

MEDIA RELEASE



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TOWNSVILLE TRUCK DRIVER TAKES OUT NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL DRIVER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Robert Machin, a driver for Townsville based trucking company, Hawkins Transport, has been named as the winner of the prestigious National Professional Driver of the Year Award for 2009.

In Mr Machin's long career with Hawkins Transport he has gained the highest level of trust and respect from his employer and their customers.

Mr Machin takes a proactive approach to safety. He has an outstanding driving record, including no traffic offences from 1949 to the present day.

In his acceptance speech Mr Machin said he could not have achieved the award without the support of those around him.

"I'd like to thank Hawkins Transport for the last 28 years, my wife for putting up with me never being around and my workmates at Hawkins," Mr Machin said.

"Hawkins makes sure that every time their drivers hit the road they are fit, safe and ready to drive. It's that support that helps every time we are behind the wheel."

The National Professional Driver of the Year Award is part of the National Trucking Industry Awards, which are announced each year at the Australian Trucking Convention. This year's convention is being held on the Gold Coast.

The Chairman of the ATA, Trevor Martyn, said the awards are a crucial part of the industry's calendar because they identify and reward the people who have contributed to taking the Australian trucking industry to a higher level of professionalism.

"Listening to the winners speak on the night provides a strong indication of why they won – they all have tremendous passion for our industry, and an uncompromising commitment to its improvement," Mr Martyn said.

The National Professional Driver of the Year Award is sponsored by Trader Business Media, publisher of ATN and Owner Driver and the ATA's Foundation Sponsors: BP, NTI and Volvo.

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Please note: More information on the award winners can be found at www.ataevents.net.au. High resolution images of the award winners are available for media use by emailing bauched@atatruck.net.au or mckinleyb@atatruck.net.au. To arrange an interview with any of the winners contact the ATA communications team on the numbers above.