



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**4 September, 2016**

## **Industry celebrates Australian Freight Industry Award winners**

Over 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 awards, now in their 28<sup>th</sup> year, are held annually to recognise excellence from transport operator and supplier companies across a range of categories, and to celebrate the enormous contribution the industry makes to the national economy.

Seven award winners from six categories 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.

The winners were:

- **Dr Hermione Parsons**, Deakin University, Personality of the Year Award – sponsored by the Victorian Government Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources
- **Matt Simmons**, Rocke Brothers, Young Achiever of the Year Award – sponsored by Viva Energy Australia
- **FBT Transwest**, Waste & Recycling Award – sponsored by CMV Volvo
- **Redstar Transport**, Application of Technology Award – sponsored by Transport Certification Australia
- **Victoria International Container Terminal**, Application of Technology Award – sponsored by Transport Certification Australia
- **Metropolitan Express Transport Services**, Best Practice Safety Award – sponsored by NTI
- **DP World Australia**, 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 Tim Pallas, Treasurer of Victoria, representing the Victorian Government.

“We once again had a very enthusiastic response to these awards from the industry, as evidenced by the dozens of applications judges assessed in determining the winners,” said VTA CEO Peter Anderson.

“Congratulations to all the winners and finalists on their tremendous achievements, and for working to continually improve the standards of our industry which helps to make it safer and more productive.”

Addressing his first AFIA presentation as President of the VTA, Cameron Dunn said that it has been a challenging year for freight operators, and that the VTA was working hard to obtain meaningful outcomes for members.

“As an industry association, we exist to service the needs of our members, and of course advocate for the best interests of the industry,” Mr Dunn said. “The VTA is pursuing many endeavours to improve and enhance economic, regulatory and other conditions for operators, and I would like to congratulate the VTA secretariat for their achievements, in what has been a challenging year.”



“As operators, we are well-aware of the pressures we face from rising costs and smaller margins. The VTA has been strongly advocating for conditions that help to ease these pressures, and give operators every chance of success.

“On behalf of the Executive Council of the VTA, congratulations to all the winners, and thanks to every organisation that submitted a nomination,” Mr Dunn said.

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

Singer Sarah Valentine performed a range of songs from the centre stage as guests were seated, and was followed by entertainer Matt Heatherington and his This is Motown act channelling hit songs from the 60s and 70s.

The highly-acclaimed Mark Seymour of Hunters and Collectors fame then took to the stage with his band The Undertow, performing a combination of contemporary songs and classic hits like The Holy Grail and Throw Your Arms Around Me, which saw guests flocking to the dance floor.

Matt Heatherington 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.

**Ends...**

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