

## NATROAD CONNECT 24 AWARDS – CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY

NatRoad is proud to announce the winners of their prestigious annual awards, recognising outstanding contributions to the trucking industry in Australia. The awards highlight the dedication, professionalism, and commitment of individuals who have set new standards of excellence in road transport.

This year's winners are:

- NTI NatRoad Sam Sali National Young Driver of the Year: Jade Harney, Followmont Transport
- NTI NatRoad Professional Driver of the Year: James Ellison, Ditton Bulk Haulage
- Ted Pickering Memorial Award: Tim Giles.

“These awards reflect the hard work and passion of individuals who have excelled in their roles, and gone above and beyond to have a significant positive impact on the broader industry,” NatRoad CEO Warren Clark said.

“This year's award winners have all made outstanding contributions to the sector. They have truly set the standard in our industry and exemplify the kind of commitment, professionalism, and passion that drives the road transport sector forward.”

Jade Harney of Followmont Transport has been recognised with the Sam Sali National Young Driver of the Year Award for her motivation and commitment. Earning multiple licenses and certifications at just 24 years old, Jade's dedication to safety and proactive approach to problem-solving have made her a standout in the industry.

James Ellison from Ditton Bulk Haulage has been awarded the Professional Driver of the Year Award for his impeccable safety record and dedication to mentoring others. James has been driving over 200,000 kilometres annually without a single incident to date. His professionalism and willingness to mentor his colleagues have set a high standard in the industry.

Tim Giles receives the Ted Pickering Memorial Award for his 50-year career in the trucking industry. Tim's journey from a truck driver in Europe to a respected writer and photographer in Australia is marked by his dedication to informing and uplifting the industry, as well as his ongoing passion for technology and preparing the industry for the future.

NatRoad congratulates all the winners and looks forward to their continued contributions to the road transport sector.



## Profile Pieces

### Jade Harney – Sam Sali National Young Driver of the Year

At just 24, Jade Harney has already achieved remarkable milestones in the trucking industry. Joining Followmont Transport in 2019 as a forklift operator, Jade quickly earned her truck license, multiple certifications, and the respect of her colleagues. Known for her "can-do" attitude, Jade's commitment to safety is evident in her flawless driving record and proactive problem-solving skills. As the driver of Followmont's "Pinky" Women in Transport truck, Jade not only represents her company but also inspires more women to join the industry. Her positive impact extends beyond her role, making her a deserving recipient of the National Young Driver of the Year Award.

### James Ellison – Professional Driver of the Year

James Ellison's exemplifies the best of the industry, with a flawless driving record and over 200,000 kilometres driven annually. His commitment to safety, ongoing training, and mentoring others has earned him the Professional Driver of the Year Award. James is not just a skilled driver but also a positive force within Ditton Bulk Haulage, where his professionalism and teamwork are highly valued. His contributions have made a significant impact on both his workplace and the broader industry, setting a high standard for others to follow.

### Tim Giles – Ted Pickering Memorial Award

Tim Giles, a journalist and editor synonymous with the trucking industry, has been honoured with the Ted Pickering Memorial Award for his contributions to the advancement of the industry over his 50-year career. Tim started as a truck driver in Europe before moving to Australia, where he became a renowned writer and photographer. His work, deeply informed by his own driving experience, has consistently focussed on the opportunities and positive aspects of the industry, while providing valuable insights into new technology and best practice. Receiving multiple prestigious awards throughout his career, Tim's influence is clear and far reaching. As he retires, his legacy continues through freelance work, ensuring his voice remains a guiding force in the industry.

## About NatRoad

NatRoad has a proud history dating back to 1948, NatRoad is the largest Australian road freight transport association, representing the interests of the \$66 billion industry and its members.

With more than 50,000 companies employing over 200,000 people across the country, the road freight transport industry is one of Australia's biggest economic drivers.

A not-for-profit association, NatRoad is 100% funded through membership fees and business partnerships. No funding is provided by government or unions.

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