

# EXPO SUCCESS LEAVES ALL SMILING

**Australian Auto Aftermarket and Collision Repair Expo 2015 - world class in every respect.**



As the sun sets on another highly successful Expo, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that was involved as an exhibitor, visitor, sponsor and supporter for helping us deliver a truly world class event.

The combined Auto Aftermarket and Collision Repair Expos featured 420 exhibitors across five acres of floor space and the quality of the stands and the depth and breadth of products and services on display simply blew everyone away.

Overall visitor numbers over the three days were over 10,000 (35 percent up on our last show) including hundreds of international buyers from over 70 countries. A focus this year was on ensuring that the Expo offered visitors the chance to experience thousands of innovative new products and services as well as high quality education and industry networking opportunities.

The combined Awards to industry banquet and breakfast was attended by over 1000 people. The banquet featured an address by Federal Small Business Minister Bruce Billson and entertainment by comedian Dave Hughes.

This year we received 188 entries from 90 companies for the Australian Auto Aftermarket Awards program and we want to take this opportunity congratulate each and every participant on the high quality of entries. The companies and individuals that were formally recognised during the Expo Award events are the 'best of the best' in our industry however we believe the entire industry should be proud of setting such a high benchmark.

This is an Expo run by the industry for the industry and we were very pleased that a record 22 international and domestic auto industry association and media partners actively supported the Expo this year and many were directly involved either as exhibitors or running their own co-located events, seminars or conferences. The Auto Expo seminars attracted a remarkable 1940 attendees across nine sessions (an average of 215 per session!). There were also dozens of highly successful sub-events held in and around the Expo with the highlights being the International Reception, the Asia-Australia Dialogue and the PRTC events which all attracted strong attendances.

This level of industry participation is an extraordinary achievement in these challenging times. Not only is this Expo the largest of its kind in our region, it is one of the largest trade shows in Australia across any industry sector and I have no doubt that that our 2015 event made a definitive statement about the underlying



strength and resilience of our industry and sent a strong message that the aftermarket sector is very much alive and well with a strong future ahead of us.

We were also able to leverage the Expo to support our Government Relations activities with a total of seven State and Federal MP's involved which resulted in an unprecedented level of trade and mainstream media interest this year with vision of the Expo appearing on a number of TV news services.

We believe that this was our most successful event yet and marks another significant turning point in the evolution of the Expo. Due to the redevelopment of the Sydney Exhibition Centre, the 2017 event will once again be held in Melbourne from March 30 to April 1, 2017. The AAAA team is already working hard on delivering a bigger and better event in two years' time.

In closing we hope you enjoy reading this special Expo review edition of the Australian Automotive Aftermarket Magazine, which features a comprehensive wrap up of all the Expo action.

**BOB PATTISON**  
President

**STUART CHARITY**  
Executive Director