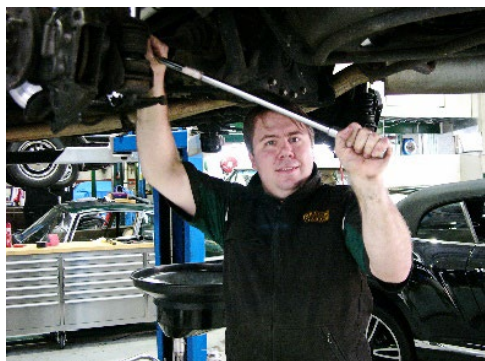


SHRF Australia

2023 Annual Apprentice of the Year Award for Australia



Michael Pickup is the 2023 recipient. He has been working as an apprentice with Paradise Garage, Sydney, NSW since September 2020. He has completed his Certificate III in Light Vehicle Mechanical Technology at TAFE with 100% marks. On the work floor he has demonstrated a strong commitment to developing his automotive mechanical skills and is especially interested in the Rolls-Royce and Bentley divisions.



Michael Pickup with his employer, Paul Lukes, owner/Director of Paradise Garage, standing next to the SHRF ex vice-regal Phantom V. Under tutelage Michael has worked consistently on motor cars ranging from 1922 through to current model Rolls-Royce and Bentleys. His personal preference is cars pre 2014 and the early cars. His practical knowledge is developing carefully and with depth.

Outline of My Training

My current training consisted of learning from TAFE, more experienced employees, my employer, study, and research. It also helps that I have always had an interest in old cars from a young age - how they work, their beauty and elegance in their design and most importantly the craftsmanship quality. Which is why I enjoy working on Rolls-Royce and Bentley as a true luxury car brands with a great engineering pedigree.

My training at Campbelltown TAFE was helped greatly by the great teachers I had that helped me when I had questions about systems or topics that I did not quite understand. I found it made a difference when the teachers really cared about what they were teaching and would add in bits that were not taught in the course that they thought were important. This greatly aided in my learning with the older models of vehicles.

While I was in the workshop, I found myself learning a lot from Robert Murphy, a specialist in RR & Bentley transmissions. I would work alongside him on jobs every time I got the chance so I could learn from him. If I found something I did not understand or something the TAFE did not cover, I would be asking him questions about that topic or system so that I better understood how that system/ topic worked and/or how to better repair it.

Every now and then I would need more information to fill in the gaps in my knowledge which is where I would end up studying and researching about the systems that I did not understand completely until I did understand. This is where I would end up learning more about the RR and Bentley brands and start to develop an interest and greater appreciation for the brands and the history behind it from the first Rolls-Royce 10 hp to the Silver Spirit.

I would learn more history from Paul Lukes, my employer, and an RR specialist. He would come around while I was working and tell me about Henry Royce's working habits, views, and philosophies along with other tid-bits about Rolls-Royce in general. Along with teaching me about Rolls-Royce history he would also teach me how certain systems work on the cars that are not taught at the TAFE such as servos systems and hydraulic mineral oil brake systems and others. While learning from Paul he would always stress the importance of quality while also balancing that with time spent.

For an example of a combined outline of my current training I look at my toolbox which is now geared towards working on RR and Bentley cars. Whitworth spanners in one drawer for the older vehicle, a set of books on the side of the box with information on the models that I work on so that if I need information, I can look it up, and foam cut outs so that I can find all my tools quickly.

From the Employer

In preparing this application to the Sir Henry Royce Foundation, Michael and I discussed various aspects of his work at Paradise Garage. When asked did he had a favourite car to work on, Michael commented that each model has its strengths and challenges. He likes the Dawn because of the good engine bay access and one can see everything; For the 20/2Shp car he likes being able to see the oil gauge as one pours the oil in and the robust engineering that is obvious; Clouds, Shadows and Spirits he likes the braking, suspension, and hydraulic systems (of which he has become most familiar and proficient).

Michael acknowledges the unique opportunity of being able to receive genuine mentor hands on training, guidance and exposure. He has benefited from being exposed to hands-on training and supervision from both Paul Lukes and Robert Murphy, with input from Ralph Appleby - all long-term experienced factory trained York Motors Rolls-Royce and Bentley mechanics. The antidotes and banter which accompany why and how to carry out a particular repair are as insightful as the instruction relating to the repair in question. Michael's timing and exposure to this trio is unrepeatabe and he absolutely has valued this.

Presentation of Award and \$1,000 Cheque



On April 30th 2023, Michael was presented his engraved award and \$1000 cheque from the Chairman of the Sir Henry Royce Foundation Australia; Brian Crump. The perpetual trophy is a Silver Ghost trembler box with restored instructions inside the lid. This trophy is on display at the Bill Allsep House, SHRF Archives in Melbourne. The Rolls-Royce & Bentley Car Club, NSW has also provided a complimentary, one year Club Membership.



Co-owner and director of Paradise Garage, Clare Gordon, is with Michael Pickup and Brian Crump. SHRF Trustee, Jeanne Eve is holding the trembler box lid.