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MEDIA RELEASE – IMMEDIATE USE

Safety Event Continues its Success

After its debut in 2002, the SafetyWA Conference has continued on an annual basis as Western Australia's leading safety event for safety professionals. Having just finished the 4th SafetyWA Conference, IFAP's Marketing Manager, Arianne George says "the formula we have is working extremely well with over 360 delegates proving our event is not only a success, but is meeting a need out there in the market".

The 2005 conference, held at the Esplanade Hotel Fremantle, attracted over 360 like-minded professionals to network and learn about steps others have taken to promote and improve their safety and health performance, as well as 42 exhibitors and a host of quality speakers.

"With delegates representing a wide range of industry sectors, including government, manufacturing, construction, mining and utilities, it is important that we offer a range of speakers to suit," Ms George said. A total of 24 speakers were featured over the two day event which followed the continuing theme of Practical Workplace Solutions and had a key focus on The Future of the OSH Profession.

The highlight of the conference was the keynote presentation by Shelley Taylor-Smith, seven time World Number One Swimming Champion. Her address, titled "Who is Driving – How to Keep Your Mind on the Job" had the audience glued to their seats leaving them on a motivational high and an understanding of the importance of always being focused on the task.

During the two days of the conference some excellent papers were presented, on occasion with humour, but certainly targeting issues which safety professionals should be aware of.

Mr Mick Golding - Managing Director, Fortress Interlocks gave a presentation and demonstration of interlock devices which was well received by conference attendees. Mick's presentation style made the subject matter easy to follow and highlighted some valid points that should be considered when installing this type of safety device.

Ms Maria Saraceni - Partner, Workplace Relations, Jackson McDonald Lawyers, presented a paper entitled "Personal Liability of Safety Professional – *are you exposed if things go wrong?*". This was a very thought provoking presentation on the legal issues surrounding the safety professional and personal liability. Changes in the legislation, amendments to gross negligent, along with prosecutions occurring in England, made this paper topical and current for conference attendees.

Mr Donatus Michalka – Director, Positive Workplace Foundation, presented a paper entitled “Positive Workplace - How to Create Them”. His creative presentation style and relevant content resulted in Mr Michalka receiving the award for the Most Outstanding Presentation at the conference.

A safety exhibition was held in conjunction with the conference allowing delegates and other guests direct access to a wide range of safety products and services. Exhibitors had the opportunity to liaise directly with key safety decision makers for the duration of the conference with exposure to new and existing clients.

Other events held in conjunction with the conference included a cocktail function and the Skilled Gala Dinner featuring the 2005 IFAP/CGU Safe Way Awards presentations and the IFAP Corporate Golf Day which was held the day after the conference and attracted a full playing field of 144 players. Around \$5,000 was raised from the golf day for IFAP’s nominated charity organisation, PBF Australia.

Details on the **2006 SafetyWA Conference**, to be held on **14 and 15 November**, can be found at **www.verticalevents.com.au** or by contacting the official conference organisers, Vertical Events, on **9388 2222**.

This media release is available on IFAP’s website at:
www.ifap.asn.au/publications/inthenews.html

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