



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Issued Friday, 12 September 2008**

### **Townsville's Zonta a winner!**

Townsville is set to host the Zonta International District 22 Conference in September 2009. Conference organisers have confirmed Townsville as the chosen destination for next year's event, outbidding the likes of Brisbane and Noosa.

The city should expect up to 200 state delegates in the region from 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> September 2009, with an estimated delegate expenditure of \$217,800 over three days.

Townsville Enterprise Convention Bureau hosted a familiarisation visit for one of the Zonta conference organisers earlier this year. The original bid lead came through the Think Townsville campaign, an initiative that sees local business's recommending Townsville as a possible destination for their national conferences.

Townsville Enterprise Destination Marketing and Development General Manager Brent Randall welcomed the announcement of the conference to Townsville.

"The Convention Bureau promotes Townsville and North Queensland as the premier destination for conferences and business events. We regularly host potential conference organisers to see the city's facilities, accommodation and attractions."

"From this particular visit we have now secured a great win for the region, with this conference confirmed for 2009. This compliments leisure tourism with delegates often staying in the region longer by taking up pre and post touring options."

District 22 Chairperson Ansmarie Van Erp was pleased to announce the conference will be held in Townsville.

"The greatest benefit of choosing Townsville as a conference venue is the opportunity to 'mix business with pleasure'. Whether it is to visit the Great Barrier

Reef, the rainforest or the outback...Townsville offers it all. There will be opportunities for our delegates to take in the sights and attractions in and around Townsville as part of their conference attendance.”

“Rydges Southbank Townsville has been chosen as the venue for the inaugural Zonta International District 22 Conference and our members will be coming from all around Queensland. We believe the facilities, amenities and conveniences offered by Rydges and Townsville will make a very successful conference that will be remembered by all delegates who attend.”

Zonta International is a worldwide service organisation of executives in business and the professions working together to improve the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women. There are more than 32,500 members in 1249 clubs in 68 countries and geographic areas. Zonta is a diversified organisation of individuals from many different businesses and professions coming together in pursuit of common goals. Zonta's service activities are both international and local.

Current spend conference delegates bring to the region are:

International delegates \$637 per person per day

National delegates \$420 per person per day

State delegates \$363 per person per day

Regional delegates \$100 per person per day

Source: AACB – Australian Association of Convention Bureaux

**ENDS**

For more information on Townsville Enterprise Convention Bureau visit

[www.townsvilleonline.com.au/conventions](http://www.townsvilleonline.com.au/conventions)

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