



MEDIA RELEASE

Issued Tuesday, 30 June 2009

Awards a learning experience

Tickets are on sale for the 2009 Townsville Airport North Queensland Tourism Awards which will be held at James Cook University this year.

The event – entitled “Learning to Fly” will bring the leading lights of the region’s tourism industry together with the industry leaders in tourism education.

James Cook University’s highly regarded tourism program has been influential in shaping the region’s successful tourism operators. The program received a Queensland Tourism Award for Tourism Education and Training in 2007.

The Townsville Airport is onboard the event as naming right’s sponsor for the third year running.

Townsville Airport General Manager Kevin Gill said the award night’s theme and location reflected the close relationship between all the elements of the region’s tourism industry.

“The tourism industry is a cooperative industry. Townsville has all the elements working together in synergy – we have appropriate facilities for training the staff of the future, the infrastructure to support and sustain visitation, and a professional, high quality industry on the ground.”

“The 2009 Townsville Airport North Queensland Tourism Awards bring all those elements together with input from the industry, the university and the airport.”

“The team at Townsville Airport are proud of our ongoing support of the event and as the naming right’s sponsor view this as a worthwhile contribution to an industry we are passionate about,” Mr Gill said.

James Cook University Vice Chancellor Sandra Harding said the university is delighted to host the night of nights for the region’s tourism industry.

“Tourism is a vital part of the social and economic fabric of our city.”

“We are delighted to be part of a night celebrating excellence in the tourism industry. Our graduates are working in tourism operations throughout North Queensland, and our research is focused on sustainable tourism for our region and beyond.”

Townsville Enterprise Chief Executive Officer Trevor Goldstone said the event promised to be a memorable event in its own right.

“Townsville Enterprise has a track record of turning unexpected venues and locations into spectacular event venues, this year will be a chance to celebrate excellence in the tourism industry with a little help from North Queensland’s cultural community.”

“The event will reflect the tough times experienced by many operators throughout the year. Times have been tough, but our tourism industry has kept going. The night’s theme recognises the importance of training, thorough business planning and delivery of a high quality product as we reward operators for excellence.”

“We will be announcing further details of the event as we draw closer – but we can reveal that the night will feature a series of performances from local artists and will be a cultural experience reflecting the great North Queensland lifestyle.”

Tickets for the event are on sale this week on the event’s website – www.northqueenslandtourismawards.com.au.

ENDS

For more information contact Nathan Campbell on (07) 4726 2753 or 0434 182 765