



Future Leaders of the industry

THIS MONTH WE REFLECT ON THE JOURNEY OF ONE OF OUR MOST ENTHUSIASTIC, OPTIMISTIC AND PASSIONATE FUTURE LEADERS. FROM AN OUT-OF-WORK TEENAGER TO A SKILLEROO, MAXINE COLLIGAN IS AN INSPIRATION TO YOUNG WOMEN EVERYWHERE.

Whilst trying to decide on her future, Maxine took up a Certificate II “to try out spray painting and panel beating”, after which she still struggled to find work. Through Campbelltown TAFE, she attended an NRMA Autopath seminar where she met Mark Reid, of Gemini Accident Repair Centres. Reid recognised her passion and talent and offered her a spray-painting apprenticeship that commenced in July 2016.

I first met Maxine during the 2017 3M-Foose Tour at the Gosford Classic Car museum, not long after she was awarded the gold medal at the Regional WorldSkills competition in the Vehicle Painting category. She had only just completed the first year of her apprenticeship and only entered the competition “for the experience”. The regional judging panel consisted of representatives from local collision repair businesses.

In early 2018, whilst still in her second year, Maxine was nominated as a Future Leader of the Industry and was presented her award at the IAG Research Centre in Sydney by Troy Johns, Industry Risk and Governance Manager for IAG. The event was attended by representatives of IAG Insurance, I-CAR Australia, Gemini Smash Repairs, BASF Australia, TAFENSW and, most importantly, Maxine’s proud mum, Dennice.

At the WorldSkills Nationals on Sydney in June 2018, in a very tightly contested event, Chief Judge



Maxine with her Silver Medal from the WorldSkills Nationals.

Brad Franklin and judges Brian Johnson and Carl Tinsley awarded Maxine the Silver Medal. At the time, Maxine was still only a second-year apprentice. This was enough to book a ticket to Russia for the WorldSkills International event.

Maxine is always happy to give her time at industry events, and in mid-October 2018, Maxine, together with fellow Future Leaders Trudy Camilleri and Jack Parkinson, spoke on a panel at the official opening of the TAFENSW Campbelltown Trade

Night. Maxine shared her experience winning the WorldSkills Regionals, going on to compete at the Nationals and the thrill of being invited to represent Australia in Russia. She was particularly appreciative of the support from BASF and the access to the Glasurit Refinish Competence Centre, where she does all her training.

In April this year, Kangan Institute’s Automotive Centre of Excellence hosted the WorldSkills warm-up event, Global Skills Challenge, where seven international competitors honed their skills under strict competition conditions. After four intensive days, Maxine was judged the overall winner, ahead of China, Russia and New Zealand’s entrants. According to International Deputy Chief Judge Brad Franklin: “Maxine’s talent, poise and coolness under pressure were the key factors in her success.”

Editor: IAG’s ongoing support and sponsorship of these awards is greatly appreciated. Maxine is now officially a Skillaroo and heading to Russia later this year. We wish her all the very best of luck and, of course, we will follow her progress closely.

 iag donates two I-CAR courses valued at more than \$500 to the Future Leader that we feature each month in this section