

Commercial Vehicle Industry Association of Queensland presents the Queensland Truck and Machinery Show, 2009

An outstanding performance

The 2009 Queensland Truck and Machinery Show recorded an impressive attendance of

36,161 visitors over the four days of the show and featured a record number of 340 registered companies (up 11 per cent) occupying over 70,000 square metres of display space at the RNA Showgrounds.

Adult paying visitors increased by 5.2 per cent however pre-sold tickets purchased by exhibitors were down, which reflects the current economic conditions and reduced marketing budgets most companies are faced with presently.

Although attendance figures were slightly lower than the previous show, the overwhelming feedback from exhibitors was their praise for an even higher quality of show visitor citing record sales results off the stand and a high number of quotes and leads for future negotiations.

Exhibitors and visitors applauded the closure of Gregory Tce for the full duration of the show, providing easy access to all areas, increasing traffic flow throughout the grounds and allowing more specialised vehicles and trailers on display than ever before.

With exhibitors commenting on and welcoming the high number of business decision makers visiting their displays, the show once again achieved its goal of putting the manufacturers and distributors of commercial vehicles and equipment in direct contact with the maximum number of potential buyers from throughout Australia and reinforcing its position as the Premier Transport Industry Event of any type in the Southern Hemisphere.

Exhibitors honoured in show awards

Six companies were recognised with show awards at the official opening of the 2009 Queensland Truck and Machinery Show. Hon Rachel Nolan, MP, Minister for Transport, officially opened the four-day show and presented awards to the winners.

Mr Brett Wright, CEO of the Commercial Vehicle Industry Association and organisers of the show, praised the exhibitors for their contribution to what was forecast to be the best show in the 41 year history of the event.

"The show is a major undertaking and construction of the exhibits is a mammoth task spanning five days and involving thousands of contractors and staff to bring it all together," said Mr Wright.

The 2009 Queensland Truck & Machinery Show Awards consist of 6 major categories with winners as follows:

- Truck of the Show, Sponsored by Truckin' Life: Awarded to Western Star Trucks, 69FXC
- Outstanding Truck Manufacturer Display, Sponsored by Australasian Transport News and Owner Driver: Awarded to Mack Trucks Australia
- Outstanding Trailer/Body Manufacturer Display, Sponsored by Deals on Wheels: Awarded to O'Phee Trailers
- Outstanding Vehicle Component and Equipment Display, Sponsored by Diesel: Awarded to Jost Australia
- Outstanding Earthmoving Manufacturer Display, Sponsored by Earthmovers and Excavators: Awarded to JCB Construction Equipment Australia
- Risk Management Excellence, Sponsored by Worklaw Health and Safety: Awarded to Volvo trucks

Mr Wright added: "The judges commended both the individual winners and the industry as a whole on a truly world class display at this year's show which is conducted on a biennial basis."

Apprentices rule at the show!

The young guns showed the old dogs some new tricks as they swept their opposition away in a clean sweep of the four-day Apprentice Challenge, held during the Queensland Truck and Machinery Show.

The ever-popular CVIAQ Apprentice Challenge, held in the Westpac Industry Career Centre pits apprentices against long serving industry icons, to be the fastest in correcting a selection of faults in two identical vehicles.

The Apprentice Challenge is a 'hands on' practical test where teams of apprentices selected by CVIAQ from its membership, to represent the industry challenge teams of high profile contestants including industry members and personalities. Their challenge is to rectify identical faults in identical vehicles within a defined time period. The winning team is the team that first successfully identifies and repairs all faults or rectifies the most faults within the allowed time frame.

The Industry Career Centre hosted a series of events including the Apprentice Challenge, to effectively engage the community and promote the professionalism of the commercial vehicle industry and opportunities that exist within the industry to employers, employees and potential entrants into the industry.

CVIAQ as the industry's peak body has taken a lead role in organising the Industry Career Centre and the Apprentice Challenge and is pleased to report the following outcome of the event:

- Heat 1, Thursday May 14: Apprentices Michael Mercer and Troy McKee from Cummins South Pacific defeated the industry challengers of Bob Martin, state manager of Jost Australia and Derek Marriot, service manager of Cummins South Pacific
- Heat 2, Friday May 15: Apprentices Simone Bange from Hastings Deering Commercial Engines and John Fawcett from the Brown and Hurley Group defeated Brad Cumerford, sales manager of The Brown and Hurley Group and John Grossman, dealer principal of Mercedes-Benz Commercial Vehicles Rocklea
- Heat 3, Saturday May 16: Apprentices Daniel Khan and Michael Millewski from MTU Detroit Diesel Australia defeated Clayton Stevens and Dennis Mathers, both Heavy Commercial Vehicle teachers from Skills Tech Australia
- The Grand Final, Sunday May 17: The Final held was a competitive event between the apprentice teams from Cummins South Pacific and MTU Detroit Diesel Australia. The apprentice team from MTU Detroit Diesel Australia was the winner of the CVIAQ Apprentice Challenge and received tool vouchers from long term event sponsor Warby Tools

Congratulations to all apprentices who took part to the champions for 2009 and to all exhibitors and visitors for making the show the huge success it was. ●

