



For immediate release
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WALLARAH 2 SPONSORSHIP SEES MEGHAN SHINE IN SCHOOL-BASED MECHANICAL APPRENTICESHIP

16-year-old Wadalba student Meghan Britton has taken on a school-based mechanical apprenticeship with Booth's Motor Group at Tuggerah.

With women representing less than 1 per cent of workers in the mechanical trade in NSW, Meghan is embracing her pursuit of a career in a traditionally male-dominated industry.

This has been made a possibility through a Memorandum of Understanding between Central Coast Group Training and the Wallarah 2 Coal Project who continue to provide funding and support to apprentices seeking placement in the electrical, automotive and engineering trades.

Partnering with businesses in the Wyong Shire area, Central Coast Group Training has organised the placement of two new school-based apprentices and one new full time apprentice in 2016 under the agreement with Wallarah 2.

Meghan is one of the new school-school based apprentices supported by Wallarah 2 and is enjoying her first few month's in the mechanical trade.

"I'm the only female in the mechanical area of Booth's, but that's alright. I keep the workshop really clean and help with general servicing of vehicles.

"I like assisting with the pre-delivery of Hyundai i30s, setting up the satellite navigation and keyless entry systems. I complete up to seven car services or presale setups in a day," explained Meghan.

Meghan is the youngest of eight sisters and has great support from her family, who encouraged her to follow her passion and have a go at a trade she had always dreamt about working in.

"The biggest challenge is not having enough muscle. Cracking bolts is a bit difficult but the boys help me out when I need it," she said.

Service Manager at Booth's and Meghan's supervisor, Alan Milliner, said it's been great having Meghan as an apprentice in the workshop.

"Meghan is always keen to learn and takes her responsibilities seriously. Advances in technology mean workshops don't necessarily have to be the domain of men anymore," said Mr Milliner.

As a school-based apprentice, Meghan spends three days a week at school, with the other two days spent at TAFE and Booth's. By the time she graduates high school she will only have two years left of her mechanical apprenticeship.

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The automotive industry has been recognised as having a skills shortage for more than a decade. With the Wallarah 2 and Central Coast Group Training apprenticeship funding and support, Booth's are demonstrating that training women in trades is a great opportunity to bridge the gender gap and increase the number of skilled workers.

Peter Smith, Environment and Community Manager of the Wallarah 2 Coal Project, was delighted to meet Meghan on the job recently and says that Wallarah 2 is proud to support the growth of youth employment on the Central Coast.

"Central Coast Group Training plays a pivotal role in placing people in apprenticeships and traineeships with host employers, helping business owners bear some of the grunt of taking on an apprentice," said Peter.

"Meghan is a great young lady who has a great attitude in taking on the skills to become a valuable member of the team at Booth's.

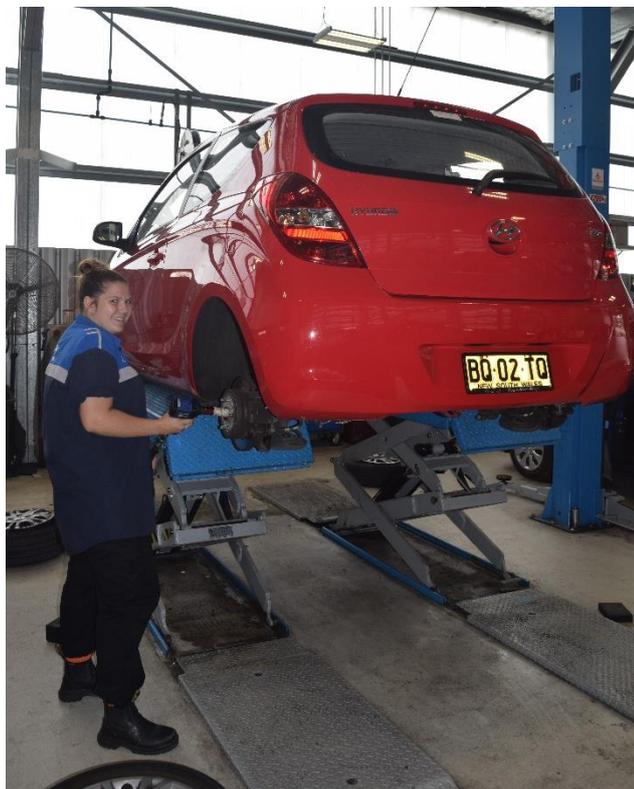
"It's great to also have the outstanding support of an employer such as Booth's Motor Group who really promote the concept of taking on school-based apprentices that allow students to complete their senior years at high school, while also getting their foot in the door within their chosen trade," concluded Peter.

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For more information, interviews and photo opportunities:

Katey Small – Brilliant Logic

ksmall@brilliantlogic.com.au | 02 4324 6962 | 0422 639 093



Above: School based mechanical apprentice, Meghan Britton on the job at Booth's Motor Group Tuggerah.