

ADDRESS BY
HIS HONOUR MR TOM PAULING AO QC
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
ON THE OCCASION OF
RECEPTION FOR DARWIN FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS
Government House, Darwin
16 September 2008

Ladies and Gentlemen, I acknowledge the Larrakia people and their ancestors, traditional owners of the land on which this house stands.

Tomorrow, 17 September, will be the culmination of what has been the largest logistics exercise involving volunteers ever seen, most of whom have served throughout both the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games. More than 900,000 representatives from 27 countries stepped forward and 44,000 Games-time volunteers were selected to work at over 2,000 posts. In addition there were 400,000 Beijing city volunteers.

The abilities of the volunteers have been highly praised and they themselves have noted the personal benefit of improved communication skills, following all their hard work.

I am sure this is also true of those who were willing and able to step forward to be part of the Darwin Festival 2008 team. You have played a valuable part in ensuring the Festival runs smoothly,

assisting with everything from public liaison and event logistics to ticketing and ushering.

Your enthusiasm and courtesy has helped promote the very best of the Top End – relaxed outdoor lifestyle, warm welcome and “can do” spirit. It has meant that many enjoyed the outstanding collaborations and that the audiences departed with wonderful memories, keen to recommend future Festival events.

2009 will see the 30th Anniversary of Darwin Festival, originally known as the Bougainvillea Festival and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their past endeavours and to wish you all the best for the future.

It is a bright future and I have been fortunate to have witnessed the growth from the first few floats in Smith Street to the slick, engaging, vibrant event the Festival now is. We are heading in a new direction with Ms Jo Duffy at the helm. Like Big Kev in the old ad “I’m excited”.

Thank you.