



“A BUSINESS BUILT ON CUSTOMER SERVICE AND PASSION HAS SEEN THE NEW AND IMPROVED GLYNDE GARAGE WRAPPED IN SOPHISTICATION FROM THE INSIDE OUT.”



CRASH KID TO KING OF GLYNDE

BY JOSH TEAKLE

From sitting in front of The Glynde Garage and spending his childhood in a chicken shop, to owning that same garage just a few years later, Amer Sibai has come the full circle.

“I used to ride my pushbike with a friend down Glynburn Road when I was eight years old. We would buy a \$2 bag of lollies from the deli and sit across the street and watch the guys work, absolutely mesmerised by seeing cars pulled apart,” he said.

Now that shop belongs to Amer and over the last four years, he has completely transformed the once run-down REM Motorbodies (now renamed The Glynde Garage) into a showpiece of Adelaide's motor trade. A business built on customer service and passion has seen the new and improved The Glynde Garage wrapped in sophistication from the inside out.

Before even entering the large double doors, the striking black and white exterior is a classy landmark for passers-by, but those who roll their wheels into the spacious workshop floor are instantly embraced by the state-of-the-art machinery, wide range of services and dynamic, friendly staff. “It is quite a pumping little place, I am so proud of it,” Amer said.

“We do everything from crash repairs to mechanical repairs, log book servicing, auto electrical, dyno tuning, custom paint work, tinting, tyres, wheel alignments, suspension and brake repairs, motorbike and scooter repairs.

“With a focus on high performance cars as well as general road cars, we have acquired top of the line road testing and servicing equipment, including a four-wheel dynamometer machine which we can test cars going up to 200km/h inside the workshop.

“The quality of people that we have here and how hard everyone works shows the belief that they have in our shop and the brand – it's awesome and something I thought I would never get in this industry.

“We have made this place quite a buzz.”

Now a 17-year veteran of the automotive trade, the Lebanese migrant took a less conventional approach to joining the industry after working in his family's chicken shop.

“When I was 19 years old I crashed my car in 2001,” Amer said.

“The damage to the car was quite severe so I took it to a crash repairer in Holden Hill and in my spare time I would go in there and help the crash repairer do repairs to my car.

“I found myself there a lot and got invested in the process. Not long after I was offered a job as a Panel Beater and undertook my apprenticeship.

“I had always had an interest in cars, so I thought I would give it a go and here I am almost 18 years later.

“Having a crash was a rather ironic way of getting into the crash repair industry, but it provided me with this amazing opportunity.”

After learning his trade with several garages around the city, the 36-year-old now has a flourishing business that he calls home, but will always remember his humble beginnings.

“I was born in Lebanon but had to flee the war. My family moved here when I was five years old,” Amer said.

“My dad was a maths professor in Lebanon but he moved us three kids here, and without speaking a word of English opened up a chicken shop.

“I was basically born and bred in that chicken shop, which is where my customer service skills come from and I still use in the garage every day.

“As a kid, my two sisters and I would go straight from school into the chicken shop, work there until 10pm and repeat that seven days a week.

“When I started my trade, I would be doing my apprenticeship during the day until 7pm sometimes and then go to the chicken shop and work there for another three hours. I did that for years.”

With a highly skilled and enthusiastic team of 18 automotive experts, Amer has made it a priority to make the garage

approachable to everyone that walks through the door – putting his trust in two highly talented women which headline Glynde's painting and detailing team.

“All customers are treated like family to me,” he said.

“Whether it is your mother, father, sister, brother, grandparent or child I want them to feel safe and comfortable when they enter my shop.

“I am starting to find that the industry is definitely more accepting of females now than it maybe once was.

“We are starting to hear of a few more women breaking into the industry, especially in the painting and detailing side of things.

“Their passion, skill and workmanship around the workshop is awesome with their cleanliness and eye for detail – they definitely make up an important role within the industry and hope to see it grow.

“We hope that our Garage encourages young people to want to join an industry which is moving into new way of delivering automotive repairs.”