

## ORION EXPLORES GROOTE COAST



The Orion Expedition Cruise stopped at Groote Eylandt and communities along the Arnhem Land coast.

**EIGHTY** cruise ship travellers aboard the Orion Expedition Cruise ship docked at Groote Eylandt this week, heralding the start of new economic opportunities for Indigenous Territorians on the island.

Tourism Minister Paul Henderson said the Orion Expedition Cruise passengers were the first tourists to experience the new Amuwarangka Cultural Tours, designed by the Wanindiljaugwa people.

"Groote Eylandt's Anindilyakwa Land Council has identified the need to expand the island's economy beyond mining, and has been working with the NT Government and mining company GEMCO to identify other job and economic opportunities for locals," he said.

The visitors also got a sneak peak at the developing four-star Dugong Beach Resort, an \$18 million investment featuring a fishing village, art and culture centre and restaurant, which is due to open in November.

The cruise ship also stopped at the Yinyikay outstation in Arnhem Bay where passengers purchased over \$15 000 in art work.

### Skilled worker campaign visits regional centres in NSW and Victoria

**THE NT GOVERNMENT'S** Skilled Worker Campaign held information evenings in Wollongong, Newcastle Geelong, and tonight in Bendigo, often attracting up to 200 prospective migrants to each.

Responding to regional press and radio ads, skilled tradespeople and job seekers attended information

evenings where Territory Government spokespeople outlined areas of skill shortages, complimented by private sector speakers including Brock Simon from Nortruss and John Berry from Bridge Toyota.

The NT Government is the only state or territory government actively recruiting skilled labour in Victoria and NSW.

### Further growth in Business Park

**THE FOSTER'S BREWING COMPANY** has opened a multi-million dollar distribution centre in the Darwin Business Park.

Capable of storing 7.2 million bottles of beer, the facility will service all multi-beverage customers north of Tennant Creek.

Being located next to the rail head and the East Arm Wharf means the product transport process will require minimal handling.

### Oil explorer to begin offshore drilling

**EXXONMOBIL** and joint venture partner Drillsearch are to begin a drilling program in the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf with a wildcat well costing over \$US10 million.

Drillsearch hopes to recover about 40 million barrels of oil from the Marina-1 prospect.

The drilling is to start next Wednesday with one well to be sunk at Marina-1, just 50 km west of ENIs Blacktip development.

Marina-1 is a wildcat well, or the first exploratory hole to be sunk on a prospect.

### Banking on Alice Springs

**THE ALICE SPRINGS COMMUNITY BANK** has officially opened its doors.

The opening is the culmination of two years of work by local group, Alice Springs Community Financial Services.

The bank is a Community Bank branch of the successful Bendigo Bank project and has the aim of giving back to the local community as well as enhancing banking services in the region.

Under the Community Bank model, local communities form a company to purchase the right to operate a franchised Bendigo Bank branch.

### Ministerial mission to build air services

Tourism Minister Paul Henderson is on a four-day trade mission to Brunei and Singapore hoping to increase Territory international air services.

He is currently holding talks with QANTAS and Tiger Airways in Singapore.