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THE ULTIMATE FINISH

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Your Passion.
Our Coatings.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR



Your Passion. Our Coatings.

Our 35th issue of The Ultimate Finish highlights some of our local activities here at Axalta. From proudly supporting the upcoming WorldSkills Australia National Championships (page 16) to the rebranding of our renowned Axalta Services program to Drivus - a complete business partner for the refinish industry (page 5).

This issue, we focus on our Syrox brand which was introduced to the Australian market in 2016. Read how Syrox, our simple-to-use waterborne system, makes a transition to water very easy, and what our customers truly think of the brand in their testimonials on pages 12-14.

Of course, Axalta appreciates that not all customers are bodyshops working on cars. Flinders Aviation in Queensland (pages 8-9) as well as Dreamworld's Giant Drop (page 3) are examples of how our paint systems go beyond automotive refinishing.

And finally, we congratulate two long-term customers in South Australia for their 30-year commitment to our Spies Hecker (Forsyth Crash Repairs on page 18) and Cromax brands (Clayton's Auto Refinishers on page 19).

Stay safe and enjoy the read.

Steven Brett
Managing Director
Axalta Coating Systems



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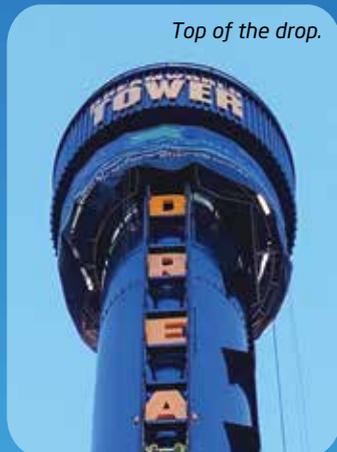
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A GIANT JOB

The Giant Drop at Queensland's Dreamworld is a 119m tower, and park-goers experience the equivalent of dropping an exhilarating 39 stories at 135 kilometres per hour!

All rides at Dreamworld and similar theme parks require continuous maintenance - daily, weekly, monthly and yearly - to ensure they are safe for the public. Every 10 years, the Giant Drop ride undergoes a major refurbishment.



Top of the drop.



The temporary suspended work platform.



Lifting the giant letters into place.

This job was recently completed by Wayne Cox and his team at Strongline Engineering. It took six months, with works mostly being undertaken between 6pm and 6am.

"The safety testing consists of NDT (non-destructive testing) and inspection of the ride. This involves examining for cracks inside the tube and welds using ultrasound technology. We sandblast off all the paint and areas of corrosion, and test the metal thickness. We also change about 1000 bolts, check every bolt to make sure it is perfect and replace all the bolts as required," explained Wayne.

To safely complete the works, the team created a 32-metre exclusion zone and erected a temporary suspended platform around the tube which has winches inside to lift three workers to enable them to do the sandblasting and painting work.

"There are thirteen of these towers around the world, but the work on the Giant Drop was a first for the size, height and type of platform. The TSWP (temporary suspended work platform) was designed and built by Strongline Engineering and we received a number of design awards. We also designed the platform to fit into a 20-foot shipping container so we could offer this solution to other theme parks around the world to either hire or buy," said Wayne

Local, Phil Hughes of Oz Trade Supplies, assisted Wayne with paint recommendations and supplies. Over 2000L of product were used to clean, prep and prime the structure. The topcoat was heavy duty Imron Fleet Line HDC Satin Matte in Eclipse Grey, with the yellow lettering in HDC Gloss.

"We changed the colour from a light grey to Eclipse Grey - it almost looks black. In the afternoon sun it gets this really nice glow. We also installed new lettering on the tower, with each letter being 2-metres tall," said Wayne.

In addition to working at Dreamworld on the Giant Drop, Wayne also maintains and inspects other amusement rides and devices such as roller coasters, carousels and tower rides in world-renowned theme parks in Australia and Worldwide.

Distributor: Oz Trade Supplies
Paint System: Imron Fleet Line

FROM PANEL BEATER TO PRECISION SPRAY PAINTER

When it comes to car refinishing, having the best of the best to get the job done with the utmost precision and attention to detail is a bodyshop owner's dream! Palmerston Smash Repairs based in Darwin in the Northern Territory has a talent in their ranks, with apprentice Isaiah Strong winning an industry award for the best spraying and colour matching.

Established in 1975, Palmerston Smash Repairs is a reputable and independent panel shop – one of the oldest in Darwin, specialising in vehicle repairs and other services. They made the switch to Spies Hecker's water-based Hi-TEC 480 in late 2019. When Isaiah started working in the business, it became obvious very quickly that he was an exceptional talent when he expressed his love for painting cars.

With an eagerness to learn, Isaiah picked up the art of spray painting and fast became one of the business' top spray painters.

"Isaiah, who has been with us for four years, spent his first two years as a panel beater," explained Palmerston Smash Repairs' owner John Makrylos. "We soon realised he had a real talent and watched his progression with pride."

It was therefore no surprise that Isaiah won the 2022 4th Year Automotive Refinishing Technology Award for spraying, colour matching and overall attitude, as best apprentice in his class.



Above: Isaiah's Trophy Award.

"With two trades now under the belt, we are extremely proud to have an all-rounder like Isaiah as one of our own," said John.

Isaiah's remarkable progress and his recent achievement is testament to the dedication Palmerston Smash Repairs has to training and equipping its staff to deliver the best possible services to its clients. On a visit to the Northern Territory, Axalta representative, Shane Woodcraft, presented Isaiah with a Sagola 4600 spray gun for winning the award, which was very well received and will no doubt be put to very good use!

Distributor: Automotive Paint Supplies, Darwin
Paint System: Spies Hecker Permahyd Hi-TEC



Shane presenting Isaiah with Sagola spray gun.

AXALTA LAUNCHES DRIVUS IN AUSTRALIA

Our renowned Axalta Services program is changing its name to Drivus - providing all the help needed to make your bodyshop future fit!

Launched in Europe in 2021, Drivus is designed to focus on the particular challenges faced by bodyshops, specifically targeting productivity, performance and profit.

"We have a long history of working with and understanding the very specific challenges faced by bodyshops of all sizes - from a small independent to a large multi-shop operation," says Robin Taylor, National Drivus Manager for Axalta. "We know that the Drivus program will be a great fit for customers in Australia & New Zealand."

Through Drivus, Axalta's new approach to key account management means the actual implementation of a true business partnership with customers is the main success factor. Drivus provides the resources to drive higher performance for customers.



The portfolio offered by Drivus will give bodyshops expert business tools and services, consultancy and training across a broad range of areas:

- Drivus Consultancy
- Drivus Digital Services
- Drivus Management Training
- Drivus Network Services

With a focus on optimising processes, Drivus finetunes every aspect of a bodyshop's day-to-day operations. By implementing initiatives designed to work faster, smarter and with less waste, efficiency is improved, allowing bodyshops to diversify new offerings. It is built on a mindset of constant, long-term improvement, and thanks to its tailored consultancy and digital tools, bodyshops not only take advantage of improvements today, but can also plan for their future.

The launch of Axalta Drivus support's Axalta's ongoing commitment to providing innovative products and services and helping our customers stay ahead of the curve.

For more information about Drivus, visit axalta.au/drivus



Drivus



THE RIGHT FIT

JOE WOODRUFF, MANAGING DIRECTOR AT WOODRUFF PREFERRED AUTO, HAS THE VISION TO BE THE MARKET-LEADING INDEPENDENT COLLISION REPAIR FACILITY IN QUEENSLAND.

Established in 1980 on the tropical Sunshine Coast by father Laurie, Woodruff Preferred Auto is in its second generation of management. Joe believes his focus on people, technology, innovative solutions, and reducing repair cycle times are the keys to differentiating Woodruff's from the market, and he and his team believe they're not far from realising their dream.

One of the secrets to the business' success has been putting the 'continual improvement' mantra at the core of everything Woodruff Preferred Auto does. They regularly ask the question "How can we do it better?" in their team and management meetings, which include Joe's brother, General Manager Nick Woodruff, and Refinish Operations Manager, Peter Cranswick.

Recently Woodruff's undertook an exhaustive review of all aspects of their business. Says Joe, "Following a massive investment in the site to improve workflow and efficiencies, we decided it was timely for a parts supply review. We were investing heavily in our parts department pre-COVID, and we knew the time was right to look at the market for the best products and supply partners moving forward."

On the heels of a successful parts review, Joe and the team turned their attention to the paint department. Determined to get optimal results from the selection process, Joe developed a comprehensive Request For Proposal (RFP) process, which included definitive evaluation criteria and specific focuses on innovation, technology, and training and development.

Joe even went to the extent of requesting professional references, such as his attention to detail.

"We put out an RFP to the big players. We started the process in February 2022, and it went on for ten months until December."

As part of the selection process, Joe visited nominated shops across the country, including New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and Queensland, to inspect facilities using the different refinish systems being submitted for consideration.

"I was impressed with how Axalta really stuck to their guns and performed well across the board. Scott Wiseman (Axalta's National Key Accounts & OEM Manager) reached out with a road map for what they had planned, which reflected what we were looking for."

Importantly for Joe, this wasn't a solo effort. The entire Woodruff's team was included in the RFP process from the outset, and they contributed to the final decision-making before awarding their business to Axalta and the Spies Hecker Permahyd Hi-TEC waterborne system.

"After the demonstrations were complete, we were all in agreeance. While another company was very close, one of the refinish techs joked he was leaving if we didn't go with Axalta!"



After a successful installation with minimal downtime – professionally supported by distributor Brisbane Refinish Supplies – the Woodruff Preferred Auto refinish technicians are confident with their decision and the quality of work they are producing.

“We are positioning ourselves as a flagship of the independents, with a strategic direction and vision. This is only the beginning of the journey, and we are excited for what the next period holds,” concluded Joe.

Distributor: Brisbane Refinish Supplies
Paint System: Spies Hecker Permahyd HI-TEC

What Joe, Nick, Peter and the team valued:

- **PEOPLE** – The Axalta and Woodruff teams were in sync from the outset, with a notable synergy of values and culture
- **PRODUCT** – The Permahyd Hi-TEC range delivers on reducing repair times and energy cost savings
- **PROCESSES** – Streamlined to reduce waste
- **TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION**
 - Colour retrieval through Phoenix and its ability to synchronise to the cloud
 - Data integration between Phoenix with i-Bodyshop and reporting
 - A distributor able to meet Woodruff’s service level requirements



PASSING THE BATON

For Queensland couple Michael and Loretta Kelly, who started their successful and reputable aviation business, Flinders Aviation back in 1983, passing the baton to their son to continue the legacy they have worked hard at building over the past 40 years was a decision that simply made sense.



Loretta, Michael and Ben Flinders.

As one of Australia's leading aircraft refurbishing businesses based in Redcliffe, Michael and Loretta run Flinders Aviation along with their son Ben and his wife, who are integral to the ongoing day-to-day operations on-site. The Kelly family's passion is evident in the meticulous work they do. With their combined wealth of knowledge and experience in maintenance and repair, father-and-son duo work together to refine and refurbish aircraft, while Loretta and her daughter-in-law take care of the administrative side of the business.



Hinterland plane.



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The road to Flinders Aviation's success started with an air show in 1985. "Michael's father was a pilot and owned a two-seater Victa Air Tourer," said Loretta. "He worked on, and refurbished the plane, before they flew it to the Schofield Air Show, where his hard work was recognised winning Michael the Best Refurbished Aircraft at the show." From there the business grew, bringing with it a strong reputation for excellent service and craftsmanship.

All aspects of aircraft maintenance, refinishing and refurbishment at Flinders Aviation is carried out under one roof, where preserving both the interior and exterior of aircraft is just as important as maintaining the system. With a 6-8 week turnaround time on refurbish jobs, they ensure that their projects are completed in a timely manner without compromising on the quality of work.

In addition to this, if a flight control removal and refit is required, the job will take longer, and will need to be done by an approved engineer - something Flinders Aviation offers in-house versus bringing subcontractors in.



Remote airfield.

With Michael and Loretta having run the business for over 40 years now, they came to the decision that it was time to take a step back, and planned to hand the reins over to their son Ben in June this year. He has been working with his father in the business since the age of 15, and then left to gain more experience, working as an engineer for Royal Flying Doctors and McDermott Aviation, before coming to work in the family business full-time.

Loretta said, "With retirement and travel on the horizon, we know that Ben will uphold and continue to grow the legacy we've built and keep Flinders Aviation in the family for generations to come." She went on to say, "Mick and I are really looking forward to taking some much-needed time out to do a spot of travelling and wake up when we want to!"

Flinders Aviation's customer base spans across Australia, with clients coming from a range of sectors, including the Royal Flying Doctors Service, CareFlight, Aviair and Tropicair chartered flights to name a few. Working closely with Brisbane Refinish Supplies, their reputation for excellence in craftsmanship and the use of high-quality materials and finishes such as Axalta's Imron AF700 metallic and Imron AF400 solid colour paints, has made them a household name within the industry.

Flinders Aviation prides themselves on going above and beyond for their clients, crafting customised solutions to help them get back in the air as quickly as possible. Their customer-centric approach is exemplified by their one-stop-shop for all of their clients' aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul needs.

**Distributor: Brisbane Refinish Supplies
Paint System: Imron Aviation**

READY FOR ADVENT

The team at CSA resprayed a Dodge Ram and kitted it out for the ultimate off-the-grid camping experience.

CSA Refinish, located in Yatala Queensland, is a family-run business which has been operated by husband-and-wife team Chris and Sarah Arthur for over 18 years. Recently, the talented team completed a respray of a Dodge Ram in a stunning customised, three-layered pearl blue in Spies Hecker Hi-TEC 480.

Chris and his team took the brand-new vehicle, which was originally grey, and pulled it apart in preparation for the repaint.

"The new car was a work vehicle," explained Chris. "We bought it in November last year and we wanted to use it as a promotion vehicle. Our aim was for it to be bright, in retro colours and with fluorescent signage so it really stands out."

In addition to the new, bright paintwork, the team tinted the tail lights and added new accessories.



SAGOLA 

TECH TIPS MAINTAIN

TO ACHIEVE THAT PERFECT FINISH, YOU NEED A GOOD QUALITY SPRAY GUN THAT IS WELL MAINTAINED. WHEN IT COMES TO CARING FOR YOUR SPRAY GUN, HERE ARE SOME TIPS THAT CAN EXPAND A GUN'S LIFE.

- Never completely soak your gun in solvent or harsh chemicals. This can damage air valve seals and create unnecessary maintenance and seal replacement work.
- Spray guns should be cleaned by hand or in an automatic gun wash machine. Most quality gun wash machines come with air attachments to push air (not solvent) through the air valve system of the gun. They also come with an attachment to keep the trigger compressed, allowing cleaning solvent to flow through the entire paint area within the gun.
- Take the time to wash your gun thoroughly after each colour.



URING

As well as being a promotional work vehicle, Chris wanted to be able to use the Dodge Ram for personal use, specifically for off-the-grid camping.

"We fitted a number of accessories to the car for camping, including a Bushwakka roof-top tent."

The tent is on structures on top of the car and when it is unlatched it has a queen-size bed on top of the tube rack. The Bushwakka also has an awning to provide protection when camping.



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Other accessories added for the best camping experience include an onboard ARB air compressor and auxiliary battery, additional to dual fridges and extra lighting.

From beginning to end the whole project took approximately four weeks to complete, and the vehicle is ready for years of adventures!

Distributor: Oz Trade Supplies

Paint System: Spies Hecker Permahyd Hi-TEC



Chris Arthur (owner), Dennis Nichitean (panel beater), Ben Domek (painter).

NING YOUR SPRAY GUN

- If cleaning with solvent, ensure you dry the gun thoroughly with air, then rinse with demineralised water prior to using waterborne basecoat.
- If you are having issues with your gun performance, then we recommend pulling it apart for a full service.

Sagola guns represent excellent value for money - with no gaskets, plastic parts or o-rings in the product area of the gun and include a 3-year warranty. But like all quality spray guns, they have seals within the air valve area that may need replacing if the gun is poorly maintained.

Scan the QR code for some easy-to-follow steps on how to maintain your 4600.



Keep the trigger compressed during cleaning.

NO FUSS REFINISHING WITH

Since its introduction to Australia in late 2016, Syrox - the easy-to-use, compact waterborne system - has been providing many bodyshops with an economical way to work. If you are a bodyshop that is hesitant in making the change from solvent to water or you are looking for simplicity in a system - then look no further than Syrox.



Everything Syrox offers from the functional, specially designed bottles requiring no traditional mixing machine or agitators, to the comprehensive, easy-to-access library of videos, focuses on making the job simpler.

At the heart of Syrox is a European formulated waterborne refinish paint system for just about any bodyshop that wants a traditional, simple and economical way of working in all types of bodyshop conditions. Applying the products is easy to learn, thanks to familiar two-coat application methods. It sprays like solvent basecoat - only it's water based!

Syrox is supported by a compact range of undercoats, clear coats and ancillary products. With access to a comprehensive global colour database of more than 70,000 colour formulas, the Acquire spectrophotometer turns accurate colour readings into the best, most accurate colour match.

You can read what our customers think of Syrox in the rest of this article. Check out our library of short application videos at www.syrox.com.au or scan the QR code. Syrox is technically supported in Australia and New Zealand by our network of distributors.



SYROX



WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS THINK

THE DON OF PAINT, WA

TESTIMONIAL: *"I've had every single paint on the market, and Syrox is the best value for money for what it can do. I go through so much paint, the work is so fast paced and it's so cheap for how good it is. The technology is great - I can dry a vehicle in 20 minutes in a conventional booth."*

Dave Cleary, owner of The Don of Paint based in Wangara WA, has been working in the paint and panel industry since 2005. He originally ran a business completing custom painting and restorations, and has also worked in a number of shops in the Perth area. Like many other operators, Dave was significantly impacted by the COVID pandemic with the business renting his industrial space closing down.

At the time, Dave was contracting to a number of car yards, repairing the paint and panels on trade-in cars using Syrox paints for his work. He saw this as an opportunity to set up a new business specifically aimed at working with car dealerships, from lower-end cars to high-end vehicles.

"This is where Syrox comes in," explains Dave. "It's a game changer. My business model runs on a per-panel price - this includes the labour and paint supplies. The Syrox paint is by far the best suited to this model."



It is important to Dave that the paint comes in small quantities as it allows him to minimise wastage when working on repairs that could be as small as a corner of a bumper to as large as the whole vehicle.

The Syrox system provides Dave with cost certainty, coupled with the confidence that the quality of his jobs will always be high.



Geoffrey (Axalta) with the Asco Motors Nadi team.

ASCO MOTORS (NADI, FIJI)

Brisbane-based Toyota Tsusho South Pacific Holdings is a distributor of Toyota vehicles and products in seven countries in the South Pacific. The company has 28 branches in total, including dealerships and support services, such as bodyshop facilities including Ella Motors in Nadi, Fiji.

A transition to water-based Syrox is a key element of Toyota Tsusho's commitment to reducing their carbon footprint. Historically, Toyota Tsusho has been using a solvent-based paint system on the approximately 5,000 car repairs undertaken by their team.

"We are moving away from solvent-based systems to water-based paint," explains Amish Patel, Group Service & CRM Manager. "There are certain places, such as Samoa, where we were required to make changes to meet statutory requirements."

While building a new facility for its Ella Motors dealership in Nadi, Fiji on a greenfield site, the company saw the opportunity to install a new water-based paint system into their repair facility. Further to discussions with the local Axalta distributor, Classic Paints, and Axalta's Technical Supervisor, Jason Ryan, Amish concluded that Syrox would be the best fit for the business and began preparations for the install.

TESTIMONIAL: "No one else in Fiji was using water-based paint. As this was the first Syrox system installed in Fiji - and probably the first waterborne system in the country - it was important that our staff were thoroughly trained in all aspects of Syrox. We were pleased that Jason Ryan and Geoffrey Stringfellow from Axalta visited to share their experiences firsthand," said Amish.

The Ella Motors team found the transition to waterborne very easy. Set up on the new system was quick, as the colour system sits on a shelving unit, not a mixing bank. And with a similar two-coat application process to the Cromax solvent system they were previously using, the transition period was much quicker than anticipated. Toyota Tsusho will begin to convert other bodyshops to the Syrox system in the near future.

Amish and his team plan to have a big launch of Syrox at their main branch in Suva. "We will invite insurance companies and the media. This will highlight that we are making these changes not purely for the customer benefit, but also as part of our corporate goal of reducing climate impacts," Amish concluded.



The workshop at Asco Motors.



The Syrox paint system.



Staff training at Asco Motors.



COACH'S CORNER WITH ROBIN TAYLOR

EMPLOYEE RETENTION AND DEVELOPMENT

The capacity issue that we are currently facing in the industry, I believe, is not due to a significantly higher volume of work, but to a lack of skilled technicians. We have shops that are adding extra physical capacity, only to ignore adding people capacity.

This problem extends beyond Australia, as technician shortages are being reported in industry magazines around the world. And while for many shops the short-term solution is to 'steal' technicians from other shops, it really misses the opportunity in building a stable and reliable team from the ground up.

If we take a step back, we can see that a limited labour pool is contributing to higher employee costs per hour. Increased labour costs along with other price pressures (from work-providers) means shops want their technicians to be productive. They can't afford to pay technicians to spend time training apprentices or non-qualified staff. So, without a focus on training the labour pool remains tight and the vicious cycle continues.

To retain staff, you need to make yourself the employer of choice. What is going to make you the employer of choice? This is the million-dollar question!

I believe critical to being a great employer, is providing vision, value and a great culture. These are all important factors to staff retention. Engaging with staff and involving them makes an enormous difference. Yes, you need to pay a competitive salary - but do you have to pay the highest wages in the market? By asking yourself the question - would my staff change for \$20 per week? \$50? or \$100? - this starts to put a value on how they see your business. Salary is only one factor. Work culture - including access to staff development - also plays a big part.

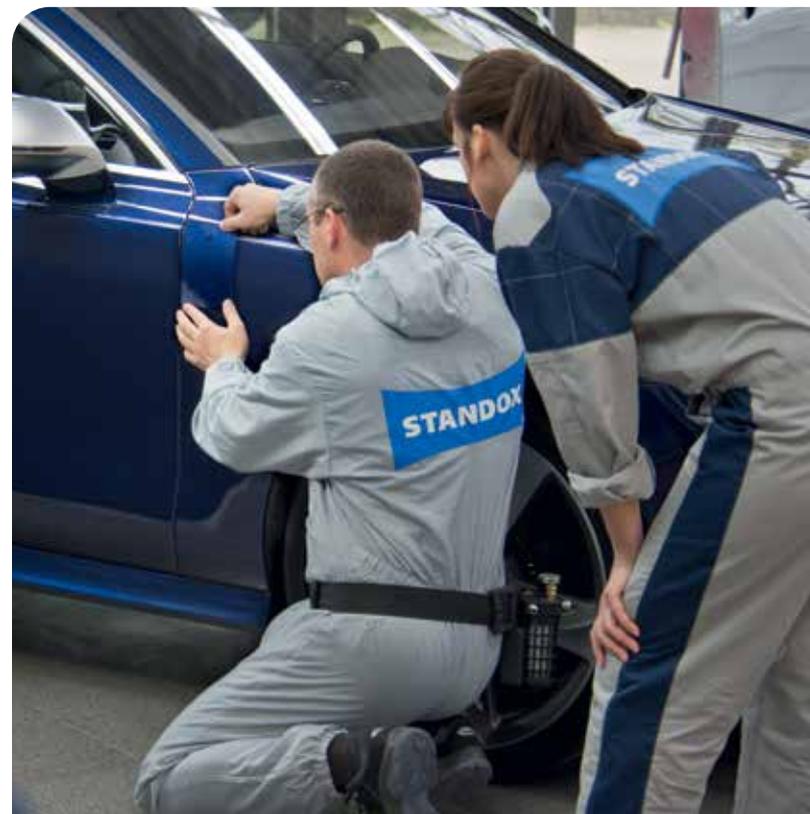
The current lack of staff, the opening of new sites, plus the backlog of work has started a wage spiral that is impacting the profitability of many shops - especially those on a fixed price model.

Take this opportunity to think about your business and how you can best maximise the labour pool you have. Are there employees that have the potential to grow if you provided them with the right training? Are you able to have your technician spend time with an apprentice, with the view of expanding your team and labour capacity (short-term pain for long-term gain)? Are you creating a safe and clean working environment? Do employees like coming to work? Will they stay because it's a great place to work? Building a great workplace culture definitely makes a difference to employee retention.

With a focus on attracting new young people into the industry, we can all play our part. As a starting point, we need to raise the image of the industry. I see some great shops and then some not so great shops.

How does your shop fit in?

If you need support, please get in touch with our Drivus team at: info-anz@axalta.com



GEARING UP FOR MELBOURNE 2023

Axalta is gearing up to support the WorldSkills Australia National Championships once more, as we celebrate our nation's brightest up-and-coming trainees and apprentices from a diverse range of industries. Held in Melbourne from 17-19 August, the National Championships will see nine regional finalists go head-to-head in the Automotive Refinishing category. They are competing for a chance to be part of Team Australia at the biennial WorldSkills International Competition 2024 in Lyon, France.

As the category sponsor, Axalta has been providing training support to each of the competitors in the lead up to the Nationals to ensure all competitors are up to speed on the Standox range of products being used in the competition.

Competing for the Gold Medal:

LACHLAN ARGENT (NSW)
 DYLAN CLEAVER (NSW)
 NICKOLAS ABELA (NSW)
 NEHA SINGH (NSW)
 KYNAN BONANNO (NSW)
 BRYSON KINGSTON (QLD)
 ZANE CANNON (VIC)
 JAKE TWYFORD (VIC)
 DYLAN HOSKIN (VIC)



Bryson Kingston (QLD)

Bryson (22) has an appreciation for cars and great paint jobs, which led him to seek work at Hollywood Restorations in Brisbane. Supported by his friend Trent Jensen (Stato), Bryson spends his time focused on the custom side of painting, often making him think outside the box. He sees the WorldSkills Nationals as "an opportunity to push myself while working with and against some of the best apprentices in the country".



Dylan Cleaver (NSW)

Encouraged by his TAFE teacher, Dylan (23) competed in and won the Northern Rivers NSW regional competition in 2022. Since then, he's been improving his skills both in the workplace (at Forbes Smash Repairs with mentor Russell) and with extra training at TAFE, in preparation for the WorldSkills Nationals.



Nickolas Abela (NSW)

Living and working in Western Sydney, Nickolas has always enjoyed working on and building cars. He's loving every minute of his WorldSkills Journey and "can't wait to see where this takes me".



Zane Cannon (VIC)

Since he was small, Zane (20) has been inspired by his father who is also a spraypainter. At 17, he took his first step and secured himself an apprenticeship at Heywoods Shepparton Motor Panel. Keen to see how far he can go in the competition, Zane has been working with his mentor and TAFE teacher, Anthony Coleman with a focus on colour matching and panel preparation.

"I have been training in any free time I have, so I can strengthen my skills as much as possible before competition day".



ONE DOOR CLOSES, ANOTHER OPENS

The Axalta team at Marsden Park in Sydney's West, recently closed the door on the final export shipment to Europe under the Rheinmetall Land 121 projects.

Since 2015 Axalta has manufactured and exported over 600,000 litres of specialised Australian military paint, to both Rheinmetall and their European subcontractor network in locations from Germany, Spain, Finland, Estonia, and beyond. The projects under Land 121 provided the Australian Defence Force with high-capability field vehicles, modules and trailers.

Looking back on the last 8 years, Axalta's Military Program Manager, Michael Busch, recognised the team's efforts.

"When we established our supply chain to meet our commitments to Rheinmetall in 2015, no-one could have foreseen the global logistic challenges that lay ahead."

"The COVID pandemic was a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence, and without the professionalism and flexibility of all those involved on both the Axalta and Rheinmetall side, devastating delays would have been inevitable.



I particularly want to recognise and thank the warehousing team who have physically packed each of the 600,000 litres, and ensured that deliveries went out as soon as possible, and arrived up to four months later in the same condition as when they left."



Above: Last shipment. Below left: The local Axalta warehouse team.

Though the final doors to the shipping containers have closed, Axalta maintains a close relationship with Rheinmetall, having recently been awarded the paint supply contract for Rheinmetall's Land 400 Phase 2 Boxer project.

"Boxer will be significantly different to the Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles (RMMV) EU logistic truck builds as most of the work is being completed here in Australia, at the Rheinmetall MILVEHCOE facility in Brisbane. The local Axalta team looks forward to working closer than ever with the production line, ensuring the finished products consistently present with Axalta's industry leading paintwork."

Land 400 Phase 2 commits to the build of 225 Boxer Infantry Fighting Vehicles and is scheduled to continue until at least 2026.

NEW! CARBON FIBRE SEALER

The newly released Imron Fleet Line Carbon Fibre Sealer U190 is an innovative extension for both passenger vehicle and commercial vehicle repairers. This polyurethane-based, transparent pore-filler offers superior adhesion and durability, and is specially developed for application on all types of carbon fibre parts.

Jim Iliopoulos, Axalta's local Product and Technical Manager, states, "The new Carbon Fibre Sealer U190 gives repairers the opportunity to increase their productivity whilst extending their offering. The two-component system reduces process steps and material consumption coupled with easy application. Refinishers can then choose to air dry or to oven bake. And there is the added benefit that it can be overcoated with Imron Fleet Line EL500 clear coat in just one pass."

Carbon Fibre Sealer U190 has been developed especially for commercial vehicle and industrial use and is suitable for use on many carbon fibre parts. It should be used in combination with the Imron Fleet Line Industry PUR Activator EV316 Fast and is suitable for automotive ancillaries and accessories.

Jim concludes, "Carbon fibre can be porous so in order to ensure a smooth surface while keeping the unique look of carbon fibre weave, the use of Carbon Fibre Sealer U190 is key."

Talk to your Axalta distributor for further details.





TALKING CV IN NZ

When it comes to commercial vehicle (CV) and industrial coatings, the team at Resene certainly know their stuff. As Axalta's New Zealand Importer for Imron Fleet Line and Nason Industrial, they are renowned for providing exceptional support to their customers.

But not one to rest on his laurels, Craig Marshall, CV/Industrial Manager at Resene, recently invited Axalta's Matt Carlin to train his team and present at their two-day FLEETCARE Conference in Tauranga, New Zealand. FLEETCARE is Resene's Commercial Vehicle Refinisher network, providing fleet owners accurate colour and brand repeatability throughout NZ.

The conference included a select group of NZ CV repairers from across both islands, along with Resene's own technical staff. As Axalta's technical expert in the CV/Industrial area, Matt was eager to present the benefits of the new Imron Fleet Line DTM P60X Primer and explain the roll-out of the CV Training Passport.

Prior to the conference, Matt undertook a rigorous Imron Fleet Line passport assessment with the Resene technical team to ensure they were up to speed with all aspects of the CV system in order to deliver the training passport program.

Matt also had the opportunity to visit many of Resene's customers throughout NZ including - Domett Trailers, Intertruck Distributors, Extreme Boats and KiwiRail.

Below: Axalta & Resene KiwiRail visit in Wellington.



30 YEARS FORSYTH CRASH REPAIRS

Since 1975, family-run Forsyth Crash Repairs has been providing crash repair services to the community of Port Augusta in South Australia, including a lot of kangaroo damage!

Following a move from Victoria in the early 1970s, Colin Forsyth began working for the original owner, and was offered the opportunity to purchase the business. For many years, Colin and Julie ran the shop, with Colin working by himself on the shop floor. When their eldest son Brenton was 16 years old, he decided he wanted to join his father.

"Brenton began his panel beating apprenticeship and he now does a lot of the metal finishing," explained Julie. "Then our youngest, Terry, decided he wanted to come and work with his dad as a spraypainter. Colin got him to spray an old fender as a test and he was impressed with his work."

From there, Terry went on to complete his apprenticeship and was awarded Douglas Mawson Institute's Apprentice of the Year in 2003.

For the last 30 years, the team has been using Spies Hecker, and have formed a close relationship with the Axalta representatives.

"When we first started, Craig Tonkes was the representative in Adelaide and we've known him since we've been using Spies Hecker. Even though he's now the National Sales Manager based in Queensland, Craig flew down (accompanied by Axalta's South Australian Territory Business Manager, Peter Kingsley-Rowe) to present us with the Recognition Award, so that was really special," Julie concluded.

Distributor: Crash Supplies SA

Paint System: Spies Hecker Permahyd Hi-TEC

Below: Peter congratulates Colin and Julie Forsyth.



RECOGNITION AWARDS

30
YEARS

SPIES HECKER

Wayne Marschall Crash Repairs NURIOOTPA SA

25
YEARS

STANDOX

Jack Hillermans Smash Repairs ARTARMON NSW

Northpoint Motor Body Repairs HORNSBY NSW

SPIES HECKER

Mt Waverley Body Repairs MOUNT WAVERLEY VIC

20
YEARS

SPIES HECKER

Michael Lukich Auto Body Works DELACOMBE VIC

15
YEARS

STANDOX

Mark Scott Classic and Customs WILLUNGA SA

CROMAX

Exclusive Mechanical & Smash Repairs SMITHFIELD NSW

AXALTA

Hawkins Truck Refinishers ROCKLEA QLD

10
YEARS

SPIES HECKER

Garland Crash Repairs JERUSALEM SA

CROMAX

Central Coast Smash Repairs GOSFORD NSW

The Smash Repair Centre PENRITH NSW

Tru Blue Smash Repairs MOOREBANK NSW

30
YEARS

CLAYTON'S AUTO REFINISHERS

Clayton's Auto Refinishers was founded in the early 1970s by owner Glenn Clayton's father in Whyalla, South Australia, which he ran as a one-man-band for a number of years. In 2000, Glenn's parents retired and he took over the shop. The shop remained small, with four to six people on the floor and another two in the office. Over time, the style of work has somewhat changed, with the shop now concentrating its efforts on smaller jobs.

"We started using Cromax 30 years ago and back then the system was years ahead of its time. We were struggling to get the colours to cover and get a good enough finish. It was taking us twice as long to finish jobs as it did once Cromax was installed," Glenn explained.

This was particularly special as 30 years ago, Axalta's National Sales Manager, Craig Tonkes, was working for Tasman Trading and assisted with the system installation.

"Craig simply said 'try this' and gave us a demonstration. We then used a metallic colour on an EA Falcon and that one job pretty much decided it for us - and we've been with Cromax ever since. Over the years, we've had many other companies try to convert us but we've always been happy with the product and service from Axalta, and we aren't changing now."

Distributor: Crash Supplies SA

Paint System: Cromax Centari and Syrox

Below: Craig congratulating Glenn on 30 years with Cromax.





Drivus

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WE ARE NOW DRIVUS

YOUR PARTNER IN BUILDING A STRONGER BUSINESS

Our renowned Axalta Services program is now known as Drivus - all the help you need to make your bodyshop future fit.

Are you maximising the profit potential of your bodyshop? Drivus can help. It is a suite of innovative services, programs and tailored expert consultancy designed to improve efficiency in every aspect of your business. The result? Higher business productivity. Better performance. And more profitability.

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