for pre-wedding photography. “It’s already common to go to Sydney and Melbourne, but we are unique and I think the Northern Territory embodies the Australian spirit. We can take photos that represent the Australian outback,” he said.

Mr Fragopoulos will build a booking website with China-ready payment options and intends to exhibit at wedding exhibitions in China later this year.

He said collaboration with local businesses was an important part of servicing this unique market. “We’re fortunate to be working with the tour company Atrip & Travel Associates. They’re helping us put together packages and working with airlines to make it as easy as possible to get Chinese couples to the Northern Territory.

He said government support had been key in making his plans reality. “Part of the reason we moved back to the Territory in 2009, was because of its proximity to China. Our next steps with this project won’t have been possible without added support from Government.”

For more information about George F Photography and the China Pre-wedding Photography project visit: www.georgef.com.au


tattooing in to New Tourism Markets

POP-UP TRADE SHOWS AT INPEX’S WORKERS ACCOMMODATION VILLAGE IN HOWARD SPRINGS ARE OPENING UP NEW MARKETS FOR LOCAL TOURISM OPERATORS.

The Ichthys LNG Project and Tourism Top End have partnered to host the shows every two months at Manigurr-ma Village to encourage the Project’s fly-in fly-out workforce to make the most of their recreational time in the Northern Territory.

“Most fly-in fly-out workers on the Project have each Sunday off and this is a great opportunity for local businesses to showcase the Top End and promote their tours,” INPEX General Manager Sean Kildale said.

“It really is a mutually beneficial opportunity – workers are offered some great ideas for their day off and local tourism operators gain possible new customers.”

The events have been running since 2014 with up to eight businesses attending each time to promote their products to more than 3000 village residents.

Outback Floatplane Adventures has had a display at three pop-up trade shows and are keen to be involved in more. “We just jumped at the exposure we would get from the trade show,” Bonnie Keogh, Assistant Operations Manager, said. “The showcase opportunity is a great evening for tourism in general across the Territory.”

The business, co-owned by the ‘Outback Wranglers’ Matt Wright, offers a range of tours that take clients to some of the Top End’s most beautiful and inaccessible areas. Bonnie said the pop-up trade shows had generated strong interest from the interstate workers.

“We’ve had a lot of people book with us and go on a tour,” she said. “A lot of the workers are bringing their families and friends up and they’re keen to get out and see more of the Territory.”

Local Indigenous people share their extraordinary culture, interpreted in a variety of ways including art, song, dance, hunting and traditional plant uses.

Darwin will host the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards for the first time next year.

The ceremony will be held on 24 February at the Darwin Convention Centre, and is expected to attract more than 800 people including sponsors, industry partners and state and territory tourism award winners. The NT’s premier tourism awards the Brolgas celebrate their 30th anniversary this year.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ENTERING:
brogliawards.com.au or email BrolgaAwards@nt.gov.au

Australian Tourism Awards

ENTERING the Brolga Awards allowed the Gange brothers to better develop their cultural tourism business Venture North.

The six-time Brolga Award winner and the winner of the 2015 Australian Tourism Awards for cultural tourism said they would recommend any tourism business go through the process regardless of success.

“Even if you don’t win you have to hone aspects of the business,” Aaron Gange said. “You take a good look at your business and it helps develop your business. I would recommend any tourism operator to enter the awards.

“Winning has elevated our profile and got our name out there a lot more. When they see we’ve won a major award it elevates the reputation of what we are offering.”

Venture North won gold at the 2015 Australian Tourism Awards after they qualified by winning a Brolga. It specialises in taking guests ‘off the beaten track’ and into some of the more remote and pristine parts on the Northern Territory through Arnhem Land and Cobourg Peninsula.

Guests travel in luxury 4wd vehicles, escorted by local expert guides. Venture North holds a special permit to tour Arnhem Land and operate a remote safari style camp on the Cobourg Peninsula.

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