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THE ULTIMATE FINISH

ISSUE 25 MARCH 2020



IN THIS ISSUE

STUNNING 55 CHEVY RESTORATION
FIRE BOAT HELPING TO BATTLE THE BLAZES
TECH TIPS FROM OUR EXPERTS
NEW ABRASIVES RANGE FROM AUDURRA

Your Passion.
Our Coatings.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3 Fairway Panel & Paint
- 4-5 55 Chevy Restoration
- 6 Auto Care Panel Works
- 6 Audurra Products
- 7 Excel Marine
- 8 2020 Colour of the Year
- 8 Tech Tip: How to fix Paint Defects
- 9 Bucher Municipal
- 9 Digital Colour Management
- 10 Sagola 5300X Air Filter
- 10 New Cromax PF96 Pore Filler
- 10 Tech Tip: Colour Inspector
- 11 MCQ Smash Repairs
- 11 Axalta Business Excellence Award Winner
- 11 Recognition Awards

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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**.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR



Your Passion. Our Coatings.

Our first issue for 2020 marks a new direction for The Ultimate Finish, as we increase our issues from two, to three per year. This change will allow us to bring you, our readers, more timely and relevant stories throughout the year.

We start off this issue by celebrating the success of a customer at the 2019 Bodyshop Awards. Not only did Fairway Panel & Paint win Best New Shop Award (WA), but they were also

acknowledged for their generosity in Indonesia with the Best Community Award. Similarly, later in the magazine, we give a special mention to Weststar Prestige who were the winners of the Axalta Business Excellence Award. Well done to all involved.

Our cover photo this month is the result of a passion project, a restoration of a 55 Chevy. Pages 4 and 5 highlight the process, time and care that went into bringing this stunning car back to life with the help of our coatings.

We were also just as proud to see our coatings used on an RFS Fire Boat which helped to battle the terrible blazes across NSW late last year/early this year. The boat on page 7 isn't the only item featured in this issue that has been coated in a striking red colour, also boasting a red tone is the new compacter from Bucher Municipal, which you can read about on page 9.

Be sure to read our tech tips featured in this issue, helping you to rectify some common paint defects and providing tips on getting the light right with your colour inspector.

Enjoy the read.

Sincerely,

Steven Brett
Managing Director
Axalta Coating Systems



A GEM IN THE HEART OF FREMANTLE

In 2016 a devastating fire gutted Fremantle's Fairway Panel & Paint. The fire forced the business to close for 19 months. However, not one to let bad luck get him down, Rob Richardson saw this as an opportunity to rebuild the shop and install the latest in repair technology. On reopening, their hard work and dedication was rewarded when the shop was awarded the Best New Shop Award (WA) in the 2019 Paint & Panel Awards.

The family business has been continuously operating for 49 years after being established in 1967 by Brian Richardson before current owner, Rob joined him four years later. Alongside Rob works his daughter Amy at reception and son Matt manages the paint shop.

Not content to just run a busy family business, Rob is also keen on giving back, which was recognised when Rob received the Best Community Award at the same award ceremony. For 15 years, Rob has been delivering hospital and school supplies to Nusa Lembongan - a small Indonesian island - all out of his own pocket. While the shop was being rebuilt he ramped up his efforts while he had the opportunity - travelling there six times a year to deliver much-needed supplies.

It's all day-to-day things we take for granted - band-aids, bandages, Ventolin for the kids. But it means the world to the families Rob has gotten to know so well.

"The families that I help, if they go to hospital, they don't have the money to pay for it so they might die without some of the equipment I take. For the children, I've taken laptops and other school supplies and the kids are doing really well. Some have gone to university and one is a headmaster! In the end, you can't take the money with you."

**Axalta Technical Consultant - Shane Woodcraft
Distributor - Global Autocoat
Paint System - Spies Hecker**



Owner Rob Richardson (centre) is lucky enough to work with his children, Amy (left) and Matt (right).



The shop was gutted by fire in 2016.



The rebuilt shop, equipped with the latest repair technology.

A BALTIMORE *Beauty*



Jim Pittas, from Victoria worked hard to bring this stunning 55 Chevy back to life.

Two-tone 55 Chevy restoration shines

Jim Pittas had a passion to restore a Chevy - originally a 57. However, a couple of years of looking at the local offerings for sale left him unimpressed - he felt they were expensive for the quality of the cars. It was a suggestion from a friend that prompted him to turn to America, specifically the website Craigslist, which is famous for having everything for sale!

"A friend of mine who imports cars told me to get on Craigslist and have a look," explained Jim when asked why he sourced his car from America. "They were a pretty good price and the Aussie dollar was pretty strong in 2013. I found a 55 Chevy for USD\$18,000."

After checking out the car's papers and making sure everything was legitimate, Jim put in an offer which was accepted. All that was left was to get the car from Baltimore to Victoria. That was up to Jim's friend Tony "Gee" from TGS Service Centre in Moorabbin, who regularly imports cars to Australia from the US. "Within two weeks, the car was packed and ready to come over," said Jim. "The hardest part was the waiting!"

The Chevy arrived between Christmas and New Year Day, and without hesitation Jim jumped straight into bringing the classic car back to life. Despite the 40-degree summer heat, and the fact the car had more rust than promised, Jim had the car completely stripped back in a couple of weeks.



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Moving from the front of the car to the back, Jim cut out the rust and repaired the car panel by panel - painstakingly putting each panel in primer, filling the holes with a poly-filler and rubbing it back by hand.

"I reckon I spent at least 180 to 200 hours on rubbing and rubbing by hand - backwards and forwards, criss-cross. And if I was unhappy with it - I did it again," Jim said.

The doors proved to be challenging - the rust required them to be reskinned. Each door took Jim a week to complete.

"To weld it up, you would have to weld it every two inches and then let it cool down. If you do it too quickly the metal warps," explained Jim. "There were a lot of hours of body time preparation."

With the hardest work done, the Chevy was ready to be rolled into the painting booth. Not happy with the car's original colour, Jim and his brother Spiro, a painter by trade, debated which colour to go with.

"I started looking at a candy apple colour, but my brother talked me out of it," Jim laughed. "Then we look at the Lamborghini colours, and decided on a two-tone look in a three-stage Monterey Blue and Balloon White. My brother sourced the colours from Axalta's Standox range."

After six-hours in the booth being perfectly and painstakingly painted, the shiny new Chevy was ready to for the finishing touches. The chrome that was in good nick was cleaned up, the rest replaced with new parts shipped in from America. The new dash is in stunning black, with blue carpets to reflect the two-tone finish.

The final luxurious touch was brand new, custom-made leather upholstery in white and blue.

With the engine rebuilt, this beauty was ready for the road, where it gets plenty of admiring looks wherever it goes.

Photos courtesy of White Line Society.



BRILLIANT BUSINESS IN THE TOP END

A second-generation family business, Auto Care Panel Works in Darwin is run by husband and wife team Craig and Sierra Ferguson. The shop caters for all collision repairs, but they are the only approved bodyshop for repairs to BMW and Porsche in the Northern Territory, and are preferred dealership repairers for Audi, Mercedes and Volkswagen.

Established in 1981 by his parents, Craig took over the family business 13 years ago and Sierra joined the team five years ago. It's a combination that has proved successful with business growth requiring a move to a custom-built location, five years ago, which was triple the size. Since the move, the couple has grown the business by a further 200 percent.

Recently making the move to Permahyd Hi-Tec, the water-based Spies Hecker system, Craig feels the move has had significant benefits to the business.

"The Spies Hecker water-based product works well in our humidity. It dries well and helps to improve our productivity."

While they hadn't used the Spies Hecker products in the shop for a number of years, the Axalta representative stayed in contact and when the time was right, they made the move.

"We keep investing in new technology for the workshop and we are also developing our staff with external and internal training," said Sierra.



Sierra and Craig Ferguson at Auto Care Panel Works, Darwin.

"The pod technology in the workshop allows us to be as productive as possible," explains Craig. "We currently put out about 50 cars a week and we are looking to obtain more badges to secure more from our investment."

The team at Auto Care Panel Works also supported Belgium Agoria Solar Team when it arrived in Darwin late last year for the Bridgestone Solar Challenge. Allowing them to use their facility and giving them some tips on how to paint in Darwin conditions. The team went on to win first place in the race.

The business is thriving, and people are noticing - Sierra has recently been nominated for Northern Territory's Telstra's Business Woman of the Year and we wish her luck this year when the finalists for Australia are announced!

**Axalta Technical Consultants - Mick Tutty & Shane Woodcraft
Distributor - Robayne Industrial Supplies, Berrimah
Paint System - Permahyd Hi-Tec, Spies Hecker**

SANDING MADE EASIER

The ABC's aren't just for kids anymore, as Audurra's expanded range of premium abrasives classifies products in an A-B-C-D-E system. With eight items to cover 90 percent of applications, sanding has never been easier. The focus of the system is to choose the product that is right for the application as opposed to choosing a grit size.

The product features include only four grits for paint preparation (A to D). The coarse grits focus on removal rate and time savings, while the fine grits have low scratch depths for perfect finish. In addition, there is one grit (E) for use in blending.

Standard Process 26 Items	A-B-C-D-E System 8 Items
80 80 80 80	A A
120 120 120 120	B B
180 180 180 180	C C
240 240 240 240	D D
320 320 320 320	E E
420 420 420 420	
500	
600	

The new products include discs, strips and soft-rolls. These premium discs, strips and soft rolls are specifically developed to work effectively with Axalta Paint Systems and are designed for high-efficiency sanding.



Scan to see the
Audurra Catalogue

BATTLING THE *Blazes*



Engineering 15, a purpose-built fire boat, had only been handed over to the RFS in early November before being called into action a few weeks later. Built by Excel Marine, located on the Central Coast of NSW, the latest Cat 15 Prototype vessel took six months to complete.

In the final stages of completion, the boat was coated using Imron Fleetline products from Cromax, the colour being "RFS RED".

Paint supplier, Wallaby Crash Supplies provided guidance throughout the complete process from preparation to painting.

Each summer, when our country is ravaged by fire, access to areas via waterways is sometimes the only way to provide assistance or help with evacuation efforts. Designed with numerous firefighting and water-based capabilities, and using an up to date suite of electronic equipment, Engineering 15 is well equipped to help battle blazes.

Axalta Technical Consultant - Steven Viney
Distributor - Wallaby Crash Supplies
Paint System - Imron Fleetline



The team from Excel Marine hand over the fire boat, Engineering 15 to the RFS.

MAKING A *Splash*

"SEA GLASS" IS THE 2020 AUTOMOTIVE COLOUR OF THE YEAR

Sea Glass is already making waves with its striking chroma and rich colour! The green-blue shade is captivating, with premium glass flake effects that represent the calming, powerful elements found in the ocean, while staying on-trend with the recent rise of blue vehicles.

This colour marks the sixth edition of the exclusive Automotive Colour of the Year and is designed with a versatile appeal across all regions and vehicle types. More than just beautiful and trendy, its reflective and transmissive properties are measurable by autonomous vehicle detection systems. Keep an eye out for this stunning colour on our roads in 2020!

TECH TIP #1 HOW TO FIX PAINT DEFECTS IN WATERBORNE BASECOAT

A painter's nightmare is encountering unexpected issues when a waterborne basecoat has dried. While it is always better to fix issues in a wet condition, it is still possible to rectify problems at this stage. Here are some tips to keep in mind:

DUST / DIRT CONTAMINATION

Before re-applying the basecoat, it is important to sand the area to remove the defect. When re-applying, you should aim to spray a light coat that isn't too wet and at a shorter distance to the vehicle to reduce overspray. This can be done in three to four coats to ensure the coating is uniform and even.

Scan the QR code to see these tips in action, in a training video.



SPIES HECKER



STANDOX



CROMAX

NEW COMPACTOR DEBUTS

Bucher Municipal is one of the five core divisions of the global industrial group Bucher Industries, and is today recognised as the leading provider of equipment to the Waste Industry. Bucher Municipal boasts an impressive product range of compactors and equipment.

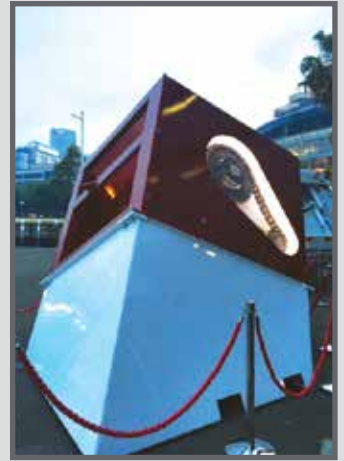
Recently Bucher Municipal launched its newest AS120s Stationary Auger, Marathon Mini-MAC Stationary compactor and new Electric Vehicle Rear Loader at their customer launch in Darling Harbour.

The AS120s Auger compactor is an Australian manufacturing first, compacting pallets and large boxes. Customers were not only wowed by what the compactor can do, but also by its stunning finish as it is coated in a Mazda Special Red colour.

"We have had a lot of interest in the AS120s Auger," said Production Manager, Shawn Dowie. "It's unique because our products are designed and manufactured right here in Australia. The Auger meets the demands of our customers for disposing large boxes for refrigerators and TVs."



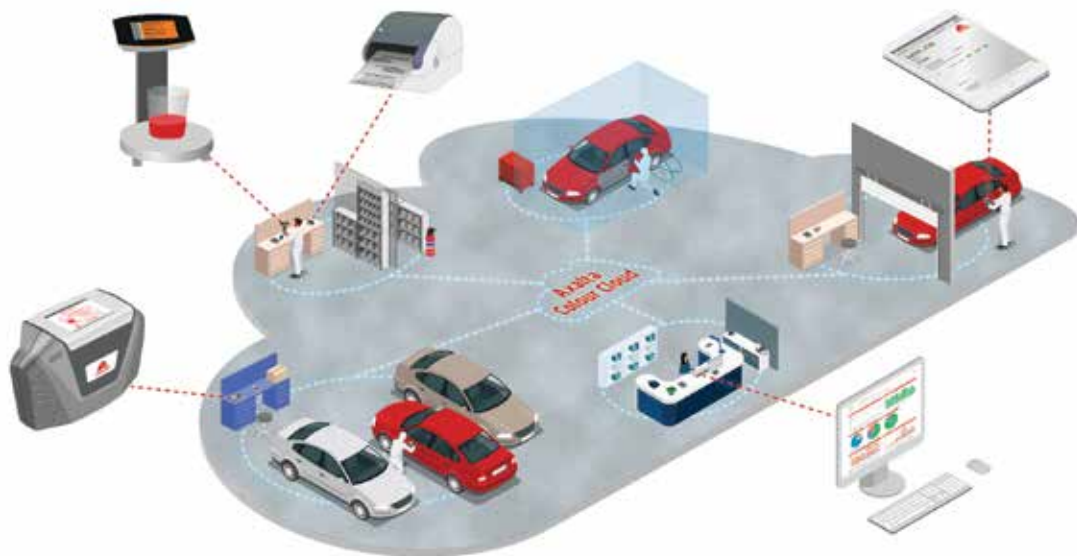
The AS120s Stationary Auger compactor debuts at customer launch in Darling Harbour.



Their Bulk Waste division located in Western Sydney exclusively use the Imron Fleetline System for all their Bulk Waste products.

"Imron Fleetline gives us the quality we are after," explains Shawn. "The two-pack system gives a good quality finish, and it's long lasting."

"The AS120s Auger also adds a great option to our current product offering and like all of our products, they are high quality and long lasting, to suit a range of environments."



WIRELESS COLOUR MANAGEMENT

The world is becoming wireless and Digital Colour Management is following suit. Bodyshops can now handle the entire colour retrieval and colour mixing processes not only completely digitally, but also 100% wirelessly - something that is unique to Axalta.

The ability to do everything wirelessly significantly reduces time wasted walking off the shop floor. Refinishers can take colour readings from a vehicle, which will link up with the online global colour database and allow the refinisher to easily choose the best match from a smartphone or tablet, which is then sent to an IP scale for mixing the colour formula.

The beauty of this wireless web of technology is that everything can be accessed by everyone in the same bodyshop network making the whole process more accurate, more efficient and more profitable.

For more information about Axalta and its Digital Colour Management, visit axalta.com.au/digitalcolourmanagement

SAGOLA 

CLEAN FILTERS, CLEAN AIR

The Sagola 5300 Air Filter has had an exciting upgrade and is now the

5300X

Sagola has long been developing quality air filters for the collision repair market and the 5300X is another notable addition to their range. While most other aspects of the system remain the same as the superceded 5300, a most impressive addition is the Filter Life Controller - a dynamic single-use reading device on the side of the filter. The handy device monitors the life-span of your filters and alerts you when a replacement is due. Like any filtration system, regular filter changing ensures the system performs its best, does not become clogged and keeps staff healthy.

Combined with the Sagola 4240 Air Fed Face Mask, this complete system will provide clean breathing air and defect free spraying air.

Sagola products are manufactured in Spain and come with a three year warranty.

For more information talk to your local distributor.



NEW PF96 PORE FILLER

Cromax has added a new item to it's portfolio.

The PF96 Pore Filler has been specifically developed to seal small pores in surfaces of plastic parts and sanded polyester putties. This one-pack product is ready for use without mixing.

Available to order now through your local distributor.



TECH TIP #2 GET THE LIGHT RIGHT

Whether carrying out damage appraisals, comparing car colour with samples or checking the freshly painted finish for dust inclusions, using the right light is critical to getting it right. Using your Axalta Colour Inspector, you can achieve optimal colour conditions at any time by choosing the right light level.

- **LIGHT LEVEL 1** makes it possible to compare light solid and effect colours accurately. Choose this for silver colours.
- **LIGHT LEVEL 2** is suitable for medium and mid-toned effect colours.
- **LIGHT LEVEL 3** is best for dark and very dark colours.

Daylight (clean light D65) is good for overall colour and flake assessment for Metallic and Solid colours. The evening light (A) or red light is good for checking metamerism.

When it comes to judging between two different test panels for Metallic colours, the evening light is also best.

The Axalta Colour Inspector is available to buy from your local distributor.

RECOGNITION AWARDS

35
YEARS

MCQ SMASH REPAIRS



MCQ Smash Repairs, located in the Sydney suburb of Revesby is celebrating 35 years with Spies Hecker.

The business was started in the family backyard in 1971 by Dennis McHugh. Larger premises were soon required, resulting in a move to Peakhurst where brother Rod joined the team. Their current site in Revesby was purchased in 1984. After selecting Spies Hecker, they quickly realised the benefits of the products and have been using them ever since.

"The ongoing support is second to none. It's the best for us and we find it great to work with," Rod said. "We are proud to have been associated with Spies Hecker since day one."

The brothers also established Sydney Caravan Repairs 20 years ago, working on repairing caravans and motor homes and continue using Spies Hecker products in this specialist field. "The new generation caravans are made from aluminium and fiberglass, together with myriad custom colour schemes, so Spies Hecker fits the bill perfectly."

CONGRATULATIONS WESTSTAR PRESTIGE

Last year, Weststar Prestige were the winners of the Axalta Business Excellence Award as a part of the Paint & Panel Bodyshop Awards. The judges selected this shop as their dedication to detail in all aspects of their business, as well as their top-class presentation, cleanliness and organisation showcased what Business Excellence means.

Of winning the award, owner Brad Kolich said: "To us excellence, at the end of the day, means providing a service to the marketplace that is streamlined and efficient and results in satisfied customers who are happy to refer us or use our services again. In our 46 years we are proud that we have been able to achieve and maintain this for our customers."



Craig Tonkes (right), Axalta Coating Systems, National Sales Manager presents the award to Brad (left), James and Ashleigh Kolich.

25
YEARS

SPIES HECKER

Cathcart Smash Repairs, BENDIGO VIC

20
YEARS

CROMAX

All Type Crash, PARA HILLS WEST SA

Central Accident Repairs, KANGAROO FLAT VIC

Yeppoon Panel & Paint, YEPPOON QLD

SPIES HECKER

Arafura Crash Repairs, WINNELLIE NT

Pro Finish Smash Repairs, BOWRAL NSW

STANDOX

Kerrigans Accident Repairs, LOWER TEMPLESTOWE VIC

Marque Autobody, HALLAM VIC

15
YEARS

SPIES HECKER

Walker Bros, CASINO QLD

10
YEARS

CROMAX

Dave's Paint and Panel, CARDIFF NSW

Dysart Panel & Paint, CAWARRAL QLD

Fuller Brothers Bodyworks, BELCONNEN ACT

Mark Pulham Smash Repairs, MONA VALE NSW

Perth Truck Refinishers, FORRESTFIELD WA

SPIES HECKER

Rosenthal Automotive, BERRI SA

Smeaton Grange Paint & Panel, SMEATON GRANGE NSW

Top Gun Panel & Paint, BEERWAH QLD

STANDOX

Casanova Crash Repairs, KENT TOWN SA

Mercedes-Benz Melbourne Autobody, PORT MELBOURNE VIC

Did you know Axalta is a Capricorn Brand Partner?

We are proud to be working with Capricorn in 2020 and look forward to bringing some great benefits to members.





Time to make a change.

There is always a better way to do things. That's why we're committed to making waterborne systems for a better, more sustainable future.

Not only are waterborne products better for the environment, but they are also healthier for your staff and allow you to use less paint due to superior coverage and fewer coats.

If you haven't already changed to waterborne products, now is the time to make a change.

Better for you. Better for our environment. Better for all of us.

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