



MotorEx 2022



OWEN AND I CAUGHT UP FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE PANDEMIC BEGAN. WE SHARE OUR PERSPECTIVE ON WHAT WAS YET ANOTHER FANTASTIC EVENT AS MOTORING AFICIONADOS FINALLY CAME OUT OF "HIBERNATION" AT MOTOREX 2022.

After three postponements, we finally got MotorEx 2022 completed on 30 April and 1 May. It was another huge event, so the team was spent by Sunday night. It was clear from the outset that this year

would be special – the queues on arrival were enough to warm the cockles of any enthusiast's heart. It's been a long wait, but as always, MotorEx provided something for everyone who ventured

out to the Melbourne Showgrounds. All the major features that make this such a great event were back, including Muscle Car Marvels, 3M Inauguration, Street Elite Showcase, Rare Spares Real Street, Drift Cadet Driftworld, Milwaukee Performance Garage and, of course, Meguiar's Superstars.

The largest group of never seen before new cars bumped into the Inauguration Hall on Thursday. There were 28 finished cars and bikes and another five bare metal vehicles. After the 14 unveils at Summernats in January, this was such an amazing spectacle, with all 33 vehicles being finished in the last few years. This is confirmation of how strong the custom car industry is for builders and suppliers.

A couple of standouts were the two extremely rare GTHO Falcons, possibly the best custom Porsche ever built, a '69 Cobra Jet Mustang – and some incredible bikes. There was also



Meguiars Superstars Grand Master winner, Brenton Dalwood's '35 Ford Coupe.

an FX Holden sedan that the owner started building when he was just 16 years old, finally unveiled this year as he turned 60. We were so happy for him to finally have his car done so he could enjoy it. My personal standout was the bare metal HT Monaro built by Andrews Restoration in Melbourne. They cut out every join and replaced it with metal, planished it up, and file finished the whole body, making it look like it was formed out of one sheet of metal. It looked so good the owner cleared the body and said, "That's it, no paint!!"

Friday was the final day of bump-in. Over 400 cars and 50 businesses rolled in – all set up by 7pm. This group included 30 Meguiars Superstars qualifiers from the top shows around the country over the last three years. What an incredible group of cars! The winner was not certain until the judging was completed and Grand Master announced on Sunday morning.

Brenton Dalwood from Adelaide's winning '35 Ford Coupe was well received. He has been coming to MotorEx for over 10 years, looking at the winners and returning home to work on his own car. He told me it was a 14-year build, and all he ever dreamed of was winning the Grand Master trophy. Brenton is a great example of how to go about building a winning car: get a car you like, watch and listen through the build, prepare, and know your goal. This sounds simple, but so many builds get lost along the way for many different reasons.

As always, Street Elite was fiercely contested, with over 150 cars in this section. This has become the most popular class as you can have a show car on the outside but with a drivable undercarriage, which makes the car much more practical. The winner here was the Porsche built by Real Steel in Queanbeyan, which we unveiled on Saturday. I'd watched this car being built over the last 4 to 5 years and knew it would be a stunning vehicle. There were hundreds of billet parts remade throughout the car and awesome body and paint work. There were also many other stunning Street Elite cars, including a full custom lowrider Chev Impala, customised Mustangs and over 70 muscle cars.

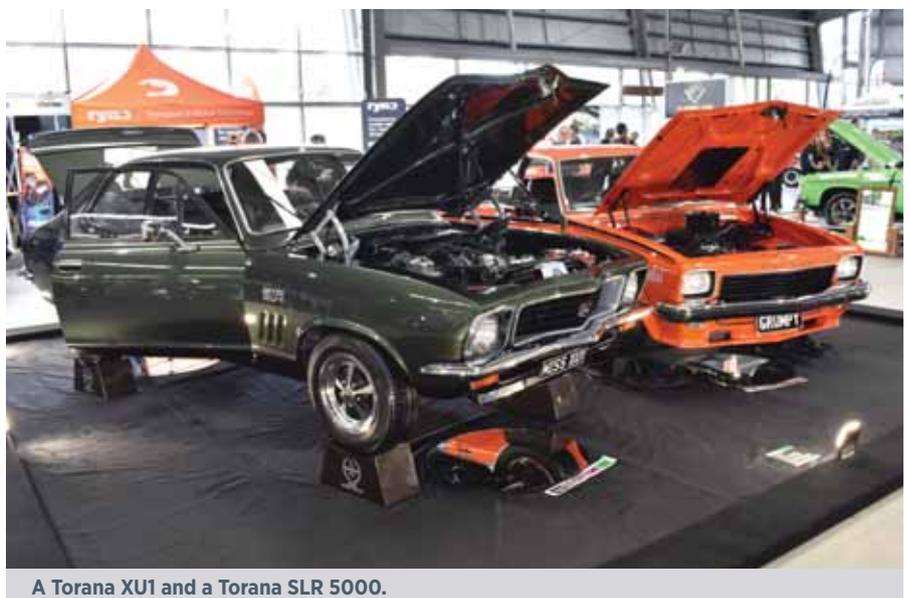
The Milwaukee Performance Garage was the place to be if you were building a car or just wanted to see what was



The Street Elite winning Porsche by Real Steel in Queanbeyan..



Inside Meguiar's Superstars pavillion.



A Torana XU1 and a Torana SLR 5000.



The last XY GTHO Falcon produced by Ford Australia restored by The Panel Shop in Perth.



Another great XY GTHO Falcon, also restored by The Panel Shop in Perth.



Wayne Price's bare metal HT Monaro by Andrews Restorations.

available in parts and equipment. It is great to have Milwaukee on board as a major sponsor and their involvement with the Laurie Starling scholarship and award, which was presented to Paul Tinning from Darwin in his new XP Falcon coupe with Viper V10 engine and incredible engineering.

Also, there was a display and fire up of several Drag Cars, including the Burson/Lammatina Top Fuel car with some of the best Pro Stock and Door Slammers in Australia. If that wasn't enough noise, there were the Dyno, Drifting, and Burnout displays featuring Jake Myers and Barry Hall in his HZ Holden Ute.

We ran into Norton Ambassador Declan McKearney from Resto's and Rods Garage and the great TV show, Resto my Ride. McKearney was offering the opportunity to win the fantastic 1966 Ford Mustang that was completed during season one of Resto my Ride.

MotorEx has become the premier indoor show in Australia as all the Elite Showcars qualify from events around the country, and this is their grand final. However, over the years an outdoor element has evolved, this year with over 400 real streetcars that drove in each day and were displayed throughout the venue. There was also a freestyle motocross bike show several times a day and the best food trucks at any show around the country.

I never cease to be amazed by the support we get here in Melbourne, and it was so great to be back and catch up with so many car enthusiasts. It's what makes Meguiars MotorEx a real highlight of the custom car calendar.

The Melbourne Showground is booked for the same time next year. All the previous 20 champions will be invited back to compete against the current crop of Meguiars Superstars at the 21st anniversary event. There will also be representation from SEMA, which will guarantee that MotorEx 2023 will be the largest ever. I'll keep updates coming as we lock in details over the coming months.



Owen is a leading figure within the auto re-styling and vehicle modification industry and a Lifetime Achievement Award inductee. He is Technical and Training Manager at Concept Paints.