

RESTO MY RIDE
WINNER #1



FATHER AND SON

When a father and son team decided to take on their first restoration project, they chose a hard-working Aussie classic – and now they’re entrusting it to experts.

INTRODUCTION

Resto My Ride is an all-new TV show created by Declan McKearney and Sam Martin.

The team behind the ‘EJ for EJ’ resto (featured in *JUST CARS* #237), Dec and Sam have used that project as the basis for ‘*Resto My Ride*’; a series that’ll document the restoration of vehicles of all types.

In February, the *Resto My Ride* competition – *Get Resto’d* – was launched, inviting people to submit details on the projects (cars, trucks, bikes, boats and more) they’d like to see restored by Dec and the team at Bodymaster Prestige Paint and Panel.

The winners not only get their restoration

documented on *Resto My Ride*, they also get it done for free!

The response to *Get Resto’d* has been outstanding, with thousands of entries received and some great and touching stories behind them. With the winners recently selected and notified, filming is now underway.

Ahead of the *Resto My Ride* series premiere, *JUST CARS* is featuring some of the winners and the stories behind their projects.

For more details on *Resto*

My Ride, visit: restomyride.com and check out their social media channels. You can also watch the EJ for EJ episode on: restomyride.tv



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SAM’S STORY

Only 14 years old, Sam Coad decided a little while back that he wanted to do a restoration project – together with his father, Mark.

“We had not done one before and had little knowledge of what we were doing,” Sam explained. “We decided on an old Kingswood, as Dad drove an HJ when he was at university in the late 1980s.”

Searching for a suitable car, the Coads found a ’79 HZ Kingswood utility in a small town in Gippsland.

“It was owned by a young guy called Tom, and had been left to him by his grandfather who had bought the car new.”

While he wanted to restore the ute himself, Tom had no time or money to do it, so the Coads bought it with the promise to give him a drive in it when the restoration was completed.

“We could’ve driven it back home, as it ran beautifully,” Sam said, “but we would’ve watched the road through the holes in the floor!”

THE PLAN

“Our ambition was to restore the car to as close to original condition as possible,” Sam said, “like the day it drove out of the dealership – no modifications.”

That rust in the floor extended to the usual places like the doors, sills, guards, etc., but the ute is complete and running – it just needs a lot of work to bring it back to that desired factory spec.

“It’s a big job, and we quickly worked out that it is going to take a lot more skills than we have!” Sam laughed.

That’s why they entered the *Get Resto’d* competition.

Before they submitted their entry to *Get Resto’d*, both Sam and Mark had spent a lot of time pulling the HZ down, while Sam started raising money for replacement parts by cutting and selling firewood.

The ute had originally been painted cream, but at some stage, Tom’s grandfather repainted it green. The Coads are tossing up whether to keep the green or go back to the factory colour, and will take advice from the *Resto My Ride* team on the best way to go.

In terms of what the HZ needed, Sam’s checklist included major rust repair on the body, the respray in a colour that’s still TBC, a retrim of the interior, plus mechanical refurbishment where required.

For the team at *Resto My Ride*, this stuff is bread and butter, but the amount of bodywork required will be a challenge. However, given the work required on the EJ for EJ, Dec and the team are certainly used to crazy deadlines and being pushed to their limits!

SPECIAL TOUCH

Both Sam and Mark love the HZ, saying it’s got heaps of character, so the resto needs to be done properly to do the old girl justice.

“This means a lot more to us than the value of a car,” Sam explained. “This is a great project for a father and son, but it’s about the legacy of Tom’s granddad, too.”

“Also, Dad and I are on a promise to Tom and we intend to keep it.”

“We would dearly love to get this done well. It’s something we would keep forever and spend many hours enjoying.”

“Who knows, maybe in another 50 years my grandson may inherit this HZ and restore it with his son!”

The judges loved Sam’s story, and particularly his determination to see the project through and keep his promise.

Look out for Sam’s HZ Kingswood ute restoration on *Resto My Ride* soon!



The ute as purchased – rough, but a runner.



Early stages of the tear down. Note the previous colour – likely the as-delivered shade – under the green.



Before they started pulling it down, Sam used the HZ as the “shop” for the bundled firewood he was selling to raise money for the project.