



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Australian Freight Industry Award winners feted at industry night of nights**

The achievements of seven Australian Freight Industry Award winners were celebrated in style by over 700 members of the nation's freight and logistics industry at a gala dinner in Melbourne on Saturday night.

The annual Australian Freight Industry Awards, hosted by the Victorian Transport Association and sponsored by TWUSUPER and Viva Energy Australia, once again paid tribute to the achievements of award winners across a range of categories, including a new category recognising industry improvements and contributions to sustainability and waste recovery.

VTA CEO Peter Anderson announced the winners, who were presented with their award by VTA President Brendan Hopley and the Hon Luke Donnellan, Victorian Minister for Roads, Road Safety and Ports, in front of a who's who of the Australian transport industry.

The winners were:

- **Nationwide Towing & Transport** for 'Investment In People', sponsored by Logical Staffing Solutions;
- **Kalari** for 'Best Practice Safety', sponsored by Zurich Financial Services Australia;
- **Fleet Effect** for 'Application of Technology', sponsored by Transport Certification Australia;
- **Toxfree Australia** and **Toll Tasmania** for Australian Transport & Logistics Waste;
- **Eric Law** of **DP World Australia** for 'Young Achiever Of The Year', sponsored by Viva Energy; and
- **John Rowe** of **Victorian Freight Specialists** for 'Personality Of The Year', sponsored by the Victorian Government, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources.

"Once again, the VTA was overwhelmed with many, many high quality applications for the Australian Freight Industry Awards, which presented our judging panels with a real challenge when it came to determining the winners," said VTA CEO Peter Anderson.

"I congratulate every award winner and nominee for their wonderful achievements, and for continually investing in the industry which makes it safer and more sustainable and successful.

"This is important not only for our industry, but for the broader community because transport operators have a direct or indirect connection with everyone in the community, every day."

Mr Anderson also paid a special tribute to VTA President Brendan Hopley.

"Tonight's awards are Brendan's last in his capacity as President, and I would like to acknowledge and thank him for his many years of loyal service to the VTA as both a Councillor and President," Mr Anderson said.

"The last two years in particular has seen a great deal of positive change at the VTA and Brendan has done a magnificent job steering us through that process to where we are today. I've appreciated Brendan's counsel and his friendship throughout this time."



Guests of the AFIA's were treated to a spectacular program of entertainment featuring some of Australia's most sought after acts.

Singer Sarah Valentine, who featured prominently in Season 2015 of The Voice welcomed guests with a mesmerising performance early in the evening, and was followed by the fabulous Jersey Boys Tribute Band, which had guests rocking to the timeless music of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons.

Following the awards presentation, pop icon Daryl Braithwaite took to the stage for a one hour performance featuring his greatest hits.

Braithwaite was followed by the sensational Matt Hetherington Band, who dazzled guests with an exceptional performance.

Mr Anderson said the AFIA's had become synonymous with the best entertainment in Australia and that every year the Association was challenged to maintain the high standards.

"There's an expectation with the AFIA's of a wow factor and we always do our best to make sure guests get great value for money and leave feeling positive about the transport industry the awards celebrate," he said.

"We certainly achieved that this year and the entertainment on the night really inspired our guests to let their hair down and have a lot of fun with their friends and colleagues.

"It's one of the things that make the AFIA's as memorable as they are and I'm thrilled the night was as successful as it was."

**Ends...**

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