

**EVENT NAME:** 46th International Association of Women Police (IAWP) Annual Training Conference

**DATE:** 6 - 11 September 2008

**TOTAL ATTENDANCE:** 540 participants from 34 countries

### ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

IAWP2008 Conference Director, Superintendent Joanne Foley, Northern Territory Police Force

### BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVE OF CONFERENCE:

The International Association of Women Police (IAWP) mission is to strengthen, unite and raise the profile of women in criminal justice internationally.

IAWP has 2,400 members from more than 45 countries including Africa, Asia, Australia, Canada, the Caribbean Island, Europe and Russia, Mediterranean and Middle East, Nepal, Philippines, Pacific Islands, Central and South America, United Kingdom and the United States.

The IAWP conference focused on improving policing for women by identifying best practice and developing technology. The conference attracted senior police, administrators, managers and executives, federal agents, investigators, researchers, academics and students from 34 countries around the globe.

The conference theme 'Policing New Territory' was specifically selected to showcase the Northern Territory Police Force, but also to enhance their training. Streams for the conference focused on: The Changing Face of Crime; Policing - A Career of Choice; Leading by Example and Strengthening Partnerships.



### DESTINATION SELECTION RATIONALE:

One of the contributing factors to winning the international congress was that the Northern Territory Police Force has one of the highest proportions of women officers with a ratio of 1:4 men to women. In 1961 they only had five. The NT women police, including Aboriginal Community Police Officers and Police Auxiliaries, are now deployed in nearly every aspect of policing including special operations, remote communities, marine and fisheries, police training and senior management.

The Northern Territory Police Force patrols one of the most isolated and interesting beats in the world with less than one percent of the Australian population inhabiting a land mass covering one sixth of the continent. Delegate registrations were kept to the lowest fee possible (AUD720) to give the members from all countries the opportunity to participate. There was also a special rate for retired members (AUD370) and companions were catered for with an exciting program of organised tours.

### THE NORTHERN TERRITORY EXPERIENCE:

The conference program offered a once in a lifetime experience through workshops in the remote indigenous community of Nguuu on the Tiwi Islands. Hosted by Sergeant Rosanna (Milika) Breed, a Tiwi woman born on Melville Island, with sessions regarding policing between cultures and indigenous initiatives such as the 'Peace at Home' project, Indigenous family violence offender programs and the Indigenous Elders program.

A comprehensive social program was handled by the local organising committee and a Darwin-based professional conference organiser, showcasing the attractions of Darwin and the Northern Territory with warm tropical evenings providing the perfect climate for al fresco functions.

A Gala Dinner Masquerade Party was held on the lawns of SKYCITY Hotel with the finale being a spectacular sky show of colourful fireworks.

To wind up the conference, delegates enjoyed the exotic sights, sounds and aromas of Darwin's famous Mindil Beach Markets. A fabulous Darwin sunset over the water set the mood before delegates tried unusual tastes including crocodile kebabs, browsed amongst the stalls and enjoyed vibrant Territory entertainment.

The Northern Territory is one of Australia's greatest drawcards for international visitors and a 'must-see' for national delegates with the beauty of the world heritage national parks of Kakadu, Uluru and Kata Tjuta and the spectacular eco-adventures and wildlife experiences that Darwin and the Northern Territory offers.



### DARWIN CONVENTION CENTRE EXPERIENCE:

IAWP2008 was one of the first international conventions to be held at the Darwin Convention Centre with its superb harbour location.

The Opening Ceremony was held in the auditorium with Indigenous dancers and children performing in a local multicultural society choir and set the scene for the conference with all participants in their respective nation's full dress uniform. Delegates were also introduced to native wildlife during their welcome reception to the delight of the international attendees.

The Darwin Convention Centre had only been officially opened two months prior. It was the first time that the Centre's team had operated two conventions running simultaneously being the IAWP conference with 540 delegates and the International Alumina Quality Workshop of more than 400 attendees.

Both clients commented on how well the Centre's team worked and the traffic flow was seamless, as both meetings

were held on different levels of the Convention Centre.

### TRIUMPHS:

One of the more memorable aspects of the 2008 IAWP Conference was the Remote Community Workshop held at the Indigenous community of Nguiu in the beautiful Tiwi Islands, located some 80 km north of Darwin in the Arafura Sea. The workshop was fully subscribed. Some 160 participants enjoyed Tiwi Island hospitality as well as the opportunity to undertake training showcasing how indigenous women “police between two cultures”.

The spectacular Parade of Nations through the streets of Darwin was a conference highlight with delegates in their nation's full-dress uniform receiving an unmistakably warm Australian welcome from locals, tourists, and even bikini-clad backpackers who lined the streets. More than 500 policewomen, police commissioners, retired police officers, mounted police officers and junior police rangers were accompanied by an army band as they made their way through the city.

Over 80 local volunteers assisted the committee with a multitude of tasks to ensure the smooth running of the event. The support teams worked tirelessly to ensure registration kits were ready and 600 delegate bags were packed full of information and Aussie treats, such as ‘Tim Tams’ and ‘Vegemite’.

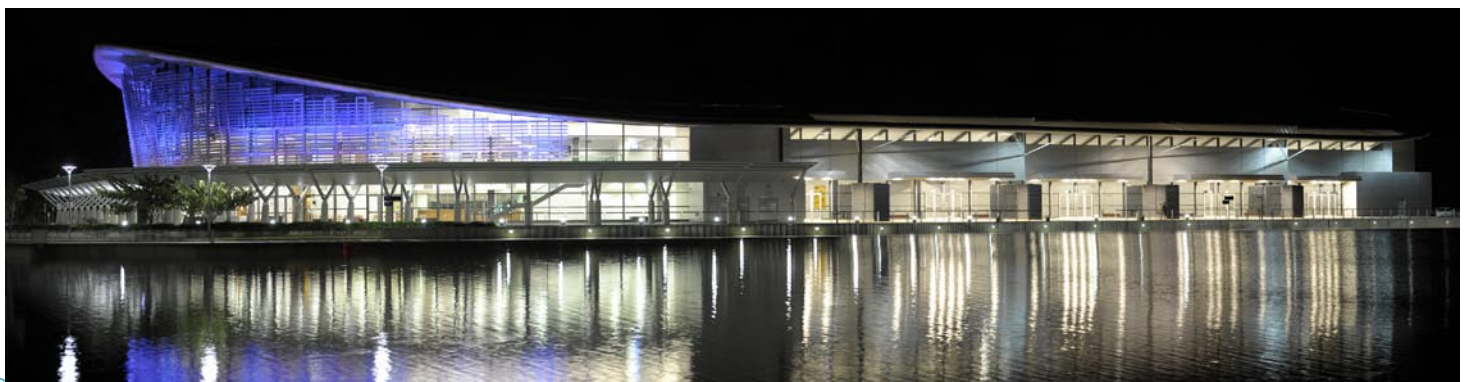


### CHALLENGES:

Visas were arranged for some 100 delegates from Special Consideration Countries.

Some visitors officers did admit to ‘firearms withdrawal’ when international regulations required they leave their firearms at home.

The international dimension was handled on a local scale, with a neighbourhood committee and conference secretariat team of five setting aside their proper jobs just two weeks before the start of the conference to concentrate full-time on the essentials.



### CLIENT QUOTES:

*"The feedback received confirms that delegates have learnt a great deal and appreciated the high level of training programs on offer and are immensely pleased with their Northern Territory experience. I believe the Northern Territory Police has achieved its goal in raising the benchmark for future IAWP conferences across the world."*

**Paul White, APM - Commissioner of Northern Territory Police**

*"The Darwin Convention Centre is second to none; in fact it was one of the best venues ever to hold our event. The food was excellent, the auditorium had great visibility, the audio visual and IT communications were outstanding. The Centre's staff were informative, very friendly and polite and the location was magnificent, overlooking the crystal blue waters of Darwin harbour."*

**Dr Amy Ramsay, International President, International Association Of Women Police (IAWP)**

*"All the volunteers were so wonderful and helpful, the training was top notch, the gala was probably the most beautiful event I ever attended. The entire experience was fantastic. Comments suggest a resounding 'impressed' by the Gala night. The fireworks were a huge hit. Thank you for making the conference an enjoyable event."*

**Bernadine Chapman - Royal Canadian Mounted Police**

*"Our special blend of experience and personalities within the committee ensured success and I must commend the committee for their outstanding efforts in providing this world class conference. It has put Darwin on the map for our guests, many of whom have enjoyed holidays in the Top End and explored Australia before making their way back home. Our feedback is - they will return!"*

**Superintendent Joanne Foley, IAWP 2008 Conference Coordinator**

*"You may be aware that I have been a Goodwill Ambassador of UNIFEM since January 2006. In that role, my efforts have been geared to raising awareness on the infringement of women's human rights around the world, with a particular focus on putting a spotlight on violence against women, probably the most pervasive human rights violation that affects as many as one in three women."*

*"I am pleased to offer my support to the International Association of Women Police, a world-wide organisation committed to improving policing and justice for women."*

**Ms Nicole Kidman, Goodwill Ambassador of United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)**

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