



THE NATIONAL 2020 Collision Repairer LIFETIME Achievement Awards

AT A VIRTUAL CEREMONY LAST WEEK, A FULL COMPLEMENT OF INVITED GUESTS INCLUDING SPONSORS, PAST INDUCTEES, INTERNATIONAL GUESTS AND A PLETHORA OF IDENTITIES FROM ACROSS THE INDUSTRY “DIALLED-IN” TO OUR ANNUAL AWARDS PRESENTATION.

Many guests took the opportunity to dial in early and “check out” the virtual platform, and perhaps get a sneak peek of the inductees for 2020, but of course we were able to maintain the element of surprise.

The event got underway with an Acknowledgement of Country, where we recognised the many Indigenous peoples as the traditional custodians of our land, Australia, and in particular the peoples of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the place from which we broadcast in Central Victoria, paying respects to the Elders past, present and emerging.

Following a brief introduction of the program, we recognised the support of our sponsors, many of whom have been behind the event since its inception in 2007. In the absence of the opportunity for guests and inductees to catch up and network, we broadcast a slideshow history of the event, with appropriate backing music. To the sounds of Tina Turner’s “Simply the Best” and The Script’s “Hall of Fame”, we took a walk down memory lane, an initiative that was extremely well received based on the live feedback during the presentation.

This event was, of course, to recognise the contributions of the inductees for 2020 and add them to the 43 existing inductees who have shaped, built, disrupted, influenced and developed the collision repair industry since the second half of the 20th century. This year there were 10 worthy nominations from around the country, although three in particular attracted the attention of the voters, our sponsors and existing inductees. The inclusion of this year’s inductees brings the collective experience of all 46 inductees to over 1,500 years!



All set to go for our first virtual event.



Opening page of virtual broadcast.

Brad Franklin

Steven Brett, managing director Axalta Coating Systems Australasia, from his office in western Sydney, announced that the first inductee was Brad Franklin, Technical Training Manager, Sherwin Williams. We then crossed to Murray Howell on the NSW Central Coast to make the presentation.

Brad commenced an apprenticeship over 20 years ago and went on to work in the industry as a vehicle refinisher for several years before stepping up to manage the business on Sydney's North Shore. Concurrently, he saw the need to impart his knowledge onto the next generation and became a part-time TAFE teacher at TAFE NSW's Ultimo campus.

Steven spoke of Brad's long association with WorldSkills, successfully competing in the regional and national WorldSkills competition as an apprentice, an experience that he would take with him throughout his career. He has maintained an involvement with WorldSkills since 2004 and is now a judge in the Car Painting category at both the regional and national level, and



Brad with Alan Manning, Murray Howell and Richard Reneman.

is also an international Deputy Chief Expert in Vehicle Painting, sitting on the panel that develops the tasks which competitors are required to complete at the International WorldSkills competition.

He is a role model and mentor for every cohort of Australian competitors and always has their well-being as his primary focus. His passion and commitment to the future of our industry,

the next generation of technicians, is second to none. Brad maintains his skills at the highest level and is I-CAR Australia Platinum qualified, delivering I-CAR accredited training courses both in-house and throughout the industry.

Brad said he was honoured to receive the award, and particularly thanked his employer, Sherwin Williams, for its support of all the time and energy he puts into WorldSkills.

Jim Vais

From his home office, Stuart Charity, CEO of AAAA, announced that the second inductee was Jim Vais, founder of Capital S.M.A.R.T. Stuart highlighted Jim's enormous contribution to the industry over the past 30 years since completing his apprenticeship, particularly mentioning how Jim has changed the way we do things through disruption of the status quo.

The S.M.A.R.T. business model was developed on a huge trial site in Melbourne's southeast before going on to form a joint venture with AAMI, which is part of the Suncorp Group, and up until this year the business was repairing over 170,000 vehicles across Australia and New Zealand!

Having found the "one best way", Jim implemented it across the network and trained over 1,000 employees in their way of doing things, working with industry partners to create a series of incredibly efficient repair shops. In 2015, The Australian newspaper ran a feature on the prominent families within the collision repair industry and

it was no surprise that the Vais family was identified as a key player in shaping the future of the industry.

In 2019, the Capital S.M.A.R.T business was acquired by the AMA Group for over \$400m, a testament to the success, culture, performance and value of the multi-award-winning Vais-built business. With Melbourne in lockdown, Rob Bartlett of Suncorp facilitated the presentation at Jim's home with his family in attendance.

Jim said he was most humbled

to receive such recognition and said it was really special to have his family with him for the occasion.



Rob Bartlett makes the presentation to Jim.



Jim with wife Vicky and daughters Natasha and Deanna.



Jeff Williams

From his home office, Jason Trewin, Director I-CAR Australia, announced that the third inductee was Jeff Williams, director of Specific Prestige. We then crossed to Paul Back of MTASA to make the presentation in Adelaide, with many of Jeff’s peers and his partner in life and partner in business, Kristy Bennett in attendance.

Throughout his career, Jeff has been dedicated to working for the greater good of the industry through his involvement with MTASA, the Body Repair Division and as past Chair of AMBRA.

At a time when the state associations in our industry were in a phase of reorganising, and the federal body was undergoing a rebuild, Jeff gave his time willingly and selflessly to create a better environment for business owners across the country.

As past Chair of AMBRA and the MTASA Executive Committee, Jeff maintained his passion, drive and desire to continue to help others to strive and achieve their own business goals and

further support the greater good of the industry. In addition, he has been the Chair of the Body Repair Division and on the board of the MTASA and was instrumental in the introduction of the Code of Conduct, the AMBRA Shop Grading system, the collision repair Cost Calculator and the Greenstamp accreditation system.

Jeff has always taken the time to

help others and to this day continues to be a valuable confidant and strong business mentor. He still has a legitimate hunger to see this industry find healthier days.

Jeff was (almost) speechless as he was presented with the award and thought there were other more deserving than he was.



Paul Back presents Jeff with his award.

In summary

Whilst there is no substitute for a face-to-face event, in “The Year of the COVID” we had to rely on the virtual world and the specific challenges that this presented, particularly in arranging the presentation of the awards in three different locations. Although the event ran relatively seamlessly, we would much rather be hosting a room full of “real people”.

In closing, we thanked our broadcast

partners, Encore Event Technologies, the many people from across the country who joined the broadcast in these challenging times, especially those from New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, India and Denmark. This reinforces that the event continues to develop a true international stature.

Josephine and I congratulate Brad, Jim and Jeff on being recognised by their peers for a lifetime of achievement and contribution to

the industry. They have formally been inducted onto the Honour Roll, which you will find on our website:

<https://www.nationalcollisionrepairer.com.au/lifetime-awards/>

Finally, this initiative is only made possible by the support of our sponsors and we once again thank them all for their support, especially in such a challenging year, and we look forward to returning to a live event in 2021.

CollisionRepairer LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD	
2007 RICHARD NATHAN DAVID WEATHERALL	2013 JOHN ZULIAN TOM VUKELIC
2008 TERRY FLANAGAN (OAM) MARSHALL DUNCAN GRAHAM WINTER JEFF HENDLER (Int)	ROBIN TAYLOR RAY MCMARTIN COLIN EDWARDS
2009 MAX CHANTER JOHN HOWES ROBERT RENWICK (Int) DAVID NEWTON-ROSS	2014 IAN WILKINSON JULIE THOMAS BRIAN JOHNSON TERRY FEEHAN
2010 WAYNE PHIPPS RICHARD PRATT BOB REES	2015 OWEN WEBB (OAM) PHIL NIXON TREVOR PARKES
2011 LANCE WEISS MARK BRADY DON WAIT (OAM)	2016 TONY WARRENER (OAM) BRENTON ABBOTT
2012 TONY FARRUGIA BOB CHRISTIE	2017 MICHAEL KILLEN CARL TINSLEY PER MADSEN (Int) REX CROWTHER (Int)

CollisionRepairer LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD	
2018 GARRY CLEAR CEC SIMPSON MICHAEL WILKINSON	
2019 MARK CZVITKOVITS MARTIN STONE (AM) JULIE WADLEY WALTER ZUBER (Int)	
2020 BRAD FRANKLIN JIM VAIS JEFF WILLIAMS	



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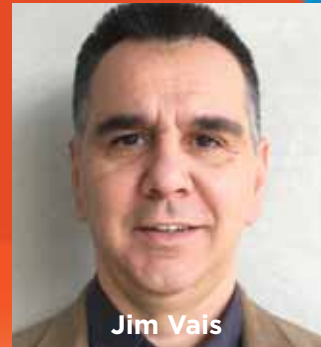
We congratulate Brad Franklin, Jeff Williams and Jim Vais on being recognised by their peers for a lifetime of achievement and contribution to the industry.



Brad Franklin



Jeff Williams



Jim Vais

We thank and acknowledge the following companies for their ongoing support of these awards.



Holden

