

VIEW FROM CANBERRA



December 2017

BIC Conference 2017 and looking ahead to 2018

BIC Conference 2017

Well Hobart put on the weather for the BIC Conference with unseasonal warm weather making it a very comfortable conference, except for a down fall at the Big Arvo out it was pretty much perfect.

Whilst delegates attended the plenary sessions in unprecedented numbers the Iveco Partners Program participants were having a wonderful Tasmania experience.

The conference sessions were well attended and the speaker quality and subject matter has received very good feedback.

PowerPoint presentations from all speakers are now available on our conference web page of the OzeBus website – look for the 2017 Conference link under the Information for Moving People navigation menu.

We filmed all conference speaker presentations as well and the live version of the presentation will be available on the website very soon. So you can print out the PowerPoint and follow the presentations and revisit the presentations that you thought were most useful for you.

BIC Conference 2018

As announced at the Hobart Conference, 2018 will see us join up with Bus and Coach Association NZ for a joint event in Cairns from October 7 to 10.

This will be a great event but the challenge will be accommodation. This is a popular time to visit Cairns, so I suggest if you plan to come you get on line and book your accommodation for the Conference. The accommodation BIC has arranged can be found at www.movingpeople.com.au.

I suggest you arrive Saturday 6 October and stay for the Big Arvo Out on Fitzroy Island and return on Thursday 11 October.

BIC Conference Bus Auction

The annual bus auction took place at the Iveco Big Arvo out and the Iveco, Volgren bodied school bus was purchased by Sapphire Coast Coach lines from Pambula on the South Coast of NSW, thanks to Jamie and Anton Klemm.

A big thank you also to all the suppliers who contributed to the building of the bus. The suppliers who generously donated to the bus build can also be found on the conference webpage at OzeBus.

The important thing about the bus auction is that BIC receives the \$\$\$\$ difference between the auction purchase price and the actual cost of building the bus. These \$\$\$\$ go to assisting BIC in its advocacy efforts with federal, state and territory governments and this directly benefits all operators and suppliers.

Bus Australia Network



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BIC the year ahead

I provided an overview of the BIC work program and key priorities and challenges over the next 12 to 24 months on the closing day of the Conference.

One of the big challenges for BIC and all Industry groups is the state of politics in Canberra. All 3 parties, the Government, ALP and Greens are all on board to varying levels in regard the BIC agenda for cities and regions and how we *move people* and the role of bus services. The problem is the numbers in the House of Representatives and in the Senate, and the recent destabilized political environment is really creating an environment where it is hard to get cut through when the Government is in survival mode and the Opposition has the political weapons of war out and firing.

Running into the next Federal election that is due in the first half of 2019, the key focus for BIC will be:

- The Cities agenda and the role of bus in making our cities work and connecting people
- Regional connectivity, accessibility and the important role of bus operators and services
- PT Infrastructure investment in bus priority and BRT
- Electrification and new propulsion sources, new technology and Mobility as a Service, On demand and other new services and where bus fits
- The coach sector and tourism and our first National School Bus Summit.

Have a great Christmas and see you in the New Year.

Bus Australia Network

