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## **Livio Tomas from Kangan Batman named Automotive Trade Teacher of the Year**

**The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence Recognises Excellence in trade skills teaching.**

Livio Tomas from Kangan Batman TAFE, Victoria has been named the Automotive Trade Teacher of the Year at a ceremony in Sydney.

The Trade Teacher of the Year Awards are in their inaugural year and recognise excellence in training and teaching across the eight industry groups of focus for The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence, covering the: Automotive; Building and Construction; Electrical; Manufacturing; Metals and Engineering; Hospitality and Personal Services; Rural and Farming; and Mineral Resources.

The awards have been developed by The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence, which is funded by the Federal Government and led by three industry groups: The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry; the National Farmers' Federation; and the Australian Industry Group.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Trade Skills Excellence, Brian Wexham said that the Trade Teacher of the Year Awards were an important initiative.

“The Institute has been established to promote and advance learning, teaching and training in Australian trades education. One of our three key purposes is to foster and recognise excellent standards and teaching in trade’s education and training.”

Mr Wexham also said that the Awards enabled teachers to further develop their teaching.

“The Trade Teacher of the Year Awards are an excellent way to recognise teachers who excel in their chosen fields, amongst their peers and also provide the teacher with some funding to further develop the teaching practices in their industry, which in turn will also reward the

students. This is an important initiative as this specifically recognises and awards teachers within the vocational trade training arena” said Mr. Wexham.

A total of 18 awards were presented across 18 categories in the inaugural Trade Teacher of the Year Awards, each with prizes of \$10,000 to individual teachers or teams of teachers who work in a trade area. The prize money was awarded as a \$5,000 cash prize and a \$5,000 developmental activity or program that will contribute to industry and teaching.

Livio Tomas was named the Automotive Trade Teacher of the Year in recognition of his passion for teaching, especially with disadvantaged students.

Livio has created learning materials that are dynamic and interactive such as installing web cams in all of the centers spray booths which he then streams live to other class rooms.

Livio uses his networks to stay abreast of the latest in vehicle refinishing techniques and also manages to secure ongoing sponsorship for the centre with his natural ability to promote the training facility and promote its reputation.

Livio plans to use the prize money to help disadvantage students.

“I plan to develop simplified learning materials and modify equipment for any disadvantaged students” said Livio Tomas.

**ENDS**

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