

THE 2019 AUTO AFTERMARKET EXPO – RAISING THE BAR AND BRINGING OUR INDUSTRY TOGETHER

As the sun sets on another highly successful Expo, the AAAA team 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 Expos featured 430 exhibitors displaying tens of thousands of products over five acres of floor space and our exhibitors raised the bar again by delivering stands and displays that would equal or better any show in our industry anywhere in the world.

More than 10,000 trade visitors, including hundreds of international buyers from over 70 countries attended the Expo over the three days. The combined Awards to industry banquet and breakfast was attended by over 1,000 people and the positive energy and goodwill at these events and throughout the Expo was palpable.

A personal highlight for me was witnessing the growing camaraderie building amongst the membership as we come together to fight for the future sustainability and growth of the automotive aftermarket and it was terrific to see people put aside their day to day competitive rivalries and come together to put on such a wonderful showcase of everything that is great about our industry.

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 we have no doubt that that our 2019 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.

I believe the key to the success of any industry is innovation and we have it in spades in the Australian Aftermarket with innovative people delivering innovative products and services while continually lifting the bar, solving problems and taking on the world in that understated Australian

way. While many in our industry shy away from the spotlight and just get on with the job, I believe it is fitting that every two years we take time out to formally acknowledge and recognise this innovation and success.

This year we received 155 entries from 62 companies for the Australian Auto Aftermarket Awards program and we want to congratulate each and every participant on the high quality of entries. The companies and individuals that were formally recognised at the awards breakfast and at our gala banquet on the 4th of April are the “best of the best” in our industry and I believe the entire industry should be proud of setting such a high benchmark.

Our industry has changed more in the last five years than it did in the previous 25 and the pace of change is increasing. With this in mind, a strong focus in our event planning was on ensuring that visitors were able to experience the latest innovative products and services in our industry as well as high quality education and networking opportunities to help them build a better auto business.

A major feature of the Expo this year was the world class seminar program with a new and innovative direction, featuring multiple presenters and contributors with expert facilitation. Partnering with AutoMate Training and ICAR and working with some of the aftermarket’s leading lights, the seminars were designed to help attendees understand the latest automotive trends, technology and industry best practice and deliver insights and tips that can be easily implemented to help future-proof their business. More than 2,000 people attended the 10 Auto



Expo seminars which was an increase of nearly 25 percent on 2017 numbers which highlights the increasing demand for high quality education and training.

This is an Expo run by the industry for the industry and we are very proud that a range of international and domestic auto industry associations 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. There were also more than 50 co-located seminars, conferences and meetings in addition to the sub-events held in and around the Expo.

We believe that this was our most successful event yet and marks another significant turning point in the evolution of the Expo. However we will never rest on our laurels and our Expo team are already working hard on delivering a bigger and better event in two years’ time to be held back at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre from the 15th to the 17th of April, 2021.

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.



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