



Future Leaders

of the Industry

THE LATEST FUTURE LEADER OF THE INDUSTRY PRESENTATION WAS MADE TO 21-YEAR-OLD THIRD YEAR AUTOBODY REFINISH APPRENTICE AND REGIONAL WORLDSKILLS WINNER, ISABELLA TURRISE, AT Q-WEST COLLISION CENTRE IN CASTLE HILL.

Troy Johns, IAG's Industry Relations Manager and MC for the occasion, welcomed the guests and thanked Joanne and Mohammad Dandan for hosting the event. He then invited Carl Tinsley of Campbelltown TAFE to say a few words. Tinsley is not only Isabella's teacher but her mentor in her WorldSkills experience. "It is such a thrill to be part of Bella's journey this early in her career. She has exceptional talent and drive, and I am sure she has a long future in the industry."

Paul Polverino, National Training Manager Axalta, a WorldSkills Gold Sponsor, reinforced Tinsley's comments. "We are really proud of Bella's commitment to her own development, as we see how much time and effort she puts into every task." Polverino then presented Bella with a Sagola 4600 Xtreme spray gun, adding: "A good technician can never have too many guns."

Gary Maher, one of the most experienced I-CAR instructors in NSW added that I-CAR was honoured to support the awards and encouraged Bella to never stop learning. "It's clear that you have already established a commitment to self-development, and I encourage you to keep this up throughout your career."

Johns returned to "the podium" and invited Isabella to come forward for an impromptu interview:

TJ: Tell us what drew you to the automotive sector.

IT: I initially went to Western Sydney University to study animal welfare, but found it far too theoretical. I had completed a VET automotive course at school, which I really enjoyed, so I picked up where I left off.

TJ: So, what is the best thing for you attending TAFE at Campbelltown?

IT: The camaraderie and friendship in the class is just fantastic. We all learn so much, not just from Carl, but from each other.

TJ: Tell us a bit about your WorldSkills experience.

IT: Carl thought I could do well, and it was his belief in me that allowed me to excel. Now I'm looking forward to honing my skills at Axalta and competing at the Nationals later this year.

TJ: And you're enjoying your role here at Q-West Collision?

IT: Working with the team here is just fantastic and Mohammed and Joanne cannot do enough for me. It really is a great place to work, learn and grow as a person.

TJ: And where do you see yourself in say, five years?

IT: It's still too early to say, but I really have a strong interest in the custom side of our industry – it would be great to work in this space.

TJ: And finally – what is your dream car?

IT: I'll give you my top three. An SLR 5000, a '67 Impala, and either a ClubSport or a Senator.

Johns then congratulated Isabella on her achievement and presented the certificate and the award of two I-CAR training courses. He concluded: "IAG is proud to work in partnership with the National Collision Repairer on the Future Leaders of the Industry initiative, as such recognition is strongly aligned with IAG's own values."

On receiving her award, Bella said: "I am extremely grateful to Q-West Collision, the team at Campbelltown TAFE, Axalta and, of course, I-CAR and IAG for their support of this award."

Editor: We congratulate Isabella and wish her every success in the WorldSkills Nationals in Perth.



Isabella with Troy Johns.

