



Queensland Bus Industry Council Inc.

April 20, 2017

Media Release

Slain bus driver's memory lives on through driver of the year award

Following a year in which bus driver safety was a major issue, the industry has turned the spotlight on driver excellence by announcing the bus driver of the year.

And in a tribute to Brisbane driver Manmeet Sharma - tragically attacked and killed with an incendiary device at Moorooka in October - the award has been renamed the "Manmeet Sharma perpetual driver of the year award", an honour endorsed by Manmeet's family and former employer Brisbane City Council.

Executive director of the Queensland Bus Industry Council (QBIC) David Tape said the presentation of the award was an emotional moment, and the winner - Victor Jose Augusto Meirinhos, who drives for Brisbane Bus Lines (BBL) - was a worthy inaugural recipient.

Mr Tape said Mr Meirinhos, who was judged Queensland's best for 2016, typified the type of driver that made the industry proud.

"This is a person who has consistently received accolades and compliments from customers and who gives his all to serve Queenslanders. I have no doubt that he deserves this award, which now carries more weight given how the incident that took Manmeet's life affected us all," Mr Tape said.

His employer agreed. "Victor is a consistently all 'round good guy who displays our company values," said BBL managing director Lara-Jane Mitchell.

The popular driver clearly has a larrikin side, with his employer pointing out he loves to spend time "visiting horses at Strathgordon Clydesdales and living it up at the Gold Coast 600."

And Mr Meirinhos cheekily claims international stardom, pointing out that, "on my birthday, a group of Aussie expats living in Michigan skyped me and sang Happy Birthday while doing a conga line in a park." He previously drove them on a five-day tour of the Bunya Mountains and Sunshine Coast.

The "Manmeet Sharma perpetual driver of the year award" recognises bus drivers who have been a credit to their profession through safe driving and the general standards demonstrated through the loyalty they have shown the company that employs them.

Details:

Media: Victor Meirinhos, 2017 bus driver of the year and David Tape, executive director of QBIC

Date: Today, Thursday, April 20, 2017

Time: 11am

Location: Brisbane Bus Lines Depot – 26 Pickering St, Enoggera

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