



## DARWIN CELEBRATES OPENING OF AUSTRALIA'S NEWEST CONVENTION CENTRE

Tuesday 1 July 2008

Amidst a week-long celebration of spectacular laser light shows, dancing jet skis, and inspirational fireworks, the Darwin Convention Centre officially opened its doors to the world.

Over 17,000 Territorians headed to the Darwin Waterfront to view Australia's newest convention centre and experience why Darwin is becoming the one of the most popular meeting destinations in Australia.

Northern Territory Chief Minister, Mr Paul Henderson, said the convention centre was a tribute to the people who believe in Darwin's strong vibrant future and the commitment of all Territorians to make Darwin a great place to live and work.

"The opening of the new jewel in the Territory's crown marks a new era in Darwin's economy, and it's already delivering beyond expectations."

The celebrations culminated with a gala dinner featuring local talents the Kenbi dancers, Gurumul Yunupingu and Fiona O'Loughlin, and sensational performances by 'Laserman' and one of the great voices of Australian music, Vanessa Amorosi.

The Centre's Food & Beverage Manager, Aaron Roussos and Executive Chef, Jock Mitchell tempted guests with exotic flavours and the freshest local ingredients in the five star gala affair. The menu featured fresh oven baked barramundi, Northern Territory mud crab, char grilled beef and Kakadu plums.

Chairman of the NT Council for the Australian Institute of Management (QLD & NT) and NT Manager of SingTel Optus, Ms Marie-Louise Pearson said it was wonderful to see Darwin displayed to the world.

"Every Territorian and every Australian should be very proud of the high quality of service and catering that we experienced during the opening gala event. It was as good, if not better than any other five star event I have experienced around the world," stated Ms Pearson.

Darwin has certainly captured the attention of global conference organisers with 38 confirmed conventions estimated to attract 20,000 delegates to Darwin through to 2011. The Centre will put Darwin City firmly on the global map as a top destination for meetings and conferences.

"We are delighted with the results to date and look forward to securing more business for the future," commented the Centre's General Manager, Ms Malu Barrios.

[Download hi resolution images to support this media release http://www.darwinconvention.com.au/dcc\\_opening.zip](http://www.darwinconvention.com.au/dcc_opening.zip)

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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](http://www.aegogden.com)