieving apprentice retention rates exceeding 80 per cent—significantly higher than the national industry average of 50 per cent.

The inaugural #NextTech cohort of 37 apprentices recently graduated with dual qualifications as light vehicle technicians and automotive electricians.

Encouragingly, female participation in program stands at 12 per cent – significantly higher than the industry average of just 2.6 per cent of trade roles

held by women. NextGen Jobs manages applications and employment for all apprentices, ensuring a seamless pathway from recruitment to a supported hands-on training experience within BMW workshops.

“Australia is facing a severe shortage of automotive technicians, with nearly 40,000 skilled roles unfilled nationwide,” said Brett Hocking, General Manager of Aftersales, BMW Group Australia. “The BMW #NextTech program demonstrates our commitment to helping develop the industry, upskill apprentices, and prepare the next generation of automotive technicians for the challenges of a rapidly evolving industry that includes electrification.”

The BMW #NextTech program provides participating apprentices with dedicated BMW training, one-on-one mentoring, and accelerated pathways to complete their Certificate III in Light Vehicle Mechanical Technology within three years and to concurrently complete their BMW Registered Technician Certification.

Apprentices may also extend their qualification into a fourth year as an automotive electrician qualification,



geared towards High Voltage technology and conclude the year as a BMW Certified High Voltage Technician. The program has proven highly popular: the inaugural intake in 2021 was oversubscribed, with the first vacancy was filled in just 52 minutes, reflecting strong interest and demand from both apprentices and the BMW dealer network.

The program demonstrates the power of collaboration between BMW Group Australia, NextGen Jobs, and Bendigo Kangan Institute’s Automotive Centre of Excellence, providing apprentices with skills, mentorship, and career pathways needed to support in the industry’s rapidly evolving technological landscape.



D-Max and Mux DPF/DPD Issues



By Clinton Brett

The Isuzu D-Max and Mux are now one of Australia's most popular cars and popular for DPF/DPD faults.

Last year Isuzu eventually got to the bottom of the major cause of the DPF differential pressure sensor failure.

The wrong material was used on the hoses which feed the exhaust pressure to the sensor. The hoses were not adequate to cope with the heat, causing the glycerin to seep from the rubber into the highly sensitive pressure sensor, resulting in complete failure of the sensor.



ISUZU DMAX

This makes sense to me (pardon the pun) as I had been driving around for 12 months in my own car (Musso UTE) with test hoses connected for the DPF diagnostics training courses and my DPF sensor failed. My rubber hoses were standard fuel grade hose, not suitable for high exhaust temperatures.

That's a bonus tip to what I am about to share with you.

Valve clearance is the greatest overlooked contributor to DPF related faults and symptoms.

Don't base your customers' additional service procedures on what the manufacturer recommends. They do not know what each customer does with their vehicles but as a regular independent

or OEM dealership workshop service provider, you need to be aware that some driving conditions will contribute to premature failures.

Simply because the vehicle is not meeting the appropriate diesel engine conditions- Constant haulage of heavy loads, minimal idle periods and less stop start cold operation.

The following symptoms can be evident when valve clearance proves to be the cause of the listed fault codes below- Excessive crankcase ventilation, excessive smoke, poor fuel economy, running rough, misfire. Engine light on, engine derated and DPF/DPD fault codes present may include-

P2002 DPD Efficiency below threshold

P2456 differential pressure sensor learnt position

P1471 Isuzu Code Regeneration Insufficient

P242F – Diesel particulate filter restriction caused by ash accumulation

P2453–Diesel particulate filter differential pressure sensor circuit range/performance

Failure/Issue: Valve clearance adjustment is overdue

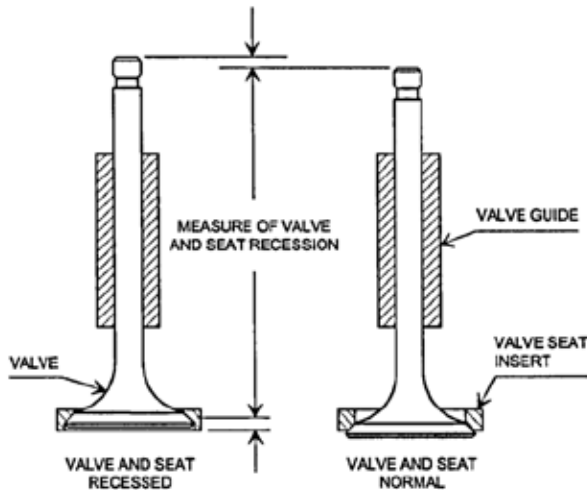


VALVE CLEARANCES

Diagnosis and/or early detection of the fault: The OEM recommends checking the valve clearances by performing an audible test. Diesel engines are a highly audible engine with rattles and knocks like that of noisy valve rockers, therefore we do not advise doing this type of test.

Often with tight valves (inadequate clearance), there is reduced audible note from the engine. This type of wear is also referred to as valve recession. Valve recession is said to have occurred if wear of the valve and seat inserts has caused the valve to 'sink' or recede altering the closed position of the valve relative to the cylinder head as shown below.

It occurs gradually over many hours. Sometimes the material loss will be greater from the seat insert and other times the material loss will be greater from the valve. The nature of the material loss is not clearly understood, although it has been suggested that it may occur by the following mechanisms- metal abrasion, fretting is adhesion mechanisms or high temperature corrosion.



Valve recession can contribute to excessive crankcase ventilation which in turn can create premature oil seal leaks, high quantity of oil vapor from the breather into the intake system, contributing to DPF issues, engine over revving and complete engine failure.

Solution: Increase the intervals for valve clearance checks and adjustments. Advise performing a physical check using feeler gauges at 20,000 to 30,000km intervals. These Isuzu engines use a screw adjustment.

Specifications provided by Haynes Pro for the 4JJ1-TC and 4JJ3-TCX

Valve clearance- Cold engine

Exhaust 0.15(mm)

Inlet 0.15(mm)

Diesel Help driver profiles

I have created a driver profile list for diesel owners as some of your customers only use their diesel vehicle to drop kids to school and go shopping and this is not really what a diesel is designed for. So, here is a tip for you all to pass onto your customers.

To reduce the increased wear of valve trains, I would advise reducing extended idle periods and increasing the load of the engine.

Why?

The diesel is a thermal combustion engine designed to operate with increased combustion temperatures. When a diesel engine operates at idle and without load, the combustion temperatures are reduced, resulting in a chemical reaction of the oxygen mixing with the diesel fuel. This reaction is hydrochloric acid, which can corrode metal components whilst parked stationary and not operating.

For more about our services, visit www.dieselhelp.com.au

Images used with permission of Haynes.

Is your workshop invisible online? Here's why that's costing you more than you think.

By Melanie Cahani, Marketing Strategist.

Let me ask you something. When did you last need a tradie you hadn't used before?

Chances are, you didn't ask around the neighbourhood. You pulled out your phone.

Your customers are doing exactly the same thing after they've hit a pothole and are unsure if their tyre is damaged or they're well overdue for a service. And if your workshop isn't showing up when they search, someone else's is.

I've spent 15 years working across the automotive aftermarket and workshop sector, and the pattern I keep seeing is the same one, brilliant operators running tight, trusted businesses who are essentially invisible to anyone who doesn't already know them. That word-of-mouth reputation you've spent years building? It only travels so far.

Here's what's shifting, and it's shifting fast.

The 25 to 45 year old vehicle owner who is your growing customer base, doesn't decide where to book a service based on a sign out front or a mate's recommendation alone. They Google. They check your reviews. They scroll your socials. If what they find is a bare Google Business listing

with three reviews from 2019 and no website worth visiting, they keep scrolling.

Meanwhile, the workshop down the road that's been running a few hundred dollars a month in Meta ads and posting consistently on Instagram has built a local audience that trusts them before they've even walked through the door.

That's the competitive reality right now and it's only going to intensify.

I'm not suggesting you need to become a content creator or spend hours online every week, nobody has time for that when running a workshop. What I am saying is that the basics matter enormously and most workshops are leaving them undone. A fully optimised Google Business profile. A steady trickle of genuine customer reviews. The occasional post that shows your team, your work, your expertise. A simple paid ad targeting local drivers when they're actively looking. These aren't big investments. But the absence of them is quietly costing you enquiries every week.

The tyre and workshop businesses that will consolidate their local market share over the next few years won't necessarily be the best operators in the area. They'll be the ones who made themselves easy



to find and easy to trust at exactly the moment a customer needed them.

You've done the hard work of building a great business. Don't let a competitor with a decent digital presence take the customer who should've been yours.

The good news? You don't have to do it all at once, and you don't have to do it alone. But you do have to start.

Melanie Cahani is a Marketing Strategist at 3 Little Birds, a marketing agency specialising in the automotive industry. Feel free to make contact at melanie@3littlebirds.com.au or www.3littlebirds.com.au



Focus On Consumer Guarantees In Motor Vehicle Purchases

The Australian Automotive Aftermarket Association (AAAA) has welcomed the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission’s (ACCC) compliance and enforcement priorities for 2026–27, particularly its continued focus on consumer guarantees in motor vehicle sales.

AAAA Chief Executive Officer Stuart Charity said the ACCC’s emphasis is timely given ongoing confusion among new car buyers about the difference between manufacturer warranties, extended warranties and their automatic rights under the Australian Consumer Law.

“Consumers are routinely told, directly or indirectly, that their rights end when a manufacturer’s warranty ends — or that they must return to the dealer for servicing to protect their warranty. That’s simply not how Australian consumer law works,” Mr Charity said.

Under Australian consumer law, consumer guarantees are automatic and cannot be excluded or limited by anything stated in a contract, warranty document or at the point of sale. For motor vehicles, these guarantees apply for an unspecified but reasonable period and require that a

vehicle be of acceptable quality — including being safe, durable and free from defects — be fit for any disclosed purpose, match its description or demonstration model, and have spare parts and repair facilities reasonably available.

Where a vehicle has a major problem, consumers are entitled to choose a refund or replacement, and in some cases a repair. For non-major problems, consumers may still be entitled to repair or replacement.

“The key point is this: a manufacturer’s warranty is an additional promise — it does not replace consumer guarantees. Consumers should never accept ‘your warranty has expired’ as the end of the story,” Mr Charity said.

AAAA research shows 40% of new car owners believe they must return to the dealer to maintain their warranty, 40% understand they can choose a qualified independent repairer and still rely on consumer protections, and 20% remain unsure.



“In practice, that means up to 60% of new car owners could be making decisions based on confusion or misinformation. That’s a competition issue as much as it is a consumer issue,” Mr Charity said.

The AAAA has encouraged vehicle sellers, manufacturers and warranty providers to ensure communications are clear and not misleading, particularly where extended warranties include restrictive conditions, such as tied repairer arrangements, that may confuse consumers about rights they already have under consumer guarantees.

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New Report: Tyre Circular Economy

A comprehensive new report released recently by Tyre Stewardship Australia (TSA) has found that Australia's tyre circular economy will not grow without mandatory participation in a product stewardship scheme.

The Tyre Supply Chain Analysis report identifies critical constraints across the entire tyre supply chain that are preventing Australia from meeting its circular economy targets.

The report reveals that companies responsible for 47% of replacement tyre imports and 99% of vehicle-fitted tyre imports do not contribute to Australia's voluntary stewardship scheme levy, creating an uneven playing field where free-riders benefit from scheme programs at no cost.

With approximately 537,000 tonnes of end-of-life tyres generated annually in Australia, only 26% are reused (9%) or recycled (17%), while 40% are exported for energy recovery and the remainder either landfilled, buried on-site at mines, stockpiled or illegally dumped.

The analysis identified 33 key issues constraining greater circularity, including six rated as "Very High" constraints that represent critical systemic failures.

The six most critical constraints identified are:

1. Free-riding importers — 47% of replacement and 99% of fitted tyre imports avoid the Scheme levy, gaining an unfair financial advantage

2. Rogue collectors — unaccredited operators undercut legitimate collections, leading to illegal dumping with significant community, environmental, and financial impacts
3. Onsite burial at mines — 100,000 tonnes of mining tyres are permitted to be buried annually despite available recovery options
4. On-farm dumping and burning — prohibitive collection costs drive routine dumping and burning of large off-the-road tyres on farms
5. Low recycling rates — Australia recycles just 17% of used tyres, with 40% going to energy recovery and 30% to burial and landfill
6. Underdeveloped circular end markets — growth is held back by insufficient procurement of tyre-derived material, over-reliance on energy recovery, and the continued permitting of OTR tyre burial

The report examined current and potential opportunities to resolve these constraints but identifies a mandatory participation scheme – at either national or jurisdictional level – as the most effective solution.

"While joint TSA-State/Territory programs could be pursued, and amendments to the existing voluntary scheme are recommended, the report is clear that optimising the current voluntary approach will only drive limited growth," said Lina Goodman, CEO of Tyre Stewardship Australia.

"Existing legislation, including the



Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020 and the NSW Product Lifecycle Responsibility Act 2025, could support such a scheme, yet this has not occurred despite tyres being on the Minister's Priority List since 2022–23.

The findings align with the Australian Government's 2024 Circular Economy Framework commitment to double Australia's circularity rate, which includes reducing material footprint by 10%, lifting materials productivity by 30%, and safely recovering 80% of resources.

"The time for researching and reporting is over," Goodman commented. "Industry has already invested millions in tyre recycling infrastructure in anticipation of the stronger regulation that government has long signalled is coming."

The full report is available at www.tyrestewardship.org.au

Kumho's New Simulator

A Driver-in-the-Loop (DIL) simulator, enabling engineers to evaluate grip, wear, ride comfort, noise and rolling resistance, long before any physical tyres are produced, has been purchased by Kumho Tire from UK specialists Ansible Motion.

The Delta S3 Spin will play a central role in Kumho Tire's global tyre R&D programme, allowing its engineers to sustainably explore tyre behaviours in virtual environments that mirror real-world conditions.

Kumho stated, "This partnership with Ansible Motion marks a pivotal step in advancing our R&D capabilities. By integrating cutting-edge simulation technology, we will deliver products optimized for future mobility and reinforce our position in the tyre industry."

Using the Ansible Motion DIL simulator, detailed digital representations of tyres can be analysed and evaluated across a range of parameters, from tread design and carcass construction to compound composition, with immediate human driver feedback captured in real time.



Also, by reducing reliance on prototype tyres and vehicle testing, Kumho can lower raw material use, transport emissions and fuel consumption, while maintaining the precision expected of world-class tyre developments.



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FOR SALE: Hoffman Monty 3300-24 tyre changer, Hoffman Geodyna wheel balancer, M&B wheel balancer WB255N. Full details phone Mike 0427 583563. (AWMa25)

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. please call Leonard 0431 811175 . John Blair Automotive Moorabbin (AWMk25).

STAFF WANTED Auto electrical workshop based in Albany WA. Specialising in auto electrical repairs/installs and air conditioning repairs. Cert 3 in automotive electrical technology and 3 years post trade experience required. Full time position available. Contact admin@albanyautolec.com.au.

FOR SALE Equipment with business (see advert Power Drive Auto) or sold

separately. Too much equipment to list includes car and truck Safe-T-Stop brake tester (in floor), car shocker tester (in floor), Ravaglioli 6 column mobile heavy truck hoist (5.5 tonne at each column), 3 x Molnar 2 post hoists (1 is 3 tonne, 2 are 4 tonne) and 1 x Molnar 4 post hoist (4 tonne) tyre changer, wheel balancer, John Beam wheel aligner, air conditioner service station, scan tools G-Scan, Scan Pro, Snap On and more! For full details contact Carol on 0410 410970 or carolalbisser@optusnet.com.au.(awm1024)

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As each new generation of modern vehicles emerge, they face increasingly stringent requirements. Whether it is transmissions, electric drivetrains, or axle fluids, these components must rise to the challenge. Therefore, selecting the right lubricant is crucial to ensure optimal performance and longevity of the driveline components.

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Designed specifically to handle higher torque loads, these next-generation eFluids provide lubrication, cooling, and electrical insulation in a single formulation, supporting efficient operation, effective temperature control and enhanced component protection.

Change Transmission Oil with Confidence

ZF transmissions are generally designed for an average vehicle service life, as is the transmission oil. ZF automatic transmissions are filled maintenance-free with specially developed partially synthetic ATF oils; however, due to the many factors that can influence the service life of transmissions in individual operation, ZF recommends an oil change interval between 80,000 to 100,000 kms for ZF transmissions.

ZF recommends workshops use ZF Lifeguard Fluids and oil change kits,

which offer workshops a complete, OEM-quality solution for professional transmission servicing.

Gaskets and O-rings are important sealing parts in oil pan kits to prevent leakage from the oil pan and to keep the high-pressure area sealed. Other aftermarket brands usually use ACM rubber gaskets with poor low temperature resistance and low hardness O-rings. ZF uses AEM rubber for better sealing performance.

ZF oil pan uses original tooling to ensure perfect mounting assembly. The metal bushing of the ZF oil pan and the parts are fitted with a movable interference fit, which requires a high degree of precision in the manufacture and machining of the parts. In contrast, other aftermarket brand parts are not accurate and the quality of the product varies, which doesn't allow for a 100% matching with the transmission and are not approved by the OE transmission manufacturer.

ZF oil pan has an integrated filtration system. With a special design and integrated cover, the structure is more stable and compact, and the filtration efficiency is higher with strong magnets, which can capture more impurities and provide better protection for transmission components.

For more information visit www.zf.com/au.

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