



## MELBOURNE'S ANTHONY PETRUCCI CROWNED PARKES' ULTIMATE ELVIS TRIBUTE ARTIST

They swivelled the hips, belt out the classics, crooned and wooed the crowd... but only one could take home the crown. Melbourne's Anthony Petrucci has been crowned winner of the Parkes Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest after taking on 21 of the top Elvis tribute artists from across Australia and New Zealand in a preliminary round of the 2018 Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest, officially endorsed by Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc.

Across two massive days filled with pompadours, leather and blue suede shoes, 22 expert Elvii took to the Parkes Leagues Club stage before a panel of judges in the hopes of winning the honour to represent Parkes at the semi-final round during Elvis Week in Memphis, USA.

Contestants were judged on vocals, appearance, stage presence and the overall quality of the performance. The stakes were high, with Anthony Petrucci not only going through to the semi-final in Memphis this August, but also winning a \$3,000 cash prize!

"Anthony's deft vocal skill and incredible stage presence was a real crowd pleaser. His ability to embody The King in both looks and attitude made him a deserving winner in the eyes of the judges," said Parkes Elvis Festival Director, Cathy Treasure.

Anthony Petrucci has been a keen fan of The King since childhood and made his national television debut on 2005's Channel 9's Star Struck, portraying his idol. Winning that competition then saw him go on to perform at the "Legends in Concert" show at the Imperial Palace in Las Vegas. Now Anthony is headed back to the States to represent Parkes in Memphis for the 2018 Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest.

"Winning the Parkes Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest is a surreal feeling. It's a great thing to be recognized for doing what I am passionate about and honouring my idol. I'm looking forward to representing Australia in the contest in America," said Petrucci.

Second place was awarded to Brody Finlay of Townsville and third place went to Melbourne's Joe Piastrino.

**EVENT NAME:** Parkes Elvis Festival

**DATES:** 10-14 January 2018

**THEME:** The '68 Comeback Special

**WEBSITE:** [www.parkeselvisfestival.com.au](http://www.parkeselvisfestival.com.au)

**LOCATION:** Parkes, NSW, Australia

