



Media Release 9 February 2015

Enjoy your 2015 *Collision Repair Expo* experience

Visiting Australia's largest display of vehicle repair and servicing equipment, replacement parts, tools and accessories – the *Collision Repair Expo* – will provide you with *Innovation* – all the latest products and services from the industry leaders, *Inspiration* – get new ideas to take your business to the next level, and *Education* – a comprehensive program of free seminars by industry leaders covering the topics that matter.

To be held 16 to 18 April 2015 at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre, this action packed industry event is hosted by the Australian Automotive Aftermarket Association (AAAA). Executive Director Stuart Charity said the growth of the biennial event has been rewarding for the hard working industry organising committee.

"This Expo continues to be a sell-out, which means the range of new products and technologies on display for visitors is huge. Together with the co-located *Australian Auto Aftermarket Expo* it covers more than five acres," he said.

Lowbake demonstration spray booth

Traditional highlights of the *Collision Repair Expo* are the Lowbake Spray Booths where the nation's top surface finish suppliers demonstrate and talk about their products while you watch. "This unique opportunity to see product innovation in action enables you to learn about and compare products in one place at one time," said Stuart Charity.

"Demonstrations by leading surface finish products suppliers will be presented in two special portable facilities provided by Lowbake Australia. Among the companies demonstrating are AkzoNobel, Axalta, DNA Custom Paints, Nippon Paint, PPG, Protec, Valspa and 3M.

"This is one of the most popular attractions at the Expo and operates on all three days of the show. Attendance is by ticket only, so collect yours on the day to ensure you do not miss out on sessions you want to see. Check the website www.collisionrepair.com.au for the link to the Lowbake demonstration booth schedule," he said.

Select and book your seminar seat

The education element of the Expo has now developed as a major attraction for business owners, managers and technicians. There will be two days of seminars delivered by industry experts covering both business operations and technical subjects.

Held on Friday April 17 and Saturday April 18, the seminar sessions are keenly attended and bookings are required to ensure your entry. Visit www.collisionrepair.com.au/seminars for further information about the seminars and to secure your seat," said Stuart Charity.

Industry organisations meet and network at Expo

Each year there are expanding numbers of industry organisations that host meetings and functions around the Expo. "This is a satisfying result of the organising committee's commitment to deliver an event run by the industry for the industry," said Stuart Charity.

"In 2015 we have more than 30 leading industry associations, professional bodies and companies hosting activities that are co-located with the Expo. This aspect of the Expo has grown in importance and the Expo is now recognised as the industry's national networking hub.

“Among the key organisations holding meetings at Expo will be AkzoNobel, National Collision Repairer Lifetime Achievement Awards, I-CAR, Australian Accident Repair Network, Suncorp, and the Society of Automotive Engineers Australasia.

“This gathering of senior industry identities offers an unrivalled networking opportunity. It is your once-in-two year chance to get inspiration from sharing ideas and experiences,” said Stuart charity.

Enjoy the city of Melbourne

It need not be all work and no play for Expo visitors. On Friday 17 April visitors can enjoy a relaxed happy hour from 6.00 to 7.00 pm with your colleagues. “This is a free event thanks to sponsorship from Gates Australia,” said Stuart Charity.

The Expo can also offer a business deductible short break for interstate visitors to marvellous Melbourne. Enjoy Melbourne’s signature destinations and events, or a touch of first class indulgence at discount rates negotiated for you by the organising team.

Discount accommodation and tourist activities

Among the activities are Melbourne International Comedy Festival, an indulgent day spa, Phillip Island Penguin Tour, or explore Melbourne’s exciting food scene on a walking Foodie Tour. Visit the Expo website at www.collisionrepair.com.au/ to book your choice.

In addition, accommodation rates have been negotiated specifically for exhibitors and visitors. You can book your Expo accommodation and travel through dedicated agent Ozaccom+ at: Toll Free (Australia only) 1800 814 611, E: ozaccom@ozaccom.com.au, or T: +61 (0)7 3854 1611.

Photo caption Lowbake.jpg: *See the nation’s top surface finish suppliers demonstrate and talk about their products while you watch in the Lowbake Spray Booths at the Collision Repair Expo.*

About the Australian Collision Repair Expo:

Hosted every two years by the Australian Automotive Aftermarket Association (AAAA), the next Expo is being held at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre 16 – 18 April, 2015. It will be the nation's most comprehensive exhibition of body finishing materials, crash repair equipment and tools. This is a trade only show run by the industry for the industry. An Expo highlight is the education and information program featuring industry experts to update businesses on the latest technologies and new trends in workshop management. More than 400 top Australian and international brands will be displayed across five acres at the Collision Repair Expo and the adjacent Auto Aftermarket Expo. The major corporate sponsor for the 2015 Collision Repair Expo is AkzoNobel Vehicle Refinishes. Visit: <http://www.collisionrepair.com.au/>

About the Australian Automotive Aftermarket Association Limited (AAAA):

The AAAA is the national industry association representing manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, importers and retailers of automotive parts and accessories, tools and equipment in Australia. The Association has over 1,700 member companies in all categories of the Australian automotive aftermarket and includes major national and multi-national corporations as well as a large number of independent small and medium size businesses. Member companies are located in metropolitan, regional and rural Australia. The parts and maintenance sector of the \$108 billion Australian automotive industry represents about \$34 billion. AAAA member companies employ more than 30,000 people and export over \$800 million worth of product a year. Visit <http://www.aaaa.com.au/>

Further information:

Barry Oosthuizen
 AAAA Communication Advisor
 M: 0413 185 135
 E: b.oosthuizen@bigpond.com