

MEDIA RELEASE

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THE ROAD AHEAD SPREADS ITS MESSAGE TO TRANSPORT LEADERS OF TOMORROW

School students from Crookwell, Goulburn, Yass, Young and Queanbeyan learnt about careers in the road transport industry and the important role of trucks when they visited the Australian Trucking Association's travelling exhibition centre, the *Road Ahead*, at the inaugural Eldridge Transport Scholarship Challenge.

The challenge was held yesterday at the Transport Industry Skills Centre (TISC) in Queanbeyan.

The Eldridge Transport Scholarship Challenge is an initiative run and funded entirely by Queanbeyan based transport company, Eldridge Transport. The challenge saw each student work through five hands-on workshops, each covering an aspect of road safety or driving skills.

Students were run through sessions discussing weight distribution in trailers, blind spots, prime movers, driving skills and speed management. Students were then able to tour the *Road Ahead* exhibition to find out more about career paths within the road transport industry.

Tim Mitchell, a year 11 student from Mulwaree High School in Goulburn, was the overall winner of the challenge and said he went into the day with a bit of knowledge about the road transport industry under his belt.

"I found the weight distribution exercise the most useful. It was interesting to hear about why you have to load a truck a certain way," Tim said.

"I'm just getting my L-plates at the moment, so it is good to know a little bit more now," he said.

Tim said that a number of people in his family are truck drivers and that he might one day consider taking up a career in the road transport industry.

Eldridge Transport worked with the Adopt a School program to attract school students from years 9-12 who are interested in a career within the road transport industry to participate in the challenge.

ATA Chairman, Trevor Martyn said the *Road Ahead* complemented the rest of the exercises the students completed on the day.

"The Eldridge Transport Scholarship Challenge enabled us to provide these students with information about safe driving and about the range of career opportunities that the trucking industry offers," Mr Martyn said.

"Eldridge Transport and TISC have put a great deal of effort into the organisation of this event. It is great to see transport stakeholders looking to the future and taking action to market our industry to the transport leaders of tomorrow," he said.

High resolution images of the challenge winner, Tim Mitchell are available.

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National Voice of the Australian Trucking Industry