



MEDIA RELEASE

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Transport leaders lauded at 29th Australian Freight Industry Awards

Close to 700 members of the Australian freight and logistics industry gathered in Melbourne Saturday evening to celebrate the achievements of winners and finalists of the Victorian Transport Association Australian Freight Industry Awards (AFIA).

The annual awards recognise excellence from transport operator and supplier companies and individuals across a range of categories and celebrate the enormous contribution the industry makes to the national economy.

Seven award winners were recognised at the AFIA's this year, which were proudly sponsored by TWUSUPER and Viva Energy Australia and held in the Palladium Ballroom at Crown Melbourne.

A new award category sponsored by Viva Energy Australia to recognise Female Leadership in Transport was introduced this year and was strongly contested by four finalists.

The winners were:

- **Paul Retter AM**, National Transport Commission, Personality of the Year Award – sponsored Transport for Victoria
- **Jacqueline Brotherton**, Oxford Cold Storage & Transport Women Australia, Female Leadership in Transport – sponsored by Viva Energy Australia
- **Katrina Burns**, SCT Logistics, Young Achiever of the Year Award – sponsored by Daimler Truck & Bus
- **Alex Fraser Group**, Waste & Recycling Award – sponsored by National Transport Insurance
- **L. Fraumano Transport**, Application of Technology Award – sponsored by Transport Certification Australia
- **Transking Innovations**, Best Practice Safety Award – sponsored by CMV Truck & Bus
- **Barker Trailers**, Investment in People Award – sponsored by Logical Staffing Solutions

VTA CEO Peter Anderson announced the winners, who were presented with their award by VTA President Cameron Dunn and the Hon Luke Donnellan, Minister for Roads, Ports and Road Safety, representing the Victorian Government and Transport for Victoria.

"The Australian Freight Industry Awards showcase the very best our industry has to offer, and with dozens of high-quality applications received across the various categories it's clear the transport industry is committed to innovation, improvement and best practice," said VTA CEO Peter Anderson.

"Congratulations to all the winners and finalists on their outstanding achievements, and for striving for excellence in everything they do to make the transport industry more productive, efficient and safe at every stage in the supply chain."

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Addressing members and guests at his second AFIA presentation as VTA President, Cameron Dunn reflected on some of the key achievements of the VTA over a busy 12 months.

“As President, my focus has been to ensure everything the Association pursues has, at its core, a Members First focus, because we exist first and foremost to ensure conditions are positive for operators,” Mr Dunn said.

“Reducing congestion and associated costs for operators through the delivery of new infrastructure remains a priority, so it’s encouraging that VTA advocacy has contributed to both political parties committing to building the North East Link.

“The establishment of Freight Victoria as an interface between government and industry was a specific recommendation of the VTA, in a further example of our Association’s ability to influence for positive outcomes.

“Heavy vehicle licensing and training is another area where we have had significant traction, with our intensive Driver Delivery program recently graduating its 60th candidate and putting them in gainful employment.”

Mr Dunn said the award winners and nominees provided a small snapshot of the many great efforts the industry goes to every year in striving for excellence in servicing customers and the community.

“On behalf of the VTA Executive Council, may I add our congratulations to each of the winners, and extend our thanks to every organisation that submitted a nomination,” he said.

Following the presentation of awards, guests were treated to night of fine food and non-stop entertainment from some of Australia’s hottest acts.

Singers Matt Hetherington and Amy Lehpamer, and a company of 40 dancers from the Centre Stage Performance Group and Lifestyle for Kids Dance Troup, kicked off a spectacular night of entertainment with musical hits Come Alive and This is Me, tying together The Greatest Show theme of the awards with other circus-style acts on show in the Palladium Ballroom.

Raymond Crowe then enthralled the audience with his magical, mysterious and at times hilarious presentation of unusual acts, including hand puppetry, ventriloquism and other tricks.

Renowned Melbourne-based DJ Emma then got guests on their feet with her selection of contemporary musical hits, before Matt Hetherington returned to the stage with his Big Band for a final set of classic cover songs that kept the dance floor packed until the end of the night.

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