



**International Association of Auto Theft Investigators**

# **2026 Australasian Branch Awards**



Nominations close 10th July 2026



## Australasian Branch Awards Program

The Australasian Branch Awards have been recognising achievement in the fight about auto crime since 1999 and nominations for the 2026 awards are now open and will **close on 10th July 2026**.

The awards seek to recognise and reward outstanding achievement, innovation, or exceptional performance in the field of auto theft prevention, detection and investigation. In 2026 there will be five categories of awards:

- Investigation of the Year
- Insurance Industry Investigation of the Year
- Forensic and Supporting Services Award
- President's Award
- Member of the Year

Winners of the Branch Awards will be announced during the 2026 Vehicle Crime Conference on Monday 17th August 2026 at the PARKROYAL Darling Harbour, Sydney

### “Investigation of the Year”

The Investigation of the Year award is open to any individual or team who have conducted an outstanding investigation involving any form of vehicle related crime.

It is open to members of police forces, customs services, insurance investigators, private investigators, registration and transport authorities, forensic staff or anyone else involved in vehicle crime investigations. Submissions will be judged on their demonstration of any or all of the following criteria: innovative methodologies, application of best practice investigation techniques, the complexity of the investigation, and co-operation and involvement of multiple agencies to achieve a result in the fight against auto crime.

The investigation may involve cooperation of international agencies but at least part of the investigation must have taken place in either Australia, New Zealand or South East Asia during the last 3 years.

### “Insurance Industry Investigation of the Year”

The Insurance Industry Investigation of the Year Award is open to any individual or team working in the insurance industry who have conducted an outstanding investigation of a suspicious motor vehicle related claim, i.e. stolen claim, damage claim, staged accident, etc.. The award is open to both investigators who have conducted an outstanding investigation into motor vehicle theft claims, auto crime claims, and claims staff working in the investigations unit of an insurance company who manage the investigation process.

The investigation may be deemed outstanding for a range of reasons including its use of innovative methodologies and investigations techniques; the complexity of the investigation and the outcome of the investigation. The submission could be in relation to one specific claim, a network of theft claims or auto crime claims that were identified and investigated.

The investigation and/or insurance claim must have been performed in either Australia, New Zealand or South East Asia in the past three years.



## “Forensic and Supporting Services Award”

We are extremely pleased to be again be offering our 'Forensic and Supporting Services Award' in 2026. This award was introduced in 2016 and attracted a large number of nominations. The Forensic and Supporting Services Award” acknowledges that IAATI is made up of a diverse range of professionals and most successful investigations involve bringing together co-operation with of these professions and their expertise. As a result the “Forensic and Supporting Services Award” serves as a means of shining the spotlight on the range of supporting services that can play a major role in any investigation but often go unrecognised.

The award will be open to any individual, public or private organisation involved in the provision of forensic or other types of supporting services. It recognises their outstanding work that has resulted in either:

- the detection of an offence;
- significantly assisted in the investigation or prosecution; or
- the prevention of vehicle related crime.

The award may be given for a particular case or for the sustained contribution to the particular area of study over many years.

It is expected that this new award will be highly competitive with potential nominees likely to come from a broad cross-section of areas. They are likely to include both public and private sector employees and organisations, such as

- Scene of crime examiners
- Intelligence officers
- Computer and digital forensics
- Handwriting and document experts
- Registration and Transport agency inspectors
- Forensic mechanics
- Fire investigators
- Locksmiths
- Fraud analysts
- Accident reconstructionist
- Researchers or technical staff from vehicle manufacturers, motoring clubs
- Developers of security devices and equipment

## “Member of the Year”

Nominations for this award are open to present or past members of the Australasian Branch of IAATI. This award is to recognise the work of an individual member, who through their dedication and involvement, has helped in the development, growth or professionalism of IAATI within the Australasian Branch or at the International level.



## “President’s Award”

The President’s Award recognises outstanding contribution by an individual or a team in either the reduction and deterrence of motor vehicle theft in Australia, the achievement of a significant result from an investigation in auto crimes, or a significant achievement in the detection of motor vehicle theft and/or fraudulent vehicle crime.

For example, potential nominations in this category may include:

- Individuals or organisation involved in the development of security devices;
- Vehicle manufacturers;
- Insurance companies for the introduction of new procedures or incentives to vehicle owners or the funding of crime prevention programs;
- Police services for the introduction of initiatives or the development and distribution of training programmes;
- Local crime prevention practitioners;
- Youth workers or organisations involved in prevention programs for offender or age risk individuals;
- Advertising agencies for the development of an awareness campaign etc.;
- Motor Registration authorities or consumer protection agencies for the development of policies or procedures aimed at restricting the activities of car thieves and protecting the unsuspecting consumers;
- Individuals or organisations involved in the media for the development of responsible reporting practices, the dissemination of vehicle theft prevention material, or the reporting of vehicle theft issues;
- Police services, Customs services, Insurance companies, private investigators, or anyone else involved in the prevention, detection and investigation of motor vehicle theft or vehicle crimes;
- Inter-agency operations or co-operation between public and/or private companies to achieve a positive result in the tackling of vehicle crime.

Past winners of the President’s Award include:

- Strike Force Alboraya - NSW Police
- Operation Mane - New Zealand Police
- Operation Barreleye - Auto & General Insurance
- Forensic & Supporting Services - Insurance Australia Group
- Level Up Against Car Theft Campaign - NSW Police
- Operation Discover - Victoria Police, Vehicle Police

Submissions could be for any project, initiative or investigation that deals with the reduction, prevention or investigation of a vehicle crime, either at an international, national or local level.

## How to nominate

1. Complete the Nominations Form on Page 5 for yourself or a colleague you wish to nominate as a cover page.
2. Prepare a submission outlining why the Nominee is an outstanding example in their category, to be no more than 4 pages in length.
3. Please email the nomination cover page and submission to IAATI Australasian Branch Committee Member, Jim Manser: [admin@manserfireandmarine.com.au](mailto:admin@manserfireandmarine.com.au) The closing date for nominations is **10 July 2026**.



# Australasian Branch Awards - Nomination Form

This form is a cover letter for nominating yourself, your organisation or a colleague for an IAATI Australasian Branch award. Please attach a submission of supporting evidence for eligibility for the award not exceeding 4 pages. For additional information please contact IAATI Australasian Branch Committee Member, Jim Manser (telephone 0459 222 136 ) or email: [admin@manserfireandmarine.com.au](mailto:admin@manserfireandmarine.com.au)

Electronic submissions in PDF format to: [admin@manserfireandmarine.com.au](mailto:admin@manserfireandmarine.com.au)

Nominations for the 2026 awards **close on 10 July 2026**

## Nominee Details

Nominee's Name : .....  
(as to appear on award if selected - name may be an individual, a team, or organisation)

Nominee's Organisation: .....

Contact Person (if team or organisation): .....

Position: .....

Postal Address: .....

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Phone: .....

Email: .....

If nominating a team please list names of team members or other agencies involved in the investigation: ....

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## Nominator's Details

Your Name: .....

Your Organisation: .....

Your Phone: .....

Your Email: .....

Your relationship to nominee: .....

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## Guide to making a submission

*Submissions should be made providing supporting evidence to demonstrate why the nominee is a worthy winner in their eligible category. Here are some tips in putting together your submission.*

### **Read the category description carefully and identify what the judging criteria are for that award.**

Make sure you clearly demonstrate how the nominated investigation / project / initiative meets the criteria.

### **Provide clear and succinct details about the investigation / project / initiative you are nominating.**

The maximum length for the supporting evidence is 4 pages—it does not have to be 4 pages, so don't add unnecessary details just to fill pages.

And remember the old saying—sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words!

### **Results**

What were the results of your investigation / project / initiative? What difficulties did you have to deal with and overcome to get those results?

### **Sell it!**

Every year we receive a number of very worthy submissions, so you need to spell it out for the judges why your nomination deserves to win. What makes your nomination stand out as an excellent example in it's category?

### **Sub-sections**

Think about whether you should break up your submission into sections to really make your point, particularly if you are sending in the maximum 4 pages, to make it easier for the judges to read and understand. Don't be afraid of white space.

### **Proof read your submission**

Make sure it is free from spelling and grammatical errors, and that it flows well to the reader.

### **Confidentiality**

While it is helpful to provide as much detail as possible, please do not disclose confidential information, particularly if the investigation is yet to be finalised in the courts. If asked to provide details of the investigation for publication in one of IAATI's publications, then you will be given an opportunity refuse, or to provide a more 'public' version of your submission prior to any publication.

