



MEDIA RELEASE

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Transport industry celebrates 30th Anniversary Australian Freight Industry Awards

Transport industry luminaries from around Australia gathered in Melbourne on Saturday evening to celebrate the 30th Anniversary Australian Freight Industry Awards (AFIAs) and to commit another set of names to the history books through the announcement of this year's award winners and finalists.

Since the inaugural AFIs were held in 1989 at Melbourne's World Trade Centre, the transport industry has gathered each year to recognise excellence from transport operator and supplier companies and individuals across a range of categories.

This year was no exception with around 700 people assembling in the Palladium Ballroom at Crown Melbourne for a black-tie gala dinner dance sponsored by TWUSUPER and Viva Energy Australia where seven Australian Freight Industry Award winners for 2019 were recognised.

The winners were:

- **Chas Kelly**, Personality of the Year Award – sponsored Transport for Victoria;
- **Clare Cianchino**, Swire Mining – Logistics – Industrial (Kalari Division), Female Leadership Award – sponsored by Viva Energy Australia;
- **Ivan Vanis**, Tasman Logistics Services Pty Ltd, Young Achiever of the Year Award – sponsored by Daimler Truck & Bus;
- **Alex Fraser Group**, Sustainable Environment Award – sponsored by National Transport Insurance;
- **Visa Global Logistics Pty Ltd**, Application of Technology Award – sponsored by Transport Certification Australia;
- **Packaged Dangerous Goods Pty Ltd**, Best Practice Safety Award – sponsored by CMV Truck & Bus; and
- **K & S Corporation**, Investment in People Award – sponsored by Logical Staffing Solutions.

Former VTA Executive Director Phil Lovel, who was the brainchild of the AFIs in 1989, formally welcomed guests with a short speech that reflected on 30 years of the awards.

“Thirty years ago, our Prime Minister was Bob Hawke. Australia had just come through a national pilot strike. There was no internet. There were no mobile phones. Boy, were we primitive, but we did create the Australian Freight Industry Awards!

“We wanted to lift the profile and professionalism of the transport industry, and we did. From the World Trade Centre, to Jeff's Shed to the new Convention centre, and now Crown Casino, we have moved forward.

“To this day there is no other Industry function like this, and congratulations to the VTA for building on this great tradition,” Lovel said.

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VTA CEO Peter Anderson with the assistance of MC Livinia Nixon, then announced the winners, who were presented with their award by VTA President Cameron Dunn and the Hon Melissa Horne, Victorian Minister for Ports, Freight and Public Transport, representing the Victorian Government and Transport for Victoria.

“For 30 years, the Australian Freight Industry Awards have showcased the outstanding achievements of the Australian freight and logistics industry. This year is certainly no exception with dozens of high-quality applications received across the various categories, which is further evidence of our industry’s ongoing committed to best practice,” Anderson said.

“Every one of our winners and finalists should be proud of their accomplishments, which go a long way towards attaining the original vision of the awards in lifting the profile and professionalism of our great industry.”

Addressing members and guests, VTA President Cameron Dunn reflected on some of the key achievements of the VTA over a busy 12 months.

“It has been my great privilege to work with the VTA Secretariat and Executive Council on a range of exciting initiatives that will benefit our members and our industry, at a time of considerable change.

“We’re working hard to address driver shortages that are putting pressure on operators, which is why we were so thrilled that the Victorian Government is making further investments in the VTA Driver Delivery program and attracting new people to our industry. The VTA has also been instrumental in the review of the Heavy Vehicle Driver Licensing system where we see a great opportunity for reforms that will encourage greater participation rates from potential drivers.

“These are just a small handful of the achievements the Association has made working for members and industry so far this year. Congratulations to the VTA Secretariat for these and many other great achievements,” Dunn said.

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

Queen Forever – one of Australia’s most successful Queen tribute bands – enthralled guests for over an hour with their rendition of such classics as We Will Rock You, Bohemian Rhapsody, We Are The Champions, Another One Bites The Dust, and others, supported by renowned Melbourne-based **DJ Emma** and dance troupe the **LFK Industry Squad**.

Guests then danced the night away to the classical and contemporary hits from renowned national and international entertainer, **The Sam Ludeman Band**.

Ends...

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