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ISSUE 24 OCTOBER 2019



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NATIONAL BUSINESS COUNCIL 2019
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1Q1 IMPROVING SHOP EFFICIENCY

Your Passion.
Our Coatings.



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Do you have a great story?

We'd love to hear it!
Email Info-ANZ@axalta.com
or call 1800 292 582.



Message from the MANAGING DIRECTOR

YOUR PASSION. OUR COATINGS.

One of the undoubted highlights of the last six months has been the completion of our new, cutting-edge customer training facility in Marsden Park, Western Sydney. In a rapidly changing environment led by new technologies and processes, training is more important than ever. Axalta has invested heavily in this area, creating a new training facility to provide customers with an environment to learn about the latest products and innovations in the industry.

The 2019 National Business Council in August was an opportunity for us to share our insights with over 35 customers, who joined us in Melbourne to learn how to make their businesses more successful. Industry expert, Mike Anderson was in attendance to shed light onto the future requirements of bodyshops, including pre and post scanning.

At Axalta, we celebrate 'Your Passion. Our Coatings,' and our customers continue to amaze me in what they

achieve with our products. On page 18 we introduce Carbonix's lightweight drones, which use Axalta coatings applied as thin as possible to reduce weight. On page 19, we show you Zenith Custom Creations' shelters for the Australian Army that are coated in a customised camouflage design. Make sure to read about Robert Wilson and the 1932 Ford Tudor hot rod he has reconstructed with his team on page 14 – the immaculate restoration is a sight to behold.

Peter Kittle Collision Repair Centre's drive to achieve Green Stamping Accreditation is inspiring, and I'm glad Axalta Services was able to assist.

Sincerely,

Steven Brett
Managing Director
Axalta Coating Systems



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STATE-OF-THE-ART CUSTOMER TRAINING FACILITY

In a rapidly changing environment, where technology and new processes are leading major changes in the industry, customer training is a key component. As a result, Axalta has invested heavily in its new regional training facility in Marsden Park, Western Sydney.

The customer training centre, with 1,000 square metres of floor space, is using the latest coating technologies, industry-leading training techniques and advanced digital equipment to enable repairers to deliver the highest quality refinish.

In addition, course attendees will gain in-depth knowledge of the latest spraying application systems, using new products designed to consume less energy and reduce waste. These systems offer a fast-drying finish and use superior colour matching technologies.

According to Axalta managing director, Steven Brett, the new training facility is providing customers with access to the latest products and innovations in the industry and offers the best training available in the region.

“Axalta is a world leader in refinish and is consistently investing to enhance our capabilities, facilities and training to help customers grow their businesses.”

Axalta training manager, Paul Polverino, is excited by the new facility.



USI Chronotech spray booths and prep bays

WHAT ARE USI CHRONOTECH SPRAY BOOTHS?

These are energy efficient, side-loading booths with heat recovery systems and a digital touch control panel. The Chronotech spray booths will collect and store information concerning the state of the filters and the date of the last filter change, as well as the date of the last burner maintenance. The maintenance records can be viewed on the control panel display.

The booths have DGT Manager software installed for control, management and processing statistics. This is installed in a PC in the bodyshop and connected online with the booth. It permits supervision of working status in real time through the PC and provides for storage and statistical data processing of completed job orders, work times and consumptions (gas and electricity usage and costs).

“The cutting-edge environment is not only inspiring the next generation of painters; it is providing them with hands-on access, skills and a greater understanding of Axalta’s broad selection of advanced coating technologies and products.”

“The new facility also provides an exceptional industry training opportunity for OEMs and TAFE colleges as it supports and strengthens our ongoing relationships.”

NEW EQUIPMENT IN THE TRAINING CENTRE INCLUDES:

- Two state-of-the-art USI Chronotech spray booths
- Three USI full down draft preparation areas with USI rail track system for easy vehicle side loading. The three prep bays can be divided by electric curtains. IR and UV drying is also available
- Three USI paint mix rooms with an additional large cleaning room
- A USI spray box-booth for test panels and colour card spray outs
- A theory room with the latest audio-visual equipment that can seat up to 20 students

The new facility also includes a storeroom for all consumables and tools, along with an air-conditioned lunch and kitchen area with modern facilities for attendees.



The modern theory room seats up to 20 students



The preparation areas are bright and multi-functional



2019 National Business Council

HELPING BODYSHOPS FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

The Axalta Services team, along with internationally recognised speaker Mike Anderson, demonstrated to bodyshops how to meet industry challenges head on through the National Business Council symposium held at the Pullman & Mercure Albert Park, Melbourne, from August 11-13, 2019.

Mike is an Accredited Automotive Manager (AAM) and has served on numerous industry advisory committees. He brought his extensive knowledge and experience from the US market, where he works closely with repairers, OEMs and insurance companies.

A key focus of the symposium was advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) and the impact these can have on the repair process. From understanding initialisation and calibration through to repair precautions, this topic is a crucial one for bodyshops to understand as vehicle technology continues to evolve.



Axalta Services manager Robin Taylor (left) with Mike Anderson



Axalta managing director Steven Brett welcomes attendees

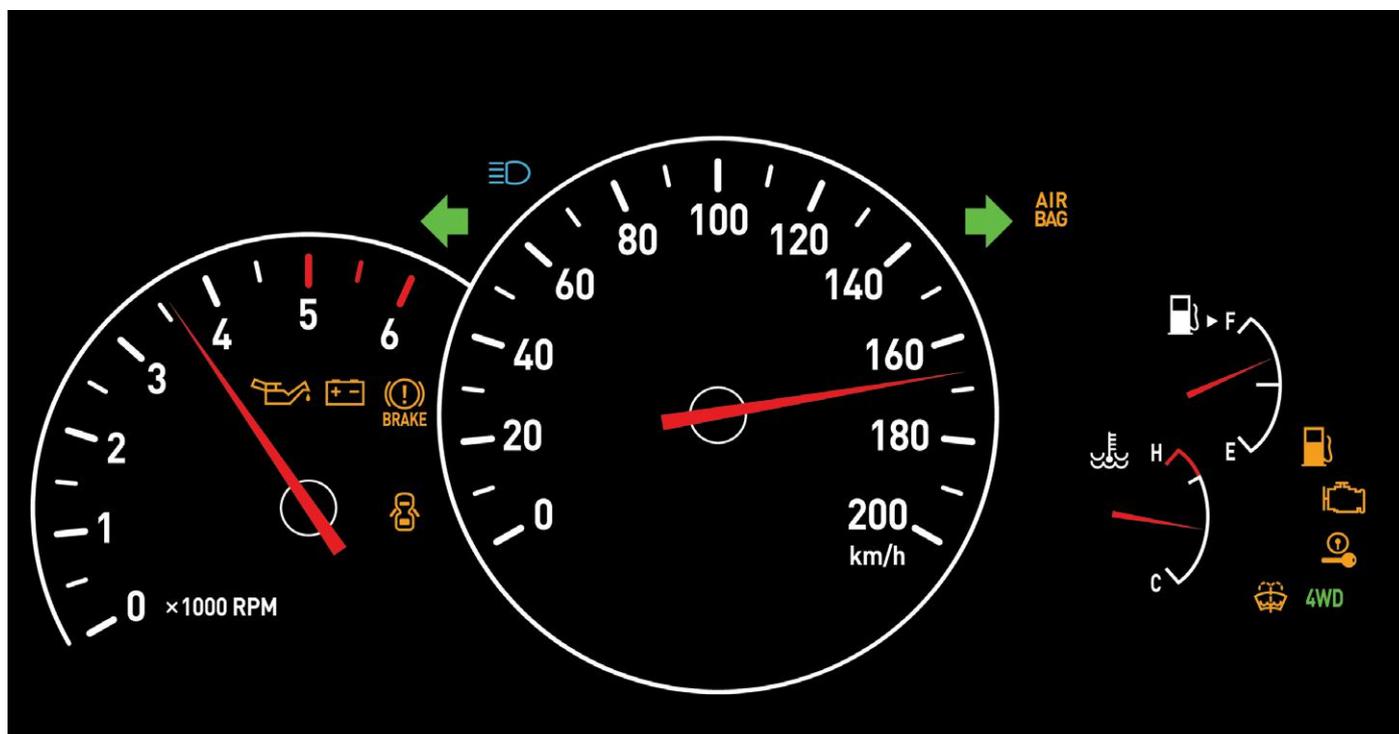


Mike Anderson shares his wisdom

Some of the other topics covered included how estimating is evolving thanks to artificial intelligence, positioning a business in the industry, the impact of a business manager on the business and the importance of pre and post scanning (please see below for further information on this topic).

Axalta Services manager, Robin Taylor, explains. “The National Business Council is all about helping bodyshops to future-proof their business by providing valuable insights into some of the tools and techniques that are critical in aiding business success.”

Happening every few years, the National Business Council is a great opportunity for people in the industry to come together and share their experiences. With over 35 attendees this year, guests were given the opportunity to attend social activities and network with their like-minded peers while at the symposium.



PRE AND POST SCANNING: WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

With the advancements in car technology, repairing a car has drastically changed to now include consideration on what kind of onboard diagnostics and crash avoidance features a car is equipped with. However, with these advancements, there are some issues that can arise. Many shops do not have the necessary equipment to perform such repairs or may be unaware they need to complete them, while insurance companies are simply not familiar with the systems or the time required to properly scan and calibrate equipment, resulting in a refusal to pay for this step in some instances.

In order to ensure the car has been properly repaired, a pre and post scan should be completed. A pre-scan is needed before repairs begin to assess any fault codes

which have been registered by the computer in the vehicle. The post-scan gives the repairer the opportunity to confirm the vehicle has been fully repaired and is able to perform as it should with all fault codes cleared.

Bodyshops should not become complacent when it comes to post-scans. Even though a code may not be showing on the dash, this does not mean there are no further existing faults. A post-scan is just as important as it not only shows the vehicle is operational once repaired, but it also gives the shop proof of proper performance at the time of completion.

Having a standard operating procedure for scanning and understanding the importance of it will help your shop ensure a safe and proper repair.

APEX SMASH WINS THINK SUSTAINABLE!

Business manager, Robbie Manson, from Apex Smash Repairs in Milton, Queensland, is waiting in anticipation for his next electricity bill. Thanks to the Axalta 2019 Think Sustainable! promotion, the business has recently installed solar panels.

The solar panels were installed over three days in July this year. There are 140 panels and while the building faces north, the panels are positioned flat on the roof facing up to capture the midday sun. Robbie is yet to see the cost impact, but he is expecting the initiative might save up to 30 per cent on electricity.

“One of the biggest reasons to install solar panels is that you can eliminate or significantly reduce your electricity costs. Queensland is one of the sunniest states in Australia and Apex Smash Repairs has a massive roof space over the workshop, so it made sense to investigate the potential for solar,” Robbie said.

“At this point, we’re not sure what amount of electricity is being generated by our new solar power system, but I’m expecting there will be a significant cost saving for the business. My main aim has been to take back control of our rising electricity costs, so it made good sense to investigate the potential of solar panels.”

Robbie is expecting this initiative will see significant electricity generation when it is needed most – during the day and during hot sunny periods when the demand for power is at its peak.

“We’re generating electricity at the point of demand - at the business - and this means we should see direct financial benefits.”

The Think Sustainable! promotion encouraged customers to strive to achieve their own business sustainability goals and gave them a chance to win up to \$20,000 towards a solar panel system installation.

Axalta ANZ managing director, Steven Brett, was excited to offer this promotion as not every business can afford to install a solar panel system.

“At Axalta, we encourage bodyshops to look at the technologies currently available that can minimise energy consumption, reduce waste or increase efficiencies. Improving environmental sustainability is a growing concern and I congratulate Apex Smash Repairs on reducing their environmental footprint.”



The solar panels nearly cover the entire building

Distributor - Brisbane Refinish Supplies

Paint System - Permahyd Hi-TEC

1Q1 - Midland Smash Repairs

INDUSTRY INNOVATOR

Midland Smash Repairs, in Perth's eastern suburbs, has been owned by the Smith family since the early 1960s. Owner, Paul Smith, wanted to scale down his time in the business while remaining in control, so five years ago, he developed his own workshop flow management system – 1Q1.

1Q1 is an end-to-end flow management system installed on desktops for administrators, as well as tablets on workshop floors for employees. This allows anyone in the business to instantly see the progress of a vehicle repair.

1Q1 is designed for bodyshops that want to maintain high levels of efficiency and productivity, by creating a lean workflow that focuses on consistent quality processing and speed of service, with the aim of increasing profit and consistent sustainable performance.

Every vehicle is first 'checked in.' Once work and quality checks are completed, the vehicle progresses to the next stage, where the process is repeated until the repaired vehicle is ready to be returned to the owner. The system also allocates revenue generated against each employee, allowing management to monitor performance and efficiency across the bodyshop. While all employees can see information on vehicle progress, only management can access revenue statistics and budgeting information.

"1Q1 has consistently improved bodyshop bottom lines through improved visibility, accountability, profitability and efficiency."

"As they release the vehicle, 1Q1 puts the dollars that are in that section against their name, so at the end of the week, I can actually see how they're going," said Paul.

As well as tracking parts and progress, 1Q1's genius is its ability to automatically provide customers instant updates on progress and updates to participating insurers without staff involvement. This removes the need for businesses to manually update customers or insurers, while improving the customer experience by keeping them continually up to date.

1Q1 has been implemented in 100 automotive workshops across Australia and New Zealand. For more information, visit www.oneqone.com.

Owner, Paul Smith (left) showcasing the 1Q1 system



Peter Kittle Collision Repair Centre

GREEN STAMP ACCREDITATION

Peter Kittle Collision Repair Centre is the only Toyota Authorised and Holden Certified Collision Repairer in South Australia, also carrying Level 3 Green Stamp Accreditation.

Over a two-year period, collision repair manager, Chad Buckley, has been proactively working with Axalta Services consultant, Ewan Pettigrew, on sustainability initiatives and accessing Axalta Services' I-CAR training. The aim has been to equip repairers with the strategies they need to meet required sustainability goals and develop environmental management skills.

According to Chad, Peter Kittle Collision Repair Centre is committed to the highest standards of management, governance and environmental accreditation programs such as Green Stamp, and the required training has been as much an asset to the business as to the environment.

Green Stamp Accreditation is managed by the MTA in each state and territory, with the program recognising and encouraging the efforts of businesses who go above and beyond in their sustainability initiatives. The program aims to raise awareness of environmental impact in the automotive industry and encourages innovative solutions to environmental issues in the workshop. It also rewards 'green-thinking' businesses who strive towards sustainability.

"I-CAR recognising Axalta Services' training is a double benefit. I've done many courses in my professional life and I'm a massive advocate for Axalta. Every time one comes up, I send 3-4 people. We currently have 18 people involved in ongoing training."

"When we investigated becoming a Holden Approved Repairer, we realised we needed Green Stamp Accreditation to achieve this. This was something the business was looking at anyway," said Chad.



"Ewan helped with the required environmental management system. We looked at industry-based examples and I was able to apply that thinking and adopt the examples to suit our business. Today, it's an impressive 60-page document."

Chad said Axalta Services also helped with procedural requirements.

"We needed simple things like evacuation diagrams – Ewan was able to show us how to draw these and produce the signage we needed. We measured the entire shop and then identified the routes for an evacuation plan and procedures."

Peter Kittle Collision Repair Centre now has the highest level of Green Stamp Accreditation available. Auditing is every two years and the way the business has set it up – with a process to include any new waste invoices – means it can be audited at any time.

Axalta Services Consultant - Ewan Pettigrew
Distributor – SA Color
Paint System – Standoblue





Hailstorms ensure plenty of work for Smart Repair

Smart Repair Australia

HAIL ON THE RADAR, AND THE PAINT SHINES

Smart Repair Australia works on hail damaged vehicles, which means the business regularly moves to where the hail fell. Speaking from Sydney, business manager, Greg Elliott, explains the complexities and challenges of his work.

“We did 6,000 jobs in Melbourne last year and then there was a massive hailstorm in Sydney on 15 and 20 December, and another on 14 March. The size of the Sydney storm will go down as the largest hailstorm on record in Australia,” said Greg.

As a result, Smart Repair Australia was allocated about 12,500 insurance company claims and is now based at its largest facility in Smeaton Grange, southwest of Sydney. Assessments were done in January and February this year, followed by repairs from March. The business is averaging about 350 cars a week and on a Saturday in mid-July, the number of cars repaired reached 7,000.

Employees fluctuate between 60 to 64 at Smeaton Grange, and total staff numbers are about 200 across all four Sydney facilities. The Smeaton Grange warehouse is 9,000 square metres inside and has three nine-metre drive-through booths. Greg says it’s the company’s biggest ever paint facility.

“The speed of drying without the need for infrared lighting or UV curing is important. The speed and efficiency of the Standox technology is fundamental, given what we need to do. We need exceptionally fast turnaround times. There is no doubting the quality of the Standox product, or the speed and efficiency of the technology. The Standox Xtreme System is the dominant product on the market. The clears and the primer technologies are a great match for our requirements.”

Echoing Greg’s comments on the Standox Xtreme System, Smeaton Grange paint shop manager, Brad Lindsay, said the drying times of the basecoat and the Xtreme Clear enable turnaround in the booth much faster than any other product he’s ever used.

“I’ve been painting cars for 20 years and the build is fantastic. Drying time is two hours and then we can get the car back together, buffed and ready to go. With most other products, I’d have to wait until the next day. As a result, average cycle time for paint and dent repair is three to four days.”

Company director and CEO, Michael Cross, supported their comments.

“Standoblu has cut production time and raised our profits considerably. The whole team love using the product,” said Michael.

Greg is expecting a volatile season again this year. “It’s on the radar,” he said.



The large warehouse features three drive-through spray booths

Axalta Technical Consultant – Steven Bulman
Distributor – Pinnacle Paint Supplies
Paint System – Standoblu

WIPE AWAY YOUR WORRIES

With the range of automotive wipes from Sontara.

Sontara's range of high-quality wipes have been especially designed for the automotive repair market. Manufactured through a unique hydroentangling process, Sontara wipes deliver super absorbency, excellent strength and durability, and are extremely low lint. With a wipe for every stage of the repair process, you can be sure to get the job done right the first time.



Solvent Wash & Dry Cloth
 Degreasing Cloth
 Primary Tack Cloth
 Polish/Detail Cloth
 Clean Up Wipe
 Static Control Wipe
 Heavy Duty Industrial Wipe
 Aerospace Wipe



The latest release Clear Coats from Spies Hecker are designed to drive efficiencies in your bodyshop. Through easy application, fast drying and quick curing, they are clearly ahead of the race! Choose the clear that's the best fit for your workshop.

Permasolid® HS Speed Clear Coat 8800

- Utilises Axalta's new **patented** fast-cure, low-energy resin technology
- Application in **1.5 coats**, **no** flash-off between coats
- For energy-efficient repairs
 - Bake for **5 mins** at 60°C or
 - Bake for **10 mins** at 40°C or
 - Air dry for **60 mins** at 20°C
- Outstanding gloss finish, even when rapid drying
- For use over activated waterborne or solvent basecoat
- Balance speed, through-put and energy consumption to suit your requirements
- Part of the **Speed-TEC** system. A family of products setting new standards in speed and energy savings

Permasolid® HS Race Clear Coat 8700

NEW

- Latest **low bake** clear coat technology
- Application in **2 coats**, **2-5 mins** flash-off between coats
- Flexible drying options to suit your workflow
 - Bake for **15 mins** at 60°C or
 - Bake for **30 mins** at 40°C
- High gloss finish
- For use over waterborne or solvent basecoat
- Flexible drying options as low as 40°C

Hi-TEC
Performance

Speed Repair

Classic

Hi-TEC
Performance

Speed Repair

Gary Presnell Bodyworks

LEADING THE NEXT GENERATION



Kate Presnell talks about skills shortage

Established in 1981 and servicing northern Tasmania, Gary Presnell Bodyworks is a leader in the collision repair industry. As the next-generation manager of this robust family business, Kate Presnell is dedicated to ensuring her customers' expectations are exceeded, while at the same time, she's focused on continuously investing in her team and the industry.

Earlier this year, Kate was asked to speak at the Paint and Panel Next Generation seminar about current skill shortages. With a professional background in human resources combined with her passion for the repair industry, she was well qualified to summarise the issues and offer a few solutions.

Kate spoke about the emerging generation choosing non-trade related roles and the introduction of complex technology that is restricting the traditional 'tinkering' on cars. She says employing apprentices can be difficult sometimes, deterring bodyshops to invest. Then, she made suggestions on ways to approach recruitment and selection to ensure a seamless process and a greater retention rate.

"There are gaps in training and development opportunities in the repair industry and the reality is, the government has greater KPIs for university retention than for apprenticeships. There is a lack of promotion about what our trade is today. It is far more technical than most people realise and it needs to be seen as a desirable trade, but this is not being communicated to the next generation," she said.

"I started by researching the available government research data and discovered that our industry has had a skill shortage for more than 11 years. It's a major issue."

Kate is engaged in leadership training and has been focusing on 'mindset.' She says the team is embracing the training and it has been "a positive step in the right direction."

Gary Presnell Bodyworks has been using Spies Hecker for 30 years. While Kate says the product is the best available on the market and the company wouldn't use another brand, she also pointed out the additional value in the business support provided by Axalta.



The Gary Presnell Bodyworks team

Territory Business Manager - Michael Kirchner

Distributor - Robayne Industry Supplies & Equipment (RISE)

Paint System - Permahyd Hi-TEC

WILSON'S PANEL WORKS

Your Passion.

Our Coatings.



Robert Wilson with the completed Tudor

Wilson's Panel Works

A PASSION FOR AFTER-HOURS RESTORATION

Many people clock off at 5pm, but at Wilson's Panel Works in Toowoomba, Queensland, business owner Robert Wilson and a few employees stay to work on the boss's latest passion. Shop foreman, Chris Channing, explains their recent restoration – a 1932 Ford Tudor hot rod.

"The restoration took about ten months," said Chris. "It was full-on after-hours and we worked most days last year. We had the boss working on it, myself and our panel shop manager, James. Most nights when the business closed, we'd stay back and focus on the Tudor. We did a lot of the work, a lot of hours but the car looks amazing."

The Tudor was imported from the United States and was in Australia for about a week before Robert bought it. The car had previously won a SEMA Show award in 1993 and according to Chris, it was also ahead of its time back in the day when it was first released.

"Robert had planned to do a quick 'tidy-up' and drive it, but it turned into a tear-down and a full restoration. Robert being Robert – he's so particular – meant that we started to sand it, do a few touch-ups, have a proper look at it and before we knew it, we were doing a full restoration."



The colour scheme is dazzling from all angles



“We stripped it down and sent all the panels off for sandblasting. When they came back, we sealed them up with Cromax 840R Epoxy Primer-Surfacer which has outstanding corrosion resistance and adhesion. Then we did the panel repairs and the filler work and resealed with 840R. Finally, we rubbed it all down and primed it all with Cromax 1040R High-Solids Surfacer.”



Chris says Robert is also passionate about Cromax products and as a result, the car uses them from start to finish.

The car is coated in Cromax Centari 6000 basecoat and then 3050S clear coat for hold-out and gloss retention. It is multi-coloured, but mostly red and cream with some orange and burgundy, along with a blue pinstripe. Chris did the colour matching to all the original colours that were on the vehicle.

“I was the colour technician. I know how to match Cromax colour as I’ve been using it for 17 years – that’s how long I’ve worked at Wilson’s Panel Works. The Cromax products just help us – we never have a drama with it and I’ve never had a product failure.”

Chris has worked with Robert on several show cars over the years and says not one has needed a rework. The Tudor hot rod is completely restored – Robert drives it everywhere and has recently won a few trophies at local car shows.

“He’s won two awards – the People’s Choice Award at the Toowoomba Hotrodders High Altitude Rod Run 2019 in March, and the Top Custom Vehicle at the Rotary David Hack Classic 2019. Every time he goes to a show, he comes home with a trophy.”

The next project is underway. Robert has recently purchased a 1932 Shop Ute and everyone has started working on it.



A few touch-ups turned into a full and thorough restoration

Photos by LucyRC Photography
www.lucyrcphotography.com.au

Territory Business Manager - Steve Morris
Technical Consultant - Andrew Thompson
Distributor - Brisbane Refinish Supplies
Paint System - Cromax

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©rStarDesign

rStar Design

Frank's designs are a work of art

A WORLD-RECOGNISED PASSION FOR MOTORSPORT HELMETS

rStar Design provides professional and international motorsport drivers with their own individual helmets, each designed and painted by Sydney's Frank Stivala.



Design renders are approved first online

Frank's business centres around the graphic design of motorsport helmets and he paints between 80 and 90 helmets a year. The process takes three or four days of labour for each and is stretched over a two-week period. He usually has three to four helmets in production rotation at any one time.

Speaking with passion, Frank says he gets paid to do something he loves. He's positioned in the high end of the market and his customer base is worldwide. He uses a mix of Challenger and Cromax, saying that while Challenger is his everyday clear coat, the final layer is Cromax CC6300 "which will resist stone chips."



Motor sport is a common design theme

Most of the work Frank completes is for motor sport-based drivers and each design is unique. At times, sponsored professional drivers will authorise a design and order two, however the bulk of the work consists of on-off designs. When customers request exotic colours for their design, Frank works closely with the Axalta colour team.

"I recently completed some helmets for McLaren, Sydney and they wanted new colours, which meant I didn't have the formulas. Axalta helped with the process of working out what I needed."

Frank creates the designs and does the painting, the masking and everything else, from start to finish.

"I do a digital rendering first and they approve it online. Usually, they don't physically see the colours. When they're talking about blue for example, I can reference four different colours in the same range and I try to get them to choose from those options instead of being too specific, otherwise the possibilities are endless."

Distributor - Wallaby Crash Supplies

Paint System - Cromax

Volgren Buses Australia

NEW BUS FLEET FOR PERTH

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE NEW PERTH BUSES ARE COATED IN AXALTA COATINGS?

The Public Transport Authority of Western Australia has recently extended its contract with Volgren to deliver another 900 Transperth buses to the fleet. The 10-year, \$549 million investment will see buses built and assembled in Volgren’s Perth manufacturing facility, located in Malaga. As Axalta is the company’s strategic coating partner, each of these buses is coated with the Imron Fleet Line range.

“Axalta is extremely proud to partner Volgren in this contract,” said Axalta key account manager, Michael Busch.

“We are confident that with our two organisations continuing to work closely, and mutually holding genuine commitments to quality, innovation and customer service, that West Australian passengers will experience the absolute benchmark in Australian buses for many years to come.”

Axalta has been working with Volgren for the past 18 months, with a focus on reducing cycle times in coatings applications. “The company-wide focus on continuous improvement and lean manufacturing techniques has given Volgren the increased capacity to comfortably meet high delivery demands from operators,” said Volgren chief executive officer, Peter Dayle.



The Malaga Volgren manufacturing facility is connected to more than 140 Australian suppliers and businesses. The new contract provides job security and continuity to many Australian businesses.

So next time you’re in Perth, keep an eye out for the buses.

Business Manager – Michael Busch
Paint System – Cromax Imron Fleetline



Carbonix

DRONES IN COLOUR

Sydney company Carbonix builds drones for defence and coast guard; for emergency response; for industry, agriculture, mining and exploration; and for asset inspection, surveying and mapping. While you may not think it is the case, regardless of their use, all drones need coatings and these drones are coated in Axalta products.

The Carbonix story began for founder, Dario Valenza, when – after his successful career in the America's Cup – he was asked to develop a drone airframe. At the time, this was a diversification of the technology he was using.

“We were able to use the combination of the carbon composite and the aeroelastic design that we learnt from the marine industry to create an efficient drone airframe,” he explained.

Dario knew about the Axalta range from his experience in the marine industry and knew he needed something that would coat, bond and give a smooth, aerodynamic finish. The paint needed to be as thin as possible (so weight wasn't added) and the consistency of the product was important.

“We must be able to replicate the same finish, every time. We've experimented in-house with a lot of different products, finishes and topcoats. Axalta meets all these requirements.”

The Volanti



Your Passion.
Our Coatings.

Vale

OWEN STREATFEILD

1959 - 2019

It is with great sadness we advise that former Axalta employee, Owen Streatfeild, passed away in July this year.

Owen spent his career in the automotive coatings industry with 28 years spent at Axalta. Starting in the role of Technical Manager in 1986 at the family owned Regal Paints in Riverstone, NSW, Owen's career progressed through many changes in the company. At the end of 2014, Owen started his own consulting business serving Axalta and others in the industry.

Owen was a valued member of the Axalta team and he made substantial contributions to the business over the years.

Owen was a man of integrity who was a mentor to his work colleagues, was held in high esteem by suppliers and all those he worked with. He earned the respect and gratitude of work colleagues, customers, competitors and industry affiliates both here and overseas.

Owen leaves behind his wife Pamela, daughter Fiona, son-in-law Craig and a grandchild scheduled to arrive in November.

Owen was a pillar of strength and wisdom and had the friendship of many.



He has been taken too soon and will be missed by many.

Zenith Custom Creations

WORKING WITH THE LAND 154 PROJECT

Innovative custom designs and fabrication solutions reached a new level at Zenith Custom Creations 18 months ago, when the Australian Defence Force asked the South Australian business to manufacture new lightweight, air-transportable shelters for military applications.

The shelters are for the Army's Land 154 Project and are similar to shipping containers, but custom-designed and insulated for special purposes. Designed to be regularly relocated, each shelter is made from fiberglass, steel and aluminium, and painted in camouflage colours.

"We've been using the Axalta product for 12 to 18 months and the painters are saying it's a nicer product to work with and is easier to use."

Speaking about the project, Zenith Custom Creations owner, Craig Vanderstelt, explained that different divisions in Defence had different systems and different needs, but for the most part, the shelters were designed and coated to be in the weather all the time.

"The paint must be hard-wearing to withstand and accommodate all Australian weather conditions," said Craig. "We have some shelters up in Darwin that get moved every six months. They either ship them by air using a transport plane, or they load them on trucks."

The business is provided with Axalta industrial paint and templates for the camouflage pattern. According to Craig, the design was specifically made for the project, allowing each shelter to be the same. Three colours are used in the camouflage pattern – green on the base, with black and tan applied over the top. From start to finish, coating the shelter takes about five days.

"We have a workshop set-up that can accommodate this work and a temperature-controlled baking and downdraft spray booth; it's 12 metres by 4.5 metres," Craig explained. "We've been using the Axalta product for 12 to 18 months and the painters are saying it's a nicer product to work with and easier to use; the flash off times are good and it's a lot quicker between coatings. This is important given we are applying a camouflage pattern – it's time consuming and time is critical."

Distributor - SA Color

Paint System - Axalta Military Coating



The shelters are designed to be regularly relocated

Tech Tip

BLEND MATCHING MADE EASY

Australian painters are renowned for being thorough when it comes to colour matching. At times this can result in spending too much time looking for a perfect match, when a blendable match will suffice. Blending is often recognised and recommended as the most efficient method to achieve a commercially acceptable colour match.

The new Blendable Match Evaluator is a handy magnetic tool which gives painters a quick way to assess colours by standing back from a vehicle and viewing a colour chip against the vehicle colour. They are then able to gauge if the chip is close enough to blend into surrounding panels. Assessing suitability is easier as the chip is not edge-to-edge with the vehicle, which takes away some of the worry associated with colour matching.

To further assist in the colour matching process, we recommend you use a product such as Finixa Control Spray over any spray out cards. This provides a good gloss, simulating a clear coat and giving a better colour representation.

To request a tool, talk to your distributor or Axalta consultant.



EDUCATING THE TRAINER

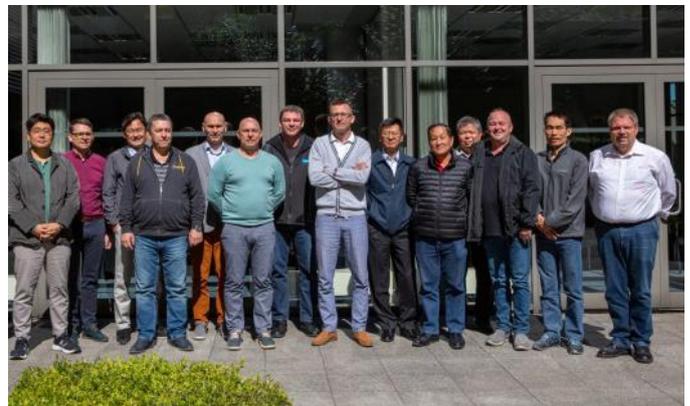
The benefits of quality education were embraced by Axalta Product & Training Specialist, Shannon Mayne, earlier this year when he spent a week at Axalta's training facility in Wuppertal, Germany, receiving training from Mercedes-Benz.

Shannon was joined by Axalta trainers from around the world to learn about the latest in Mercedes-Benz technologies, with the course focusing on how to address them as part of the repair and painting process.

Training sessions highlighted the do's and don'ts, covering how to work with all the different high-performance substrates, as well as how to repair bumpers with advanced driver assistance system (ADAS) sensors present. They covered how to refinish special paint colours such as Alubeam, along with those that required tinted clear coat or matt finishes. Time was also devoted to providing insights into repairing new technology vehicles and how to safely deal with high voltage batteries and fuel cells during the repair process, which are all part of the Mercedes-Benz line-up.

According to Shannon, the new technologies will require more frequent industry training.

"Changes in automotive technology and the increase in high performance substrates and OEM specific processes mean that bodyshop owners should upskill and train their teams more



The Axalta trainers gathered from around the world

frequently than in the past. I'm looking forward to delivering the Mercedes-Benz paint training program to the local Authorised Mercedes-Benz Repairers."

Axalta continues to forge strong relations with Mercedes-Benz, working closely at both country and global levels.



The team's Hyperloop pod featured a striking black-yellow colour scheme

2019 HYPERLOOP POD COMPETITION

A team of students from the University of NSW were the only Australian team selected to attend the 2019 Hyperloop Pod Competition Finals in Hawthorne, California on July 21. Axalta was a proud supporter in the preparation of the hyperloop pod which was used in the competition. The team competed against 21 international competitors and came in 7th place!

The Hyperloop pod was made using carbon fibre and once sealed, it was then painted with Cromax Pro waterborne black basecoat with a feature yellow stripe (Y9H Lively Yellow). The yellow colour was chosen for its striking appearance, helping to make it stand out from the competition.

Congratulations to the team!

OzChild and Axalta

SUPPORTING KINSHIP CARE

A \$10,000 Axalta donation two years ago has facilitated ongoing support for vulnerable Aboriginal children in kinship care, and has funded activities that continue to strengthen connection to culture and community.

Axalta donated \$10,000 to OzChild in 2017, with the donation used for Return to Country trips for young people to return to their 'Mob', providing an opportunity for learning about the Aboriginal community history and celebrating more about their culture.

The donation also supported engagement in community events, social and cultural experiences – since July 2017, OzChild has organised for Aboriginal children to attend NAIDOC celebrations that include Aboriginal film festivals, theatre and art exhibitions. These activities have an enormously positive effect on the children, giving them a sense of belonging to a bigger indigenous community.

In 2017/18, OzChild supported 26 Aboriginal children in foster care and kinship care. In Victoria, more than 10,000 children are currently placed in out-of-home care. OzChild chief executive officer, Dr Lisa J. Griffiths, said a strong connection to culture, country, community and family is critical.



“The Axalta donation is helping provide these Aboriginal children with access to their rights - to know who they are, who their people are and where their country is. This donation is about ensuring a sense of wellbeing and identity,” she said.



Tech Tip

MOTTLING

Occasionally, there can be issues with mottling that become evident as a waterborne basecoat starts to dry. There are a few reasons these irregularities can occur, including a faulty spray gun, incorrect air pressure, unsuitable reducer/controller, unsuitable spraying technique or unsuitable spray viscosity.

There are several ways to prevent the issue before it arises.

HUMIDITY AND TEMPERATURE

Before starting the painting process, check the humidity and temperature in the spray booth so that the paint mix can be adjusted to the climate. Detailed information can be found in the Climate Guide of the Technical Data Sheet (TDS).

NOZZLE SIZE AND SPRAY PRESSURE

When repairing metallic colours, it is even more important to follow the recommendations for nozzle size and spray pressure, and to apply the paint with a fully depressed trigger so that the pigments can be distributed evenly to form a homogeneous film.

APPLICATION

The waterborne basecoat is applied in a 1.5 coat process. The first coat is applied as a closed coat at a normal distance. You are not looking for full coverage in this first coat. Then, the second coat (effect or controlled pass) is applied over the wet paint at a slightly greater distance from the substrate in order to achieve a uniform effect and complete hiding.

Immediately after application of the waterborne basecoat, the paint film should appear uniform. This shows that the basecoat was applied correctly. Should any irregularities in the finish become visible, they can be fixed with another effect coat at an even further distance, while the basecoat is still wet.

CLEANLINESS AND MAINTENANCE

To provide further prevention, spray guns should be cleaned and maintained regularly.

We recently launched a training video on mottling, simply scan the QR code below to view the video.



STANDOX



SPIES HECKER



CROMAX

RECOGNITION AWARDS

30
YEARS

SPIES HECKER

Gary Presnell Bodyworks, INVERMAY, TAS

25
YEARS

STANDOX

Stuttgart Autos, BURSWOOD, WA

SPIES HECKER

Rex Davies Crash Repairs, PORT AUGUSTA WEST, SA

20
YEARS

AXALTA

Al Hourigan Panel Beating, SARINA, QLD

STANDOX

Primo Smash Repairs, OSBORNE PARK, WA

Nick & Alberto Auto Body Repairs, OSBORNE PARK, WA

Osborne Smash Repairs, OSBORNE PARK, WA

SPIES HECKER

Parramatta Smash Repairs, NORTH PARRAMATTA, NSW

Panel One, ALEXANDRIA, NSW

Mangano Body Repairs, WOOLLOONGABBA, QLD

Gibson's Smash Repairs, GOONDIWINDI, QLD

Clarke Body Repairs, SOMERTON PARK, SA

Richards Crash Repairs, MT GAMBIER, SA

CROMAX

Pacific Reproductions, NORTH GOSFORD, NSW

15
YEARS

CROMAX

Brisbane Collision Centre, ROCKLEA, QLD

Betta Body Repairs, SOUTHPORT, QLD

Stokes & Renk CarCraft, O'CONNOR, WA

IMRON FLEET LINE

Moore Trailers, YARRANLEA, QLD

10
YEARS

STANDOX

Canberra Automotive Refinishers, BELCONNEN, ACT

SPIES HECKER

L & J Smash Repairs, GUILDFORD, NSW

CROMAX

Fuller Brothers Bodyworks, BELCONNEN, ACT

McDermott Aviation, COOROY, QLD

Precision Body Works, SLACKS CREEK, QLD

Maroondah Panel Service, HEALESVILLE, VIC

Redman's Auto Body Repairs, PINK LAKE, WA

30
YEARS

GARY PRESNELL BODYWORKS



Axalta Services manager, Robin Taylor, with Kate Presnell

Established in 1981 and servicing northern Tasmania, Gary Presnell Bodyworks is a leader in the collision repair industry. As the next-generation manager of this robust family business, Kate Presnell is dedicated to ensuring that her customers' expectations are exceeded.

Gary Presnell Bodyworks has been with Spies Hecker for 30 years. While Kate says the product is the best available on the market and the company wouldn't use another brand, she also pointed out the additional value in the business support provided by Axalta.

"We work closely with Axalta Service consultants and managers who provide us with advice regarding finances and general production improvement. We are working at becoming more efficient and this advice is important. They are a good support network." she said.

25
YEARS

STUTTGART AUTOS

Stuttgart Autos is Perth's only independent, authorised Mercedes-Benz service, parts and collision repairer, proudly operating for 45 years. Standox has been a pivotal partner in the success of the business, according to autobody manager, Hylton Augustus.



Hylton Augustus considers Axalta part of the family

"The product has helped us maintain a high standard of repair quality, as well as the replication of OEM standards and a high level of customer satisfaction that Stuttgart Autos has become renowned for," explained Hylton.

"We have been partnered with Standox for 25 years and we think of Axalta like a part of our family. The coating system is second nature for our paint technicians, as is the colour system and the ease of application."

Hylton also values the consistent training provided by Axalta and the continued technical support offered by the paint company. This has helped the business grow and adapt as market conditions change.

"We have chosen Standox as our preferred brand and will continue to do so for the next 25 years," he said.



ULTRA LOW ENERGY



BIG SAVINGS AT 40°C OR EVEN 20°C

With the Ultra Performance Energy System you can dry at 40°C or even at 20°C. That means record-breaking savings of up to 70% on energy costs. That's not all: Our brand new NS2081 - NS2084 - NS2087 Ultra Performance Non-Sanding Surfer gives you an unbeatable flash off time of just 5 minutes. And, using CC6700 Ultra Performance Energy Clear, vehicles can leave the spray booth after just 10-15 minutes at 40°C – freeing up the booth for other jobs. Even without forced drying, the entire process time is only just over an hour. Find out more at cromax.com.au/ultrasystem



 **ULTRA PERFORMANCE ENERGY SYSTEM**