

Motor Mech showcases the talent of the future

The Motor Mech show held at HTS Drostdy recently and organised by MIWA, was a resounding success with healthy competition and huge support from the trade for both the Junior Motor Mech Competition and the Women's Workshop which was held in the morning.

With the industry facing such a skills shortage it's important to appreciate that the future mechanics and motor industry employees are still at school and competitions like MIWA's Motor Mech are important, not only to highlight the enormous depth of young talent we have in South Africa, but also to showcase the industry to the schools.

Aligning the needs of industry with academic curricula, both at school and tertiary level, is key to ensuring alignment. This will ensure that the level of skills is commensurate with industry expectations once the scholars are ready to start their apprenticeships," said Deon Goch, MIWA Vice Chairman, and one of the competition judges.

"We are so proud of the achievements of all our students and the fact that two girls participated and performed so well is especially noteworthy as it highlights the diverse talent and dedication within the student body. At a technical school, the presence of well-equipped workshops where students can apply their knowledge and hone their skills on a daily basis is vital. We have the advantage that the WCED supports our workshops in total. These workshops provide a real-world environment where students can gain practical experience and learn through hands-on activities which they now had the opportunity to

put to the test," said HTS Drostdy teacher Johan Havenga.

17-year-old Xander Booysen scooped top place in the inaugural Motor Mech Show at HTS Drostdy. Second and third place were given to fellow grade 12 students, Peter Viljoen (2nd) and Carsen Cato (3rd).

The winners all walked away with a wealth of prizes valued at over R40 000 from gold sponsors including Idemitsu, who donated a mobile tool's trolley for first place and a toolbox for the second and third places, valued at close to R20 000 in addition to prizes from Autozone, TIH Advisory and Masterdrive.

"It's people that care, businesses that realise that our trades are important and technical schools like HTS Drostdy, that will ensure we keep our younger generation interested in what keeps the wheels in South Africa turning," says Henry Kennedy, TEPA Regional Chairman Western Cape who was integrally involved in the organisation with MIWA.

Brione Schoeman, MIWA Associational Representative for the Western Cape who led the project says the vision of MIWA and the RMI is to do everything in our power to grow the interest in our trade, to address the skills shortage and in such a way keep the trade alive. "We are delighted that this first event was such a success and all monies from the visitors will be able to go back to the school. We extend our sincerest congratulations to everyone who made this event such an incredible success." **A**



Xander Booysen scoops first prize with Peter Viljoen (right) in second place and Carsen Cato (left) in third



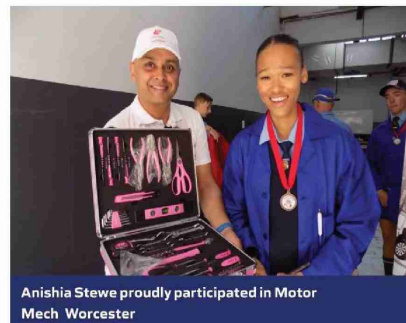
Judges Morne De Jager and Franz Jooste, Louis Steijn (HTS Drostdy Principal), Peter Viljoen, MIWA Western Cape Associational Representative Brione Schoeman, MIWA National Director Pieter Niemand, MIWA Vice Chairman – Deon Goch



Peter Viljoen (1st runner up) with MIWA's Brione Schoeman, Henk Coetsee (Liqui Moly), Cato Carstens (2nd runner up) and winner Xander Booysen



Cato Carstens, Pieter Niemand – MIWA National Director, Xander Booysen and Peter Viljoen



Anishia Stewe proudly participated in Motor Mech Worcester