



Fantastic Program – A Sold Out Event – FUEL Conference

April 2005

FUEL Your Transport Career, the VTA young people's networking group, held its first Day Conference on 28 April at the Royal Melbourne Zoo.

A fantastic turnout saw reservations outstrip the strictly limited numbers, with over 100 attendees.

The program was launched by Transport Minister Peter Batchelor, who spoke of the critical importance of the freight and logistics industry, the integral role played by the VTA in that industry, and the encouraging work being done by FUEL in bringing together the industry's future leaders.

"It is of interest to me to see first hand that the industry itself is so enthusiastic about its own future." Mr Batchelor said.

"What we ask today is that young people like yourselves take maximum advantage of the opportunities that will be presented here, not just in hearing what people say but through the networking opportunities that arise from the informal discussions with your peers; which have already begun to take place over coffee here today."

Mr Batchelor officially opened the conference saying, "I congratulate Angela and her team, and you and your employers for having the foresight to see the benefits that will come from understanding what the future challenges are in your industry and from you being prepared to meet those challenges into the future."

Committee Chairman Angela Murphy introduced the conference as, "A very special program with great speakers and more than a few industry personalities and a fantastic opportunity for you to hear from the best in the business to test your in skills in a very special workshop session."

A series of thought provoking and interesting presentations followed, with speakers including:

- Mike Roberts, General Manager Corporate Relations, Transurban, who spoke on 'Snake Charming – Lobbying and Media Relations - How and Why you Should Understand this Management Tool';
- Ron Finemore, (AO) Chairman, Lewington's Transport on key issues facing the freight industry both locally and globally.
- Bill Noonan, Branch Secretary of the Transport Workers Union, who spoke on the major industrial relations changes and challenges of the next 5 years;
- Steven Thacker, General Manager Logistics, Sigma Company Limited and Ken Mathews, Managing Director, Daimler Chrysler Commercial Vehicles

- (Asia/Pacific) – who gave presentations on the ‘Key Elements of the Industry’ from both the customers’ and the suppliers’ perspective; and
- Judith Pettit, General Manger People Services, VicRoads – who addressed the conference on how young people should meet their needs in personal development and achievements.

The day’s most dynamic and interactive session saw participants tackle a genuine and very current logistics problem faced by the Melbourne Zoo – transporting Armani, an almost fully grown, rare species Rothschild giraffe, from Melbourne to Perth as part of a breeding program..

A presentation by zoo representatives and a VicRoads authority spelled out the various challenges inherent in transporting the Giraffe, the regulations and permits that would be required, the dimensions of the animal and its unique requirements.

Following this, attendees were divided into breakout groups and assigned the task of and innovative and cost effective means of performing the operations. Determination and vigorous debate were in evidence as participants scrambled to determine the practical means by which the myriad challenges posed by this problem could be tackled.

In a session that followed, moderator Mike Wood, Managing Director of Latus, a national logistics consulting group that works closely with the VTA, asked each group to present their solutions. These ranged from the rigging of specialised drop trailers, to the employment of the Australian Army, to the use of a combined helicopter/Hercules airlift.

In an interesting outcome, the Zoo welcomed an offer from the VTA and LATUS to assist in the operation with their combined resources.

The final session of the conference was a ‘Five Minutes of Fame’ panel, where four industry representatives gave overviews of their experiences in the freight and logistics industry. A Q&A session saw many interesting and thought provoking matters raised both by attendees and by the panel members.

Networking and drinks followed, with attendees staying on to meet, mingle and network with their fellow transport personalities – the underlying goal of the FUEL initiative.

For more information on the FUEL ‘Your Transport Career’ program for the 2005, visit the VTA website: www.vta.com.au and follow the links.

Giraffe complexities:

- Armani is a rare Rothschild giraffe
- 2 years old
- 4m tall
- 444kg when weighed a year ago, could weigh 600 to 700 kg today
- Crate - 3.1m wide, 5.15 m Long, 4.5m high
- Truck deck height 900mm
- Maximum height for overhead clearance 5.00m
- Crate is currently located in Werribee
- In transit the giraffe will need:
 - Food and water daily
 - Browse & pellets

- Bedding - peat moss
- Depending on the method of travel
 - 1 vet and 1 keeper are the minimum required
 - By road you'd require 2 drivers, 2 keepers and a vet
- Armani would have to stay in hi crate for the entire trip
- Quarantine issues may apply to his food and bedding when crossing state borders
- If driven, 4 hrs with a half hour break overnight stop of 8hrs.
- Overnight stops would require a quiet space to place the giraffe
- Zoo has internal access problems
 - Armani will be loaded in crate in enclosure
 - Truck can only get to side entrance of Zoo
 - Crate taken to truck by forklift
- Transit order of preference
 - Plane
 - Boat
 - Road
- Team equipment
 - Drugs
 - Dart gun
- Other items
 - Support vehicle
 - Accommodation
 - Meal breaks
 - Radio contact.
- VICROADS will have restrictions
- Height/width issues
 - Power lines
 - Bridges
 - Edible trees
- Animal stress
 - Just incase of stress travel via Monarto Zoo - Mildura
 - After that there is nothing.
- Big concerns are animal injury, illness or death