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Media Release

Brave New South Wales truck driver named Goodyear Highway Hero



The actions of a brave and selfless professional truck driver who risked his life to pull an injured, fellow truck driver from his burning rig has been acknowledged at an awards presentation today in Brisbane.

In March, Baulktrans driver Peter Robinson was travelling north on the F3 Freeway near Berowa, NSW, when a semi-trailer in an adjacent lane caught fire after a puncture caused it to crash into a sandstone wall that borders the freeway.

Rather than continue on and out of harms way, Mr Robinson immediately pulled over and ran to the already-burning rig to rescue the injured driver, Glenn Steele.

For his actions, Mr Robinson has today been awarded the prestigious Goodyear Highway Heroes award at a transport industry breakfast at the Brisbane Truck Show – the biggest trade show and exhibition of its type in the southern hemisphere.

Mr Steel is recovering from the accident in his home town of Newcastle, and was delighted to hear that Peter's heroic actions had been recognised by the industry.

"I owe my life to Peter Robinson," Mr Steele said. "He's a well deserving winner and I'll always remember him."

The national award, which is uniquely available to members of the Australian truck, coach and bus industry, carries with it a replica of the Goodyear Highway Heroes trophy, a \$5000 cash prize, and valuable peer and industry recognition.

Mr Robinson was very grateful to win the award.

"I've been driving trucks for 12 years now and it would be an understatement to say that the incident didn't shake me up," Mr Robinson said.

"As the empty water cooler bottles started to explode in flames, I began to worry about what would happen to Glenn if we couldn't free his leg and move him to safety. Fortunately, when I returned to the truck with a bar to free Glenn's leg, he'd managed to get it free and then I was able to carry him out of harms way.

"I've spoken to Glenn a few times since it happened and am glad to report he's in good spirits and should be back on the road in three to four weeks," he said.

Goodyear Australia Vice President, Corporate Affairs Kevin Halpin congratulated Mr Robinson for his heroism and said he represents everything the Goodyear Highway Heroes program stands for.

“Every day transport workers like Peter Robinson make an enormous contribution to road safety, and we're pleased to reward him for his brave, selfless and heroic efforts,” Mr Halpin said.

"The Goodyear Highway Heroes award is entirely about acknowledging the often unsung, but heroic efforts of Australia's transport industry workers, and we are delighted to acknowledge and reward Peter for his efforts today."

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For further information contact Brian O'Neil on 0411 055 284.

Editor's Note:

The media are welcome to cover the presentation of the Goodyear Highway Heroes award. The award is being presented at a special industry breakfast during the Brisbane Truck Show. Details as follow:

What: Goodyear Highway Heroes Award Presentation

Where: Victoria Park Golf Complex
Herston Road
Herston

When: Thursday May 17, 7.30am

Contact: Matthew Bowell on 0411 111 393