



Kyle Wheeler

Fix Auto Mackay

THIS MONTH WE INTRODUCE 28-YEAR-OLD KYLE WHEELER, QUALIFIED SPRAY PAINTER FROM FIX AUTO MACKAY, QUEENSLAND, WHO IS PREPARING FOR A TRANSITION INTO BODY SHOP OPERATIONS.

Kyle was born and raised in the Mackay area on the east coast of North Queensland and completed his education at North Mackay High School. From as far back as he can remember, Kyle always wanted to be a spray painter as he “grew up” in and around the workshop which, rather conveniently, is owned by his dad, Marty. “I was always into cars growing up and my mates and I were always tinkering with old cars to make them

‘as good as new’. Although we were just enjoying our hobby at the time, it was setting the foundation for my career in the automotive industry.”

Interestingly, when it was time for Kyle to leave school, he worked in a different local body shop run by one of Marty’s former employees while completing his apprenticeship. After a couple of years, Kyle joined his dad’s business, Claydon Panel Works, as it was previously known and has now been there for the past four years. “I effectively learned my craft with the support of our previous paint supplier, but since joining Fix Auto, we converted to Glasurit and have gone from strength to strength. Their technicians are there whenever I need them.” It is also noteworthy that as the head painter, Kyle has already attained I-CAR Platinum status.

Kyle recalls that the transition to Fix Auto was a seamless experience, and that Scott Holden, Fix Auto State General Manager was instrumental in implementing a whole raft of new systems and process. “Joining Fix Auto was a critical part of our desire to implement change in our business to ensure we can continue to thrive in a rapidly changing industry. Joining a group of like-minded business owners to promote high quality repairs and drive standards in excellence, such as I-CAR training and added value from maximising the group buying potential across leading global

suppliers, provides even greater value to our business.”

Fix Auto’s Holden added: “From my first meeting with Kyle it was obvious that he had a passion for the industry and that he takes immense pride in producing a high standard of workmanship in a busy body shop environment. He is open to new ideas and is willing to accept advice on methods and processes that will enhance repair outcomes. As a second generation coming through the business, it is heartening to know that with people such as Marty and Kyle involved, our industry is in good hands.”

According to Kyle, one of the great things about working in the family business is the opportunity to transition into more challenging roles, with a full succession plan when the time is right. The first step in this process is to develop the skills to move into the production manager role in three to four years. “I really believe that’s where I’ll discover what makes the body shop tick, but with dad’s guidance, wealth of knowledge and industry experience I’m confident we can make it work.”



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IAG's ongoing support and sponsorship of these awards is greatly appreciated, as is the support from I-CAR Australia, who donates two training courses valued at over \$500 to each Future Leader of the Industry.

