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Ensham hosts gala night

COAL industry leaders from Australia and guests from around the world are attending this week's Coaltrans Australia 2005 conference in Brisbane.

Coaltrans is a gathering of Australia's coal industry leaders together with national and international coal consumers, traders, analysts and shippers.

A highlight of the two day event was a gala reception and uniquely Australian bush dinner for local and international delegates at The Woolshed, in Brisbane's Ferny Hills last night.

The industry dinner was hosted by Ensham, and featured the auction of memorabilia marking Ensham's 50 millionth tonne of coal produced from its open cut coal mine near Emerald.

Proceeds of the auction will be donated to the Royal Flying Doctor

Service.

Special guest for the evening was former Australian Wallaby and World Cup rugby captain, Nick Farr-Jones, who is now the finance managing director of Socit Gnrale's Australian branch.

Adding to the Australiana flavour of the evening, guests were transported to the Woolshed aboard a Queensland Rail heritage train.

Ensham chief executive officer John Pegler said Coaltrans Australia was an important event for Australia, which was currently the world's largest coal exporter.

"While we have seen huge growth in coal exports which has been positive for both producers and Australia's balance of trade, there are a number of issues which need to be tackled to protect the competitiveness of this important industry," Mr Pegler said.