

APPRENTICESHIPS ARE US

AUTOMOTIVE APPRENTICESHIP SPECIALIST

NEWSLETTER

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THIS NEWSLETTER IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY OUR RECRUITMENT TEAM



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In this Edition

Welcome to the latest edition of the Apprenticeships Are Us newsletter! We've had an exciting few months celebrating achievements, connecting with students and creating new opportunities across the automotive industry.

Here's what's inside this edition:

- **ARU News:** Celebrating our Excellence in Group Training Award win at the AEN Group Training Awards and the success of our October Automotive Apprenticeship Open Day.
- **Meet the Mentor:** Get to know Dennis Rodgers, Apprentice Employment Manager, and discover how his experience in leadership, mentoring and employment support helps apprentices succeed.
- **Recruiter's Tip of the Month:** Recruitment Consultant Emma Brett shares her advice on creating a standout resume, making a great impression in interviews and preparing for an apprenticeship.
- **Apprentice Spotlight:** Celebrating Khye Tschepen and Benjamin Rossi, our two outstanding apprentices recognised as finalists at the AEN Group Training Awards.
- **Trade Spotlight:** Explore careers in Automotive Body Repair and Automotive Refinishing, including qualifications, industry developments and future career pathways.
- **What Have We Been Up To?** A look at our recent events, apprenticeship commencements, completions and new host employer partnerships.
- **Current Opportunities:** Discover our latest first-year automotive apprenticeship vacancies across Sydney and surrounding areas.

Whether you're a Careers Adviser supporting students with their next steps, a young person considering an apprenticeship or an industry partner, we hope this edition provides valuable insights into the opportunities available through Apprenticeships Are Us.





ARU NEWS
Whats been happening at Apprenticeships Are Us?

Apprenticeships Are Us Recognised at the AEN Group Training Awards!



We are proud to announce that Apprenticeships Are Us was named a finalist and won the Excellence in Group Training Award at the Apprentice Employment Network (AEN) Group Training Awards!

This award recognises our commitment to providing quality apprenticeship opportunities, supporting young people as they transition from school into the workforce and helping apprentices build successful careers.

As a not-for-profit Group Training Organisation, we work closely with schools, students, employers and training providers to create pathways into the automotive industry and other skilled trades.
This achievement reflects the hard work of our team, apprentices and host employers, and reinforces our commitment to helping the next generation of skilled workers succeed.

October Automotive Apprenticeship Open Day – A Great Success!

On Tuesday, 6 October, we welcomed over 40 young people, along with parents, guardians and employment service representatives, to our Automotive Apprenticeship Open Day at our Parramatta Head Office.

The event gave students and recent school leavers the opportunity to explore automotive career pathways, learn how apprenticeships work and discover what employers look for when recruiting apprentices.

Attendees had the opportunity to speak directly with our Recruitment Team, Apprentice Employment Mentors and training representatives, ask questions and learn more about the support available throughout an apprenticeship.
A fantastic outcome from the day was 16 young people booking recruitment interviews, taking their next step towards a potential apprenticeship.

It was great to see so many young people exploring alternatives to traditional university pathways and showing a genuine interest in pursuing a hands-on career.

For Careers Advisers:

We encourage you to share our upcoming apprenticeship opportunities and events with students interested in automotive careers. Our Recruitment Team is always happy to assist students with exploring their options, understanding entry requirements and taking the first steps towards an apprenticeship.
We look forward to continuing to work with schools and Careers Advisers to connect more young people with exciting career opportunities!

Meet The Mentor

Dennis Rodgers – Empowering People and Building Careers

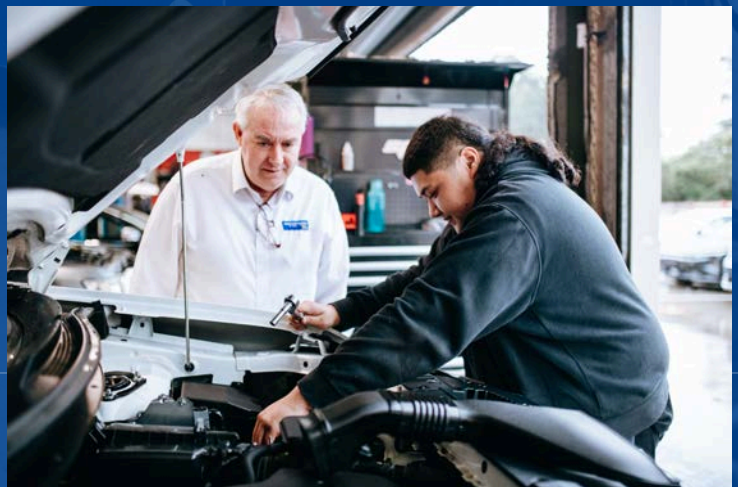


With extensive experience across disability services, employment support, mental health and business management, Dennis Rodgers brings a wealth of leadership, mentoring and people development experience to Apprenticeships Are Us.

Dennis has built his career around helping people overcome barriers, develop confidence and achieve meaningful employment outcomes. His background includes senior leadership positions, business ownership, disability employment consulting and mental health employment support.

Throughout his career, Dennis has managed teams of more than 100 staff, supported individuals with complex employment barriers and worked closely with employers to create positive and supportive workplaces.

With seven years of experience supporting people through mental health services, Dennis understands the importance of patience, communication and individualised guidance. His calm, compassionate and practical approach allows him to build strong relationships and help people reach their potential.
Today, Dennis brings this experience to his role as an Apprentice Employment Manager at Apprenticeships Are Us, supporting apprentices and host employers throughout their apprenticeship journey.



Dennis's Advice for Future Apprentices

"Be willing to learn, ask questions and stay committed to your goals. Everyone starts somewhere, and with the right attitude, support and determination, you can build a successful career."

Did You Know?

- Has held two directorship roles throughout his career.
- Managed large retail teams of more than 100 employees.
- Has seven years of experience supporting people within mental health services.
- Managed employment support caseloads of more than 90 clients.
- Has extensive experience in mentoring, staff development and workplace leadership.
- Brings a strong background in disability employment, client advocacy and employer engagement.

Why We Value Dennis's Experience

Dennis brings a people-focused approach to apprenticeship support, backed by years of experience helping individuals succeed in the workplace. His strengths in mentoring, communication and relationship building allow him to understand the needs of both apprentices and host employers.

His ability to identify challenges, provide practical guidance and build confidence makes him a valuable member of the Apprenticeships Are Us team, helping the next generation of apprentices develop the skills and resilience needed for long-term career success.



ASK THE RECRUITER
Emma Brett POV

Recruiter's tip of the Month

Make sure your resume is up to date, professional and easy to read.
Your resume is often the first impression a recruiter has of you, so make it count! Ensure your contact details are current, your education and work experience are accurate, and your skills are clearly presented. Keep the layout simple, check your spelling and grammar, and make it easy for someone to quickly understand who you are and what you have to offer.
You don't need years of experience to have a great resume. Highlight your strengths, achievements and willingness to learn!

— Emma Brett - Recruitment Officer



What's the first thing you notice when meeting a candidate?
Their communication and enthusiasm. I look for someone who is willing to engage in conversation, speak honestly about themselves and show a genuine interest in exploring new opportunities.

What's something candidates should NEVER say in an interview?
Give one-word answers, avoid answering questions or show little interest in the recruitment process. An interview is your opportunity to make a good impression, so engage in the conversation, communicate openly and show that you're genuinely interested in the opportunity.

What's your favourite part of being a recruiter?
Helping candidates recognise their potential and connecting them with opportunities they may not have considered before. It's rewarding to see someone take that first step towards a career they can be proud of.

What's your secret recruiter superpower?
Finding the potential behind the application. Sometimes a candidate's resume doesn't tell the whole story, so asking the right questions and understanding their interests, goals and personality can reveal a great fit for an opportunity.

What's the biggest mistake candidates make when applying for an apprenticeship?
Applying for a role without understanding what it involves. Take the time to read the job advertisement, research the trade and think about why it interests you. Knowing what you're applying for helps you make a stronger impression and decide if it's the right fit.

What's your best advice for someone who doesn't have much work experience?
Don't underestimate what you already bring to the table! School projects, sporting teams, volunteering, hobbies and helping at home can all demonstrate transferable





APPRENTICE SPOTLIGHT

Celebrating Our AEN Awards Finalists!

At Apprenticeships Are Us, we're incredibly proud to recognise the achievements of two outstanding apprentices, Khye Tschepen and Benjamin (Ben) Rossi, who were both named finalists at the Apprentice Employment Network (AEN) Group Training Awards.

Their achievements highlight the dedication, hard work and opportunities that come with pursuing a career in the automotive industry.

Khye Tschepen – Women in Trades Apprentice of the Year Finalist

Light Vehicle Mechanic | Power Ford Castle Hill

Since commencing her Light Vehicle Mechanical apprenticeship in 2023, Khye has demonstrated exceptional determination, technical ability and a passion for the automotive industry.

Entering a traditionally male-dominated trade, Khye has worked hard to build her confidence, develop her skills and earn the respect of her colleagues. She has become a valued member of the Power Ford Castle Hill team and a positive role model for young women considering a career in automotive.

Khye's commitment to learning doesn't stop at her mechanical qualification. She has also commenced additional training towards a Certificate III in Automotive Electrical Technology, preparing herself for the rapidly evolving technology found in modern vehicles.

Beyond the workshop, Khye actively connects with other tradeswomen through the Women on the Tools community, encouraging greater female participation in skilled trades.
Khye's advice to future apprentices:
"Being different can be a strength."

Khye's recognition as a Women in Trades Apprentice of the Year finalist is a fantastic achievement and an inspiration to other young women looking to enter the industry.

Benjamin Rossi – Apprentice of the Year Finalist

Light Vehicle Mechanic | CKD Hyundai Chatswood

Ben commenced his Light Vehicle Mechanical apprenticeship in February 2023 and has developed into a highly skilled, reliable and respected member of the CKD Hyundai Chatswood workshop.

Now in the final stages of his apprenticeship, Ben has demonstrated outstanding technical skills, particularly in diagnostics and complex mechanical repairs. One of his standout achievements involved successfully rebuilding a component considered non-serviceable, saving his host employer approximately $3,000.

What makes Ben's journey particularly impressive is his commitment to supporting others. He currently helps mentor six junior apprentices, sharing his knowledge, encouraging safe work practices and helping them build their confidence in the workshop.

His leadership and initiative have also seen him trusted with additional responsibilities, including assisting with workshop operations and supporting Service Advisors.
Ben has ambitions to continue developing his skills, pursue Master Technician accreditation and eventually progress into a leadership role within the automotive industry.
His selection as an Apprentice of the Year finalist recognises not only his technical ability but also his dedication, leadership and positive influence on those around him.

Congratulations, Khye and Ben!

Being selected as finalists at the AEN Group Training Awards is a significant achievement and a reflection of the commitment both apprentices have shown throughout their training.

At Apprenticeships Are Us, we are proud to support apprentices like Khye and Ben as they develop their skills, achieve their goals and become the next generation of automotive industry professionals.



TRADE SPOTLIGHT
Panel Beating & Spray Painting

Love cars, enjoy hands-on work or have a creative side? A career in Panel Beating or Spray Painting could be the perfect fit!

The automotive industry offers more than just mechanical careers. Panel Beating and Spray Painting are two exciting trades that combine practical skills, creativity and modern technology to repair, restore and transform vehicles.

Panel Beating – Repair, Restore & Rebuild

Panel Beaters specialise in repairing damaged vehicles, from removing dents and replacing panels to restoring vehicle structures following accidents. This trade is ideal for students who enjoy problem-solving, working with tools and seeing the results of their hard work.

Qualification: AUR32120 Certificate III in Automotive Body Repair Technology.

Spray Painting – Where Creativity Meets Automotive

Automotive Spray Painters are responsible for restoring a vehicle's appearance through surface preparation, colour matching and professional paint application. This trade is perfect for students with an eye for detail, patience and an interest in creative, hands-on work.

Qualification: AUR32420 Certificate III in Automotive Refinishing Technology.

Start Your Career with Apprenticeships Are Us!

For students who enjoy working with their hands, solving problems, being creative or have an interest in cars, Panel Beating and Spray Painting offer rewarding career pathways with plenty of opportunities for progression.

Where Can These Apprenticeships Take You?

Completing an apprenticeship is just the beginning! Both trades offer opportunities to specialise, develop new skills and progress into leadership positions.
Career pathways include:

- **Qualified Panel Beater or Spray Painter:** Work in collision repair centres, dealerships or specialist automotive workshops.
- **Custom Vehicle Restoration Specialist:** Restore classic cars, modify vehicles or work on custom automotive projects.
- **Paint and Colour Specialist:** Develop expertise in advanced colour matching, custom finishes and specialised paint applications.
- **Collision Repair Estimator:** Assess vehicle damage, prepare repair quotations and work with insurers and customers.
- **Workshop Supervisor or Manager:** Lead a team of technicians, coordinate repairs and oversee daily workshop operations.
- **Automotive Technical Trainer:** Use your industry experience, alongside further qualifications, to train and mentor future apprentices.
- **Business Owner:** Establish your own panel beating, spray painting, vehicle restoration or collision repair business.

With additional experience and training, qualified tradespeople can also explore opportunities with automotive manufacturers, insurance companies and technical support teams.

How Is the Industry Changing?

Modern vehicles are introducing exciting changes to both trades. Advanced vehicle materials, electric vehicles, computerised colour-matching systems and new repair technologies mean qualified tradespeople must continually develop their skills.
As vehicles become more technologically advanced, there are opportunities for apprentices to specialise in modern repair methods and build long-term careers in the automotive industry.

Why Consider These Trades?

Both apprenticeships allow students to earn while they learn, gain practical experience and work towards a nationally recognised qualification.
Students don't need extensive automotive knowledge to get started. Employers value reliability, attention to detail, a positive attitude and a genuine willingness to learn.

For Careers Advisers:

Encourage students to look beyond traditional mechanical apprenticeships and explore the diverse career opportunities available within the automotive industry.



What have we been up to?

Employment

With **20 – 1st** year apprenticeship opportunities currently available across New South Wales, there has never been a better time for students to start their careers with Apprenticeships Are Us.



Events we Attended

- Brett Carter Apprenticeships, Traineeships & Jobs Expo – Sutherland Shire
- 2026 Hawkesbury Careers Market
- Brett Carter Apprenticeships, Traineeships & Jobs Expo – Western Sydney
- Try A Trade Session (Campbell House School)
- Networking Meeting (Randwick High School)
- Hawkesbury & Hills Job Expo
- AEN Group Training Awards Night
- Careers Adviser Conference

Celebrating

19 New apprentices
8 Completed apprentices
12 New Hosts

Career Opportunities

- 1st Year Light Vehicle Mechanic Apprenticeship - Alexandria
- 1st Year Light Vehicle Mechanic Apprenticeship - Rushcutters Bay
- 1st Year Light Vehicle Mechanic Apprenticeship (Electric & Hybrid Vehicles) - Five Dock
- 1st Year Light Vehicle Mechanic Apprenticeship - Miranda
- 1st Year Light Vehicle Mechanic Apprenticeship - Rydalmere
- 1st Year Light Vehicle Mechanic Apprenticeship - Melrose Park
- 1st Year Light Vehicle Mechanic Apprenticeship - Castle Hill
- 1st Year Light Vehicle Mechanic Apprenticeship - Pennant Hills
- 1st Year Light Vehicle Mechanic Apprenticeship - Brookvale
- 1st Year Light Vehicle Mechanic Apprenticeship - Lindfield
- 1st Year Light Vehicle Mechanic Apprenticeship - Artarmon
- 1st Year Mobile Plant Mechanic Apprenticeship - Arndell Park
- 1st Year Panel Beating Apprenticeship - Bankstown
- 1st Year Panel Beating Apprenticeship - Yennora
- 1st Year Panel Beating Apprenticeship - Artarmon
- 1st Year Panel Beating Apprenticeship - Matraville
- 1st Year Spray Painting Apprenticeship - Matraville
- 1st Year Panel Beating Apprenticeship - Alexandria
- 1st Year Spray Painting Apprenticeship - Alexandria
- 1st Year Heavy Vehicle Panel Beating Apprenticeship - Vineyard
- 1st Year Heavy Spray Painting Apprenticeship - Vineyard
- 1st Year Spare Parts Apprenticeship - Castle Hill



> Early exposure to real workplaces builds clarity, confidence and career direction

Partner With Us to Support Your Students.
If you would like to organise work experience, a trade talk, or explore apprenticeship pathways for your students, contact our team today.

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