

MEET DARWIN

journey of discovery

DARWIN VOTED TOPS BY CONVENTION ORGANISERS

Wednesday 8 October 2008

During the excitement and buzz of the annual Darwin Festival, twenty-nine key conference decision makers and meeting planners took time out to experience what Australia's newest convention destination has to offer.

In a four day action packed itinerary, participants were welcomed by CEO of Tourism NT, Ms Maree Tetlow during the educational business session at Australia's newest Convention Centre. The itinerary also covered an exhibition of 40 local Darwin convention industry suppliers, accommodation site visits, offsite venue inspections and optional tours to showcase the business events potential of this dynamic tropical harbour city.

CEO of Aged and Community Services SA & NT, Mr Alan Graham said the setting and location of the Darwin Convention Centre was ideal and was 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.

The participants engaged in a wide range of activities including a day tour to the 'Windows on the Wetlands', Fogg Dam, a jumping crocodile cruise; cocktails at the new Crocosaurus Cove, time to explore Mindil Beach Markets and a relaxing harbour cruise on-route to the Darwin Convention Centre for a spectacular dinner to remember with a special guest performance by Deborah Conway.

"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," stated Ms Linda Kerr, Senior Event Manager, Australian Water Association.

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One of the highlights was an engaging performance by local award-winning contemporary indigenous performer, Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu and East Timorese performer, Ego Lemos after a dining experience under the stars by renown chef and restaurateur, Jimmy Shu at the Botanic Gardens.

Ms Sanja Novakovic, National Events & Sponsorship Coordinator for the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners summed up by saying, "it was my first time to Darwin and I would have to say it was one of the best places I have ever visited. A unique destination that is truly exciting for convention delegates to experience."

Meet Darwin – a Journey of Discovery is a joint initiative of the Northern Territory Convention Bureau and the Darwin Convention Centre.

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For further media information or comment, please contact:

Ms Carrie Altamura, Darwin Convention Centre
T: + 61 8 9823 9000 E: caltamura@darwinconvention.com.au

Ms Lynn Fairbrass, Northern Territory Convention Bureau
T: + 61 2 8281 9628 E: lynn.fairbrass@ntconventions.com.au

