

OPENING CELEBRATIONS FOR AUSTRALIA'S NEWEST CONVENTION CENTRE



AMIDST A WEEK-LONG CELEBRATION of spectacular laser light shows, dancing jet skis, and inspirational fireworks, the Darwin Convention Centre officially opened its doors and is ready to host the world.

Northern Territory Chief Minister, Mr Paul Henderson, said "the opening of the new jewel in the Territory's crown marks a new era in Darwin's and the Northern Territory's economy. It is already delivering beyond expectations."

Over the past five months, the Darwin Convention Centre has hosted 83 events attended by over 44,000 guests experiencing why Darwin is becoming one of Australia's most popular meetings destinations.

After the spectacular official opening dinner for 650 dignitaries, the Centre's Event team worked overnight to welcome 800 registrants to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) North Australian Forum, which featured simultaneous nationwide radio broadcast.

"The Darwin Convention Centre's staff and facilities proved to be first class. The team are entitled to feel extremely proud, firstly for their performance during the busy opening festivities and secondly for their professionalism," said Mr Mark Bowling, Director, ABC Northern Territory.

Not only limited to hosting conventions, the Centre has already displayed its versatility and flexibility. Since its opening a wide variety of events has been held: Pete Murray concert for 1,800, Boating Industry Association NT with 10,000 visitors, National Careers Expo attracting 3,000, a wedding for 1,100 guests, an Aboriginal Art Fair, banquets and 12 conventions.

Welcome

It has been an exciting five months for us, highlighted by the successful opening of the Centre in June and hosting 83 events to date.

Darwin, Australia's tropical harbour city, is a dynamic, fresh and exciting destination. Its permeating upbeat spirit complements the thriving business climate and enviable "people climate" that are capturing the attention of conference organisers from Australia and the world.

A multicultural and cosmopolitan city with over 50 nationalities, Darwin is also blessed with a treasure trove of natural attractions such as the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park, Litchfield, and Katherine Gorge.

With the opening of the Darwin Convention Centre, conference organisers now have the opportunity to host their next event in this unique destination and experience its diverse offer.

We look forward to welcoming you to Darwin – our home – and to showcase what makes this city so special.



Malu Barrios
GENERAL MANAGER
DARWIN CONVENTION CENTRE





NEWS

NORTHERN TERRITORY ATTRACTS RECORD ATTENDANCE

OVER 25 COUNTRIES WERE REPRESENTED at the 8th International Alumina Quality Workshop recently held at the Darwin Convention Centre.

AQW Workshop Chair and General Manager of Rio Tinto Research and Development, Bauxite and Alumina, Mr Steve Healy said he was delighted attendance was above projections and exceeded the sponsorship budget both in terms of numbers and revenue.

The conference gained strong industry support attracting 450 attendees including 44 exhibitors. The technical tour to the latest USD2billion expansion at the Rio Tinto Alcan Gove refinery, mine and rehabilitation areas in Nhulunbuy was a sell out.

“Darwin has all the services and facilities of a major city but in a relaxed tropical environment. The city has its own special character with the added bonus, to international participants, of being so close to Asia,” said Mr Healy.

“What really surprised me was the cosmopolitan feel, the wide choice of restaurants, bars and activities for delegates after conclusion of the day’s events. All service staff were very friendly and welcoming.”

Linda Kerr
Senior Event Manager
AUSTRALIAN WATER ASSOCIATION



DARWIN HOSTS INTERNATIONAL POLICE WOMEN

540 POLICE WOMEN from around the globe marched in full regalia to Darwin’s Parliament House as part of the ceremonies undertaken at the International Association of Women Police (IAWP) 46th Annual Training Conference.

IAWP President Dr Amy Ramsay said the Darwin Convention Centre was one of the best venues ever to hold their annual event.

“The food was excellent, the auditorium had great visibility and the audio visual was outstanding. The Centre’s staff were informative, very friendly and polite and the location was magnificent, overlooking the crystal blue waters of Darwin Harbour,” stated Dr Ramsay.

MINING’S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS

WITH MINING AND EXPLORATION being one of Darwin’s largest industries, the location for the Minerals Council of Australia’s 2008 Sustainable Development Conference was a natural choice.

Event Coordinator for the Minerals Council of Australia, Ms Sarah Leavitt said she was impressed with the quality of suppliers and entertainment on offer in Darwin, as well as the variety of unique offsite venues.

“I would highly recommend Darwin and its Convention Centre for future events. The onsite staff were an absolute delight to deal with. The atmosphere in the city has a real buzz to it and the pre and post touring offers plenty of options for both international and national delegates,” said Ms Leavitt.

JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY FOR CONFERENCE ORGANISERS

TWENTY NINE KEY conference decision makers and meeting planners took time out to experience Australia’s newest convention destination.

In partnership with the Northern Territory Convention Bureau, the four-day, action-packed itinerary included educational business sessions, an exhibition of local suppliers and tours to showcase all that Darwin and the region has to offer.

CEO of Aged and Community Services SA & NT, Mr Alan Graham said the setting and location of the Darwin Convention Centre is ideal and is the right size for the city’s infrastructure.

“The Centre has good natural light and a sense of connection with the harbour precinct as well as the city, especially when the Skywalk link to the CBD is completed in early 2009,” he added.

Hosted during the Darwin Festival, one of the highlights was the engaging performance of award-winning indigenous artist, Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu, after an outdoor dinner in the Botanic Gardens catered by renowned chef, Jimmy Shu.

“Darwin is certainly a city that can offer everything a large event needs. The diversity was impressive,” commented Ms Gretchen Irvine, Project Officer for Palliative Care Australia.



MEET THE EVENTS TEAM

"There is no such thing as successful convention centres, only successful events."

This is the mantra of the Darwin Convention Centre's Events Team headed by long-term Northern Territory resident, Mrs Andrea Wicking.

After spending the past ten years working with the Northern Territory Government, liaising with Ministers, their offices and departments, Andrea understands the importance of team work.

Recent feedback from conference organisers have confirmed their confidence in the very capable hands of a dedicated team of industry professionals at the Darwin Convention Centre including Event Coordinator, Mrs Trisha Stroud and Audio Visual Coordinator, Mr Shaun Blewitt.

"Darwin is a unique destination that offers the right mix of venue, facilities and extra-curricular attractions for outdoor evening functions, natural and man-made attractions and local culture. A refreshing experience for conference delegates."

Susan Blake
Project Manager – AQW Conference
EVENT PLANNERS AUSTRALIA



WHAT'S COMING TO THE DARWIN CONVENTION CENTRE

EVENT	ATTENDANCE
Australian Credit Union & Mutual Building Society Convention (ABACUS) 2008	600
Australian General Practice Network Forum (AGPN) 2008	1,000
Travelscene American Express Conference 2008	400
Planning Institute of Australia National Congress 2009	600
Perinatal Society of Australia & New Zealand (PSANZ) 13th Annual Congress 2009	600
Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC) Symposium 2009	650
Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) Annual Conference 2009	900
Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA) National Congress 2009	500
Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association (APPEA) Convention 2009	1,300
AusIMM International Uranium Conference 2009	500
Microsoft Australia Partner Conference 2009	750
Oceania Tobacco Control Conference 2009	400
Australian Institute of Project Management 2010	500
Count Financial Ltd 26th Annual Financial Planning Conference 2011	1,200
Australian Dental Association Congress 2015	1,600

CENTRE CAPACITIES & CAPABILITIES

Auditorium

Seating for 1,500 tiered theatre style with writing tablets; divisible into two equal spaces

Meeting Rooms

Can accommodate from 70-170 delegates theatre style; divisible into two or four spaces

Waterfront Rooms

Up to 630 delegates theatre style to 420 banquet style; divisible into three spaces

Halls 1-4

4,000sqm with capacity for up to 225 exhibition booths, 3,000 delegates banquet style, 4,200 delegates theatre style; divisible into three spaces

THE TOP END OF BUSINESS

- Vital regional centre with a zest for economic success
- One of the strongest investment and growth forecasts in the country
- Regional centre for energy, minerals, fishing, livestock and tourism
- Thriving business climate that cultivates an enviable "people climate"
- Lively, diverse cosmopolitan scene with multicultural population of 50 nationalities
- Australia's strategic stepping stone to Asia



MAKE IT DARWIN



"Darwin has a wonderful eclectic mix of people and a great diversity of culture and yet is totally representative of the colourful Northern region of Australia – a region so unique and rich in natural beauty with excellent infrastructure and a great variety of facilities."

John Zaharakis
Head of Conference & Events, Stella Travel Services
TRAVELSCENE AMERICAN EXPRESS CONFERENCE 2008, 400 DELEGATES

DARWIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

HANDLING OVER 1.8 MILLION PASSENGERS annually, with 433,000 being international, the Darwin International Airport is the closest Australian airport to Asia.

Aviation Development Director of Northern Territory Airports, Mr Jim Parashos said the flight times from most Australian capitals is 3-4 hours, which is not much different for events being held in Perth or Cairns. It is conveniently located only 15 minutes from the city centre.

"Our aim is to double passenger numbers by 2015/16, with opportunity for direct services from Asian destinations. We are also looking to triple daily services from various carriers throughout Australia."

An expansion is being planned to enhance the passenger experience. The improvements, projected to cost AUD60million, will be designed along ecologically friendly guidelines.

DARWIN WATERFRONT PRECINCT

THE DARWIN WATERFRONT PRECINCT has been transformed into the new seaside heart of this tropical harbour city with the redevelopment of a 25-hectare former industrial site into a vibrant business, tourism and recreation hub.

Located minutes from the CBD, connected via a pedestrian link and amidst lush tropical parklands, the Darwin Waterfront features a wave lagoon, alfresco restaurants, boutique shopping, Vibe Hotel and Medina Apartments, opening in early 2009.

The Northern Territory Government, in partnership with private sector developers, is driving the development which will provide a major boost to business and tourism in the Top End.

"Since working at the RACGP I have heard great things about Darwin as a convention destination, with 2005 heralded as our best annual conference yet! With the opening of the Darwin Convention Centre, the new Darwin Waterfront development and the attractions and venues on offer, Darwin is definitely being considered for another RACGP conference."

Sanja Novakovic
National Events & Sponsorship Coordinator
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS (RACGP)

OFFSITE VENUES, OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

UNIQUE VENUES are a signature of the Northern Territory's capital city. For a variety of relaxing evening options, visit the renowned Mindil Beach Markets operating every Thursday and Sunday from end of April to the end of October. Here you can literally taste the tropics with sumptuous food stall offerings, and shop for local arts and crafts.

For a truly memorable Top End experience, the seaside Deckchair Cinema is a must. Imagine sunset drinks prior to your own private screening with gentle sea breezes and star-studded skies to boot. Delegates will be talking about it for years to come.

The Australian Aviation Heritage Centre is a spectacular venue. It's one of the major aviation museums in Australia. An impressive display depicts the Territory's involvement, both civil and military, from the early pioneering years right through to World War II and the jet age. It is ideal for cocktail parties or conference dinners with a massive B-52 bomber, only one of two in the world, and other aircraft as the backdrop.



Darwin Convention Centre is a project of Darwin Cove Consortium and the Northern Territory Government and is proudly operated by international venue management specialist, AEG Ogden
www.aegogden.com

DARWIN CONVENTION CENTRE

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