

## MEMBER NEWS - NOVEMBER 2002

### YOUR ASSOCIATION

Its time again for you to choose directors for the AFIF Board. All ordinary members are entitled to nominate for director positions and to vote for same in the ballot. You should by now have received the nomination forms (nominations close November 8th). We encourage all members to be involved in our board, or in committees which do much of the work on the various issues which we pursue for members.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on November 28th, at the Holiday Inn Mascot and we encourage you to attend both the meeting and the brief social after.

### CMR COMPLIANCE ISSUES

At a recent scheduled meeting between Customs, AFIF and CBFCA we were informed that statistics produced from the recent export compliance audits conducted by the ACS revealed that there were still over 70% of errors on ECN! As you will know we are in a "moratorium" period which will end on January 1st and it is essential that all members ensure they have made appropriate adjustments within their organisation to comply with the regulations.

If you have not yet been audited by Customs, we recommend that you implement some kind of self audit either utilising your own personnel or by calling in an independent organisation. You may consider one of the big four accounting firms or if you need some information on other alternatives please contact AFIF as we have details on other alternatives you may wish to consider.

### CUSTOMS CONDUCT DURING AUDITS

Customs are keen to ensure that the compliance order process is seen to be fair and reasonable. They have asked us to refer any details of incidences where our members (and other organisation's members) supervise them where the conduct of the ACS officers are not viewed as reasonable. This does not include incidences where high number of ECN errors have been detected! We suggest you refer these matters directly to Customs and copy AFIF.

### UP COMING EVENTS

1. Aus Intermodal Melbourne Nov 19th & 20th

The conference will feature a pre-recorded address from John Anderson the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport and Regional Services on how Auslink and the Australian Logistics Council will help to create the transport industry Australia needs. In addition to the preliminary sessions there will be four individual streams covering day two which is split in the morning between maritime and road and the afternoon between rail and air. Peter McNamara, Chairman of AFIF will be chairing the airstream which will include a panel discussion: Improving the Performance of Airfreight in the Australian Intermodal Environment chaired by Paul Golland, the National Airfreight Director of AFIF. For the full conference program go to [www.ausintermodal.com](http://www.ausintermodal.com)

1. Trans NZ 2002 - 27th & 28th 2002 in Wellington, New Zealand

A two-day event covering international ports, shipping and transport logistics together with an exhibition taking place at Tepapa Tongarewa, Wellington. There will be 16 international maritime transport speakers and the exhibition will feature 15 ports and container handling equipment suppliers. For latest details go to [www.transportevents.com](http://www.transportevents.com)

3. AFIF Annual General Meeting November 28th, 2002

4. Forwarders and Brokers Christmas party

Celebrate Christmas with industry colleagues at a 'FAB' (Forwarders and Brokers) Event being held at the Novotel Brighton Beach.  
Thursday 12 December, 7.00pm 'till late.

- \* Get a table of 10 together
- \* Tickets \$110 per person
- \* Dine, drink and dance the night away
- \* Lucky door prizes to be won, airfares to be auctioned
- \* Fundraising for charity 'Kids First' - caring for neglected and abused children
- \* Sponsorship available
- \* Corporate tables available
- \* Limited space - tickets selling fast don't miss out on a 'FAB' night!
- \* For more info call the event organiser Lyndell Wills on (02) 4973 6573 or email at [fab@willorganise.com.au](mailto:fab@willorganise.com.au)

#### BALI, INDONESIA

Following the horrific events that occurred in Bali, we sent a message of sympathy to our counterparts INFA, Indonesia (an extract from their return message is as follows:

"On behalf of all the members of INFA, Indonesia please accept our deepest sympathy as well as deepest sorrow for a loss of so many innocent people from Australia as well as those who are missing and those who are still in the hospitals. There are no words that can express our feelings towards these horrific events. To those of you who have friends or relatives you have lost or still missing, we thought you might appreciate these words from the Indonesian association."

#### SEA FREIGHT COUNCIL OF NSW NEWS LETTER

The above organisation has just released its first News Letter and it can be found on website [www.tradegate.all.au/sfcnsw](http://www.tradegate.all.au/sfcnsw)

Please bookmark this site if you are interested and check readily for updates.

#### US WEST COAST PORTS RE-OPENED

On October 7th, President George W. Bush re-opened the 29 West Coast ports that had been shut since September 27th. In doing so, he also convened a board of enquiry into the strike. Further more a federal judge ordered the ports re-open for an 80 day

cooling off period whilst tension between the Pacific Maritime Association and the International Long Shore and Warehouse Union appears to continue, the ports are now 'functioning'.. but slowly. It seems the labour has the last word after all and are 'working to rules'. Needless to say, the port backlog is being cleared very slowly.

#### CSI NOT ALL PLAIN SAILING

US Customs container security initiative may not be as easy to implement as had been hoped by Robert Bonner, Commissioner of the US Custom Service. A letter signed by 15 associations including national customs brokers and forwarder associations of America, a meeting with the Commissioner has been requested to discuss issues regarding customs proposals to require sensitive commercial information on ocean manifests and raised questions whether it would achieve customs objectives and make the cargo less, rather than more secure. We will keep you posted on these developments, as it will affect Australia at some time or other.

#### AGENCY CO-OPERATION

In addition to previous notices we have received information from the following countries with regard to opportunities for new agency relationships:-

Singapore

Contact AFIF for full details.

#### SPECIAL HOTEL RATES

Southern Cross Hotel Group:-

Southern Cross Sydney - 4 Star Deluxe room \$125.00 per night (single, double or twin)

Southern Cross Towers, Sydney - 4-5 Star Studio Suite \$125.00, One bedroom Suite \$135.00, 2 Bedroom Suite \$220.00

Southern Cross on Harbour, Sydney - Deluxe Boutique apartment style, One bedroom suite \$160.00

Southern Cross Executive Suites, Darling Harbour - Luxury boutique apartment style Hotel, 2 bedroom suite \$230.00 or 3 bedroom suite \$295.00.

For reservations call Toll Free 1800 221 141 and quote AFIF Member.

Please note: Rates valid until 30 December 2002.

#### Holiday Inn -

Holiday Inn Sydney Airport - \$124.00

Holiday Inn Melbourne - \$195.00

Holiday Inn on Flinders - \$170.00

Holiday Inn City Centre Perth - \$152.00

Holiday Inn Brisbane - \$135.00

Holiday Inn Adelaide - \$138.00

These rates are per standard room (single or double), include GST and are valid until 30 December 2002. Telephone: (02) 9330 0600 quote AFIF Member.

Hilton International -

Hilton Sydney Airport - \$127.00 Phone: (02)9518 2000

Hilton Sydney - \$275.00 Phone: (02) 9266 2000

Hilton Brisbane - \$133.00 Phone: (07) 3234 2000

Hilton on the Park Melbourne -\$170.00 Phone: (03)9419 2000

Hilton Melbourne Airport - \$155.00 Phone: (03)8336 2000

All rates include single/twin/double and are valid until 31 March 03.

Thankyou and regards,

BRIAN LOVELL

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