

To I-CAR Australia

I was recently asked how my training and now partnership with I-CAR Australia had benefited myself and more importantly my students and local industry.

To answer that question I need to go back approximately five years. At that stage I was probably similar to a lot of auto body repairers in Australia; I had completed my apprenticeship back in 1981 and then worked continuously in the industry from that time as a panel beater and spray painter.

The only training or updates after my apprenticeship were mostly new paint products and new equipment supplier training. I started (part time) at TAFE in 2002 and received some extra training, however over the last ten years it was becoming almost impossible to keep up to date with the current technology in these new vehicles.

One way to keep updated was to keep in contact with our local industry, however in many instances it was learning from people's mistakes (which cost them money).

In 2013 I contacted Mark Czvitkovits from I-CAR Australia and we arranged for him to visit our TAFE the next week and not long after we started hosting I-CAR courses. This has benefited the whole local industry. Shops have been able to learn about new technologies, we teachers, and most importantly our apprentices, are now receiving the most current repair information available.

Now when visiting local repairers we can learn from them and share this current information, hopefully avoiding costly mistakes. This has definitely given us a greater rapport with the local industry.

I personally have learnt more in the last five years than in my previous thirty-five years in the industry. This really has reinvigorated my enthusiasm for the industry I have spent my whole life in.

Thank you I-CAR Australia.

Regards
Mark Cawley