



A TOP YEAR IN THE TOP END

May 2009

The 1500 seat Darwin Convention Centre (DCC) has followed up a vibrant six month opening period with a very strong 2009, with at least 27 significant events confirmed for the year. These events are expected to attract more than 11,000 delegates from a diverse spread of fields and professions and include veterinarians, scientists, doctors and nurses, miners, educators, dieticians and even professional furniture removalists.

One of the larger events for the year is the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA) Conference, expected to attract 1400 domestic and international delegates in late May. It is recognised as Australia's leading oil and gas industry event and considered to be amongst the top three conferences of its type in the world.

The conference is set to take on an international flavour to mesh with the multicultural diversity of Darwin and the "Top End" region, with even the Northern Territory brand "NT" being incorporated into the conference theme of 'New FroNTiers'. The social program has been designed to showcase the very best that Darwin has to offer and includes a welcome function at the Darwin Sailing Club with the spectacular Arafura Sea as a backdrop, a formal outdoor dinner on the lawns of SKYCITY and farewell cocktails overlooking Darwin's showpiece Waterfront Precinct. Pre and post touring activities include deep sea fishing, sunset harbour cruising and excursions to nearby Kakadu National Park, Katherine Gorge, Litchfield National Park and even Bathurst Island, 80 kilometres north of Darwin.

A recent event which also very effectively showcased Darwin's wares was the inaugural ICCA Australia Association Business Session, which was jointly hosted by The Darwin Convention Centre and the Northern Territory Convention Bureau. The event enabled ICCA Australia members to invite a qualified client to participate in a four day educational and networking event. External activities included a visit to renowned Darwin attraction, Crocosaurus Cove, for a close encounter with some reptilian Territory residents, an interactive dot-painting workshop with a traditional indigenous artist, a sunset cruise on the harbour, deep-sea fishing and a viewing of some of the region's beautiful pearls.

Lynn Fairbrass, Manager of the Northern Territory Convention Bureau commented “We’re always delighted when we have a chance to show off our beautiful destinations and so we really encourage planners to make the most of our many exotic attractions. Our impressive track record with international events has shown the very positive impact that an interesting and engaging social programme can have on delegate attendance.”

For further information on conferences and incentives in Australia’s Northern Territory, visit www.ntconventions.com

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