Mechanic Ondre Lazell has a lot to smile about. In May 2014 Ondre finished his mechanic apprenticeship training at the Townsville campus of TAFE Queensland and has since become a TV star and the face of Queensland’s tradies; the doers that make the world turn.

Ondre began his apprenticeship in the tropical paradise of Cairns, after completing Year 11. Tough times in the industry led to Ondre’s retrenchment two years later which he took as an opportunity to finish his senior schooling. “I decided to go back and do year 11 and 12 at Tec-NQ. It’s amazing how well you can do when you really want to,” he says. “This time I was really motivated as my mum wasn’t paying for it.” Ondre surprised himself when he completed Year 11 and 12 with straight As and in doing so, won two prestigious recognition awards from Tec-NQ.

There’s something about fast cars and we all know that a day at the racetrack beats a good day in the office, so it’s no wonder Ondre jumped at the chance to work at this year’s Castrol Townsville 500 – driven by TAFE Queensland. Ondre joined the Thirsty Camel team of mechanics to experience the fast paced action in the pits, using his technical expertise to work on the Holden V8s. Ondre admits it’s always been one of his dreams. “It’s something that I will never forget.”

Because of his intense interest in anything mechanical, Ondre found it easy to completely commit himself to his apprenticeship studies and is seeing the benefits. “I have always had a passion for cars, especially V8s and Toyotas,” he says. “My family really appreciated having a mechanic at home who enjoys maintaining their vehicles. I also get a sense of satisfaction at being able to pull over and assist people with breakdowns on the side of the road.”

Soon Ondre will head to Mt Isa to put his mechanic’s training to good use and get his dream job earning top dollars in the mines. “It’s like everything is fitting into place for me and I’m not afraid to confront challenges and make an effort to improve myself.”
Born in Laguna province, an area devoted to agriculture, two hours away from the Philippines’ capital, Manila, Deiter Dizon grew up as an ordinary kid, with low self-esteem. “These feelings actually stuck into work again.”

Deiter studied computer science at university, supported by a caring family and friends. “My family has very humble beginnings, but I’m proud of where I came from. I’m the youngest of four children,” he says. “My father is a horticulturist while my mother is a dedicated housewife who took care of us very well since we were young and for that I’m always grateful.”

In 2010, Deiter received a scholarship from the Australian Government and moved to Brisbane to take up study in a Diploma of Screen and Media with TAFE Queensland in order to move on to a more creative passion and pursue photography.

Having completed his diploma and after doing some freelance work, Deiter is taking steps to create his own digital agency www.myevent.com.au specialising in photography, video, animation, graphic design and web. “I’ve come along way in developing my portfolio, and study opened a lot of opportunities for me. I’ve worked with some great clients and together we’ve created some really unique and interesting pieces,” he says. “There should always be a personal touch to keep work distinct and instil sentimental values. With my photography, I always try to keep it expressive instead of trying to impress people with surreal ideas.”

Deiter doesn’t follow trends, he sets them. His avant-garde and unique style has attracted attention from interational and domestic clients. He has worked with Penny Skateboards on website development, product photography, a design customer application and a range of other digital media. “Penny Skateboards has been one of the most rewarding projects, it’s a breakout Australian brand that has received massive growth internationally including Japan, USA, Singapore, New Zealand, and Latin America and is an amazing company to work with.”

In February 2014 Deiter relocated to Perth where he now lives with his girlfriend and has just finished work on a wedding photography project in the Philippines. “We’ve done a bit of overseas travel this year, a gap before getting back into work again.”

Deiter found his first venture, the baseline to a song from the movie Dracula 2000. “It was an angry teen and I remember thinking how I could be better in the future.”

As an ordinary kid, with low self-esteem. “These feelings actually stuck into work again.”

Philomena Deiter graduated from the University of Queensland in 2012, finding a job in nuclear medicine. “My dad enjoyed singing, but he never pursued it as a career,” he says. “He was my inspiration. When I told him I was getting my job he was terrific. Music was the last thing he wanted me to pursue, but eventually he encouraged me. I was at work one day, and I realised that I just didn’t want to be doing this (nuclear medicine).”

The call of music was too strong and with determination he began to write music and took up his guitar. Musically, Deiter’s style has evolved and he acknowledges it will continue to change influenced by shows from AC/DC to Neil Young. “I’mворгнав ждя big bands like AC/DC nothing huge stadiums, and always envisaged myself doing that,” he says. “But, I always find smaller shows inspiring, something about the music, or the person that really speaks to you. There’s always something new to find.”

Deiter’s music journey took an unexpected turn in March 2014 when he agreed to join local Brisbane based band Flabellum. Universe of the band’s musical inclination or the members’ personalities, he took a gamble and threw his lot in with the group.

The band has a few gigs coming up via their Facebook for more details. In the vein of expanding his musical prowess, Deiter is currently studying a Diploma of Music at TAFE Queensland and wouldn’t give his passion up for gold. “We don’t have a cant to our names, but couldn’t imagine doing anything else.”

Dash Photography
It’s time we celebrate the doers. The builders, the bakers, the fancy clothes-makers. The picture takers and flower bunchers, city makers and number crunchers. The protectors, the nurturers, the entertainers, and the people who make us all look beautiful. The upskillers, the room chillers, and the all-important pollution killers. The mariners and miners, mechanics and medics, the graziers and glaziers, and people who just amaze you. You’re the people who make the world turn. You’re the people who make great happen.

With over 400 courses across Certificate, Diploma, Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree and Bachelor Degree level qualifications, you can make great happen in 2015 with the most recognised further education provider in Queensland.

Find out more at tafeqld.edu.au