



MEDIA RELEASE
Tuesday 29th January 2008

Townsville goes green for volunteers conference

Townsville will see an influx of tourism volunteers to the city this week for the Regional Volunteers Conference held on Wednesday 30th and Thursday 31st January. The annual conference will have more than 130 volunteers attend from Townsville, Charters Towers, Burdekin, Ingham, Cardwell, Mission Beach and Tully Visitor Information Centres.

The conference begins Wednesday at Rydges Southbank, with the volunteers participating in educational workshops themed around eco-tourism and renewable energy. Guest speakers include Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Wet Tropics Management Authority, Townsville City Council, Hidden Valley Cabins and Dr David Wachenfeld, Photographer and Marine Biologist. In the evening volunteers will have dinner and cruise of Cleveland Bay onboard Sunsea's reef boat.

Day two of the conference will be busy familiarising the volunteers with some of the city's attractions such as Reef HQ, Billabong Sanctuary and the Museum of Tropical Queensland.

The region's Visitor Information Centres had over 197, 000 visitors in 2007, making the conference an important calendar event, ensuring tourism volunteers up to date with the latest trends.

Hinchinbrook Tourism Manager Rae Domin said her 25 volunteers are eagerly anticipating the conference.

“The conference is a fantastic opportunity for tourism volunteers to get together and learn about what is new in the region.”

“It is also a good opportunity for volunteers to experience tourism product which they can relay onto the visitors that come through our centre,” Ms Domin said.

ENDS

For more information please contact Therese Toy on (07) 4726 2759.

Photo opportunities available.