



GM's TribUTE to Holden's iconic Ute



PART 2

IN PART TWO OF OUR FEATURE ON THE MAKING OF THE VE-SERIES 2 SS-V UTE, AS GM ANNOUNCES THE WINNER, WE BRING ALL THE PIECES TOGETHER AND UNVEIL THE FINISHED VEHICLE.

Initially conceived as a celebration of the 70th anniversary of the iconic Holden ute, TribUTE reflects the commitment to the owners of the 1.6 million Holdens still on the road today. The VE series 2 SS-V ute embodies the classic "work-hard, play-hard" lineage that is the Holden ute.

Holden Brand Ambassador Craig Lowndes best summed up the impact of the Holden ute at the launch of the initiative last year: "Almost 70 years ago, an Australian icon was born. Good looking, yet rugged. Versatile and durable. A workhorse that evolved into a thoroughbred. A hard worker with a laid-back attitude - a symbol of the Australian way of life since it first rolled off the production line in January 1951. Now, after 70 years of evolution, the Holden ute will forever remain linked to its heritage by the lion emblem it proudly displays."

Now, picking up where we left off last month, we revisit Ross and Marie Spataro at GM Certified Collision Repairer, Boutique Auto Body in Keilor East, Victoria, where the prep has been completed and we move on to the painting process. Once again, Spataro is keen to share the accolades and give credit to his technician, Adrian, who completed the paintwork. "Adrian is a first-class technician and really knows his stuff. To have him take the lead in this iconic project has been fantastic for the end result, the

business and for the GM and the Certified Collision Repair network as a whole. It really does reflect the quality of the work we do."

You may recall that during the prep stage they ensured that TribUTE received full corrosion protection and all the foams were reinstalled,



predominately to minimise noise, vibration and harshness (NVH) in the vehicle. Boutique relied on their ancillaries supplier 3M for their premium range of sealants, adhesives, abrasives and tools they used on the project.

And so to the painting. Boutique has been a long-standing client of BASF Coatings, using Glasurit 90-Line basecoat for its outstanding hiding power, easy application and optimal process times. Although TribUTE is a reimagined project, GM stuck to the original colour, Sting Red, which was flawlessly reproduced during the process.

WIN! TribUTE 70th ANNIVERSARY

LOWNDES VIP HANDOVER
The winner will get the keys to TribUTE on a private handover event with Subcarors.
Legend - Craig Lowndes.

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Boutique then applied Glasurit 923-109 HS UV clear coat for its exceptional application properties and lightfastness, which is particularly important in countries with high UV radiation levels such as Australia. And just to create something really special in terms of gloss and depth appearance, Adrian went beyond the traditional application process. Applying the technique of flow coating, which involves application

of multiple layers of clear coat in multiple sessions, he was able to achieve a result more commonly seen in the custom car scene. I'm sure you will agree the results are phenomenal.

And the winner is: Chevy Cooper from UltraTune Frankston in Melbourne's southeast suburbs – and yes, this is his real name! Cooper tells me that when he got the call from Chris Payne, Marketing Manager – GM ANZ Aftersales, his first impression

was that it was a crank call from one of mates. However, he quickly realised it was a genuine call and was blown away. "We don't really buy a great deal of Genuine Parts, mainly as a result of our clientele, but it goes to show that anyone can win."

Cooper is a lifelong car enthusiast, to the point that both his daughters are named after car models of yesteryear, something of which they are both very proud. "I really want to thank GM for the opportunity to be part of this great initiative and our long-term parts supplier, Bay City Holden and HSV here in Frankston for their ongoing service and support."

Cooper has already decided that when he eventually "gets his hands on" TribUTE, he has already arranged with the Trafalgar Holden Museum, in Victoria's West Gippsland region, to display the car for the first 12 months. "It's such an iconic Holden, I just wanted others to enjoy it as much as I will. I just can't wait."

Reinforcing the importance of using only Holden Genuine Parts on your Holden, especially when it involves a restoration of your pride and joy, it's clear that there are many parts on sale in Australia that may fit a Holden vehicle, but only those sold through the GM Holden authorised supply chain are genuine. One of the better definitions of Holden Genuine Parts that we have previously used is: "parts that are designed, validated and engineered by General Motors or its associated entities, sourced through the GM Holden authorised supply chain and warranted by GM Holden."

Once again, the GM Certified Repair Network is a key part of the aftersales promise to not only Holden and HSV owners, but also to Chevrolet and Corvette owners moving forward. The program further reinforces GM's commitment to safety and performance and illustrates to the automotive sector that GM is serious about providing ongoing support to those vehicle owners.

For more information on becoming a GM Certified Repairer, visit the Collision Repair Network section at: <https://www.gmtradeparts.com.au/>



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What a final result.