



Andrew's Automotive Restorations

Classic vehicles deserve a premium finish

In the small industrial suburb of Braeside, just 26 km from Melbourne's CBD, resides a hidden gem for motoring collectors and enthusiasts: Andrew's Automotive Restorations.

Specialising in restoration work on older cars, ground up restoration or "nut and bolt" restoration, Andrew Melton commenced business 21 years ago in the neighbouring suburb, Moorabbin. "I have always had a passion for cars," he said, "I tinkered with cars in my younger years and it went from there."

Melton explained that it all began with his first car, a 1980 Ford Escort panel van that was an ex-VACC service vehicle which he "done up", dropped a Sierra Cosworth motor under the bonnet and painted it in Glasurit 21 line in the original bright yellow finish.

From humble beginnings working solo and doing general repair work, resprays and even the odd "resto", Melton has seen his business expand into the success it is today. "I started the business by myself in 1998 and it has grown from there. Originally, in a very small factory in Moorabbin, which I soon outgrew, then moving to a shop twice

the size, I was still on my own until early 2014, when Marty Ryan joined me as workshop manager. We made the decision to move to our current location in Braeside in May 2014."

Whilst businesses that specialise in restoration do insurance work, it is not their main source of business. Andrew and his wife Martine run a very professional and friendly family-owned business. The quality of the work is reflected in their customer referrals, where generations of car enthusiasts have left their prized possessions in quality hands. "Most of our business comes from word of mouth. We don't advertise. We do a little bit on Instagram and Facebook now, but I think it is more people seeing the work we do and the referrals," said Melton.

Today's old car is tomorrow's classic, and people who invest in classic cars want the best look and authenticity for any restoration work completed on their vehicle. Therefore, Andrew's Automotive Restorations uses BASF's premium refinish brand Glasurit to complete their work. With the Glasurit Colour-Profi System showcased in their reception area, the business focuses on

ensuring their customers get the best colour options for their vehicles.

"It was an easy choice to switch to Glasurit 90 Line," said Melton. "We use the entire system and there are certain clears that work better for us - the medium solid (MS) clears, for example. For some of our jobs we are polishing, we want a flat finish and shine, which we find the MS clears are best suited for."

Using the Glasurit waterborne system may not have been an obvious choice for Melton, as the technology most likely did not exist when the vehicles he works on, such as the 1929 Austin 7 his team is currently restoring, were manufactured. "Waterborne technology takes a little getting used to because in certain ways it is so different from solvent, but once you get your head around how it works, it's actually easier. We have time to get jobs through as some of our cars have taken months to get to the point of painting."

BASF's ART Victoria supports and supplies Andrew's Automotive Restorations with their automotive refinish requirements. "We get excellent service from ART Victoria. Darrin Jansen



A 1950's XK Jaguar.



The GTS HK Monaro at Motoclassica.

is our representative, and Stuart Mason, one of the original guys when we first gave them a call when we were in Moorabbin, also drops in.”

Darrin Jansen, the Glasurit Technical Sales Representative for Andrew’s Restorations, believes the Glasurit colour offer was one of the main reasons why they decided to use Glasurit 90 Line waterborne paint technology in the business. “Andrew does not cut corners and gives his customers the best quality products available. He wanted to have access to our expansive colour range in our Colour Profi System and he recognised the value of having our spectrophotometer when dealing with custom or factory colours.”

Customers who have had their vehicles restored at Andrew’s Automotive Restorations have gone on to show their vehicles at classic car events and, one in particular, a GTS HK Monaro, was shown at Motoclassica and won its class and the People’s Choice. This was a shared accolade for the team and recognition for the high standard of work they complete on all the vehicles that come through their shop.

Picking a favourite vehicle that they have worked on was not possible. “There is a great deal of satisfaction in repairing a car and being able to bring those back to life, especially when it was considered too far gone and not salvageable.”

Restoration work faces some challenges during the build as parts and panels are not always readily available due to the age of the vehicle and the materials that were used during the manufacturing process. “Marty, our fabricator is key to our success, being



Martine and Andrew Melton.

able to hand make any panel, shape and size we need, so we can restore any vehicle,” said Melton. “Just being able to work out situations where the parts aren’t available, whether it be mechanical or panel, requires us to find a way around to get it to work.”

With a great many vehicles, including Fiats, Ferraris, Chevs, Corvettes and range of Fords already completed, Andrew’s Automotive Restorations continues their premium quality workmanship with many projects in the pipeline including two 1950s XK Jaguars, Falcon XB Coupe, HQSS Holden, Morris Minor 1000 and more.

You can find out more about their business and follow their restoration projects on their website: www.andrewsautomotiverestoration.com.au/ or via their Facebook @andrewsauto restoration or Instagram @andrews_auto_restorations



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