



**Media Release**  
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### **Female apprentice mechanic to test her skills**

TAFE Queensland North student, Jemma Horton is chasing a career in the fast lane.

The nineteen year old from Ayr is teaming up with Erebus Motorsport at this weekend's Castrol Edge Townsville 400.

Jemma will gain valuable work experience with the team, as she continues her Certificate III in Light Vehicle Mechanical Technology studies at TAFE Queensland North.

Jemma is not daunted about pursuing a career in a male dominated industry.

"It is good fun challenging the boys, showing them that we can be as good as they are," she said.

Jemma said her interest in the automotive industry started at home.

"I was brought up around cars, my whole family is into drag racing and I took up the sport last year, I really love it," she said.

Jemma is looking forward to getting her hands dirty at the Townsville 400.

"I will be working with Erebus Motorsport's head mechanic, who is also a female, so I am sure it will be an amazing experience.

"I hope I can use what I learn to one day work in the racing industry either in Australia or America," she said.

Automotive Teacher, Allan Strong said Jemma is a star pupil.

"Jemma has an excellent work ethic and I am sure that she will do very well in the automotive industry.

"Jemma is very excited about getting work experience at the Townsville 400 and I believe that she will fulfil this role superbly," Mr Strong said.

TAFE Queensland North General Manager, Joann Pyne said Jemma is a real trailblazer.

"Gaining work experience at the Townsville 400 is such a wonderful and exciting opportunity for Jemma.

"Not a lot of women pursue a career in this industry. Between 2011 and 2015, just 71 females gained an automotive qualification with TAFE Queensland North, compared to 1604 males.

"Females across the north, who are interested in the automotive industry, should take inspiration from Jemma and contact TAFE Queensland North to find out how we can help them with their training needs so they can also pursue their dreams," Ms Pyne said.

To find out more about TAFE Queensland North call 1300 656 959 or visit [www.tafenorth.edu.au](http://www.tafenorth.edu.au)

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