

BIC COLUMN – AUGUST 2009

BIC National Conference

This month's ABC Magazine contains the full Conference brochure for the 2009 Bus Industry Confederation National Conference.

The BIC National Conference is the key policy forum for the WHOLE industry including your business; there is something on offer for operators, suppliers, regulators and industry advocates.

This year's Conference will be held in Hobart from October 25 – 28 at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart.

Our Conference program offers a range of informative sessions targeted at some of the key questions facing the industry in the future and a raft of social events for you and your family.

The theme for this year's Conference is 'Moving Australians – Sustainable Transport' and will look how we, as an industry, can play our part in development of a National Moving People Strategy as a solution to the growing problems of urban congestion, social isolation, climate change and rising fuel costs.

Within the solution to these problems lies an opportunity for the industry to position itself for continued growth in the short, medium and long term and the sessions focus on how developing a National Moving People Strategy can benefit the bus industry and your business.

As members of the industry we need your input into these sessions to discuss these issues, and engage key regulators and decision makers.

Conference Program

Our program for 2009 looks at the industry and its future in a time of uncertainty.

There is a great deal of uncertainty about the impact that the global financial crisis, the development of an Emissions Trading Scheme and changes to the regulatory framework for the industry will have on business.

Sessions at this year's Conference are geared specifically to answer your questions about what the future might hold.

This year's Conference Program looks to be the strongest we have had so far in the balance between focusing on the needs of businesses in the bus industry and the need to develop a wider vision of where our industry is headed and where we want to take it with Government.

Key sessions at the Conference include:

“Transformational Thinking in Transport Infrastructure Policies and Planning”

This session will feature CEO of the National Transport Commission, Nick Dimopolous, as he takes a look at the new National Transport Strategy and where passenger transport will fit into the new regulatory framework being developed by State and Federal Governments.

“The IR World is Changing – Is your Business at Risk”

Matt Robinson from Fisher Cartwright Berriman Lawyers will examine the new “Fair Work” legislation and what the changes mean for your business.

Director Generals of Transport – How Many Buses Do We Need

This session brings together the leading State and Federal Transport Department bureaucrats to discuss the direction of passenger transport services across Australia. This session will be an opportunity for you to participate in a discussion about the direction the industry is taking, in each state and nationally, the key challenges that public transport systems in Australia face and the leadership we need from Government.

“Australia’s Public Transport Future – A Hypothetical look at what it could be”

Our speakers take a look at the systems we have in place in Australia and where they are headed. International expert and Chair of Public Transport at Sydney University, Corinne Mulley will take delegates on a tour of her vision for public transport in Australia and Brian Bothwell will tell a “Tale of Three Busways” comparing the Brisbane Busways system against the best performing Busways in South America.

“The Gruen ‘Bus’ Transfer. Advertising – What Works and What Doesn’t”

Modeled around the TV show leading Australian transport marketers look at advertising and marketing of your business, public transport in general and discuss what works and what doesn’t.

“The Future Bus Market – What can Operators and Suppliers Expect?”

Mark Gjerek, State Manager of Rare Consulting will look at trends in bus manufacturing based on environmental and international vehicle design trends and paint of a picture of what the “Australian Bus” will look like in the future and a special European guest from Veolia will look at vehicle types and trends across Europe and what we might expect in Australia.

A School Bus System that Delivers a Best Practice Model for the Nation”

Kevin Norris, Industry Adviser, takes a look at a framework for school bus regulation that gets the best results for Governments and school bus operators.

We also have some inspirational Special Guest Speakers at this year’s Conference including dual Olympian, gold medalist in Sculling at Beijing and studying medicine by the age of 25 Scott Brennan. Noted wit and columnist Bettina Arndt will take a look at “The Other Great Australian Drought – sex

starved men, and women who would rather eat chocolate”, while Alanna Corbin will tell an inspirational tale of survival against the odds and making every chance count.

The sessions alone would make the trip to Hobart worthwhile, but the social events and location of the Conference add some icing to the cake.

Social Events

Festivities for the 2009 Conference will kick off with the Volvo Cocktail drinks on Sunday and end with the Iveco Big Arvo Out and Bus Auction on Wednesday with two great dinners in between.

The Mercedes dinner on Monday night and the Scania dinner on Tuesday are both shaping up to be tremendous events with some exciting entertainment being prepared for the evenings.

Partners Program

This year’s child friendly Heritage Finance Partner’s Program offers a chance to take in the delights of Tasmania while participating in Conference social events and enjoying Special Guest Speakers.

Day one of the Program takes in a two hour return cruise to Peppermint Bay, a guided interpretive cruise through a marine reserve and lunch at the famous Canopy Room.

Day two of the Program travels from Hobart to the spectacular Coal Valley Vineyard. It will be a day tour to remember including lunch at the Vineyard and a tour of the historic Richmond Village.

Historic Tasmania – A Great Place for the Family

With the Conference being held in the historic and unique city of Hobart this is a great opportunity to arrange a pre or post Conference holiday into the mix and take a break with the family.

Hobart offers a wide range of experiences to suit any traveller. The city and surrounds offer a unique encounter with Australia’s penal past, a rich and vibrant arts and cultural scene as well as pristine flora and fauna. Taking some time before or after the Conference to take in Tasmania might be a once in a lifetime holiday for the adventurer or just an opportunity to relax with the family in one of Australia’s genuine treasures.

Accommodation is limited due to a number of other major events being held in Hobart at the time of the Conference. So start planning now, mark your diary, book some cheap flights early and organise your accommodation to avoid inconvenience.

The BIC has block bookings at three hotels including the Grand Chancellor. Full details and prices of accommodation are in the Conference Brochure which is included in this edition of ABC Magazine.

To download an electronic copy of the Conference Brochure go to www.ozebus.com.au

I look forward to seeing you there.