

## Brekky to give thanks

A BREAKFAST for champions of a good cause is on the menu as National Volunteer Week begins.

Whether considering becoming a volunteer or you have already volunteered, this week is for you.

Free Volunteers Breakfasts are being held at Port Douglas Neighbourhood Centre at 8am Thursday, Ravenshoe Mountains Institute at 8am Friday and Jagad's Restaurant at Innisfail from 8am Saturday. A similar event was held at Atherton this morning.

FNQ Volunteers project manager Ellen Barnes said the free breakfasts were a reward for current volunteers and a chance for potential helpers to explore the possibilities.

"It's about interacting with your community and getting to know a little more about volunteering," Ms Barnes said.

She said there were countless ways people could get involved to help people and organisations that may not have the skills or resources to help themselves.

## Premiums reduction

QUEENSLAND employers will have their workers' compensation premiums cut, saving business more than \$30 million a year, the State Government says.

Deputy Premier Anna Bligh yesterday said the WorkCover Queensland fund would be cut to an average premium rate of \$1.15 for every \$100 an employer pays in wages.

She said the new rate was down 4.2 per cent from \$1.20 last year.

Ms Bligh said despite low premiums, benefits to workers had increased.



Career blasts off: Former Cairns schoolgirl Timenah Hunt will soon be the face of surf label Ocean and Earth.

## Beach chick wows surf label

NATURAL beauty and a love of the beach have combined to make former Cairns schoolgirl Timenah Hunt the face of surf-label Ocean and Earth.

The 20-year-old Brisbane university student was selected ahead of 1500 others, months after a friend sent her photos to competition organisers.

"They rang to tell me and I couldn't believe it, I still can't believe it," the well-grounded part-time model said.

*Girlfriend* magazine readers voted Ms Hunt in after Ocean and Earth published its

four finalists' photos. She will fly to Sydney tomorrow for a photo shoot that will make her the face of Honey, the surf company's female label.

The win comes several years after a teenage Ms Hunt played a tropical goddess in a made-for-TV movie filmed in the Far North, then featured in an Australian tourism television advertising campaign shot at Port Douglas.

"University has always been the priority but I'm excited to be part of this and to see where it takes me," she said yesterday.

# Reef is voted world's top site

THE Great Barrier Reef has taken out one of world tourism's most coveted awards.

The Reef – the world's largest living organism – was voted the best destination by the World Travel and Tourism Council as part of its Tourism for Tomorrow awards, at a ceremony in Lisbon, Portugal, on Saturday night.

Describing the win as a "major coup", Queensland Tourism Industry Council chief executive officer Daniel Gschwind said the award was considered the foremost accolade for sustainable tourism.

He said the Reef topped more than 130 entries from 40 countries, across seven continents.

"I think the sheer size and diversity of nature, it is so spectacular to see and to experience, that is what makes (the Reef) so special," Mr Gschwind said.

"It is an experience that leaves no one untouched. When you stick your head under water it is just something that you will probably remember for the rest of your life.

"We want to make sure that many more people and future generations can have that sort of experience."

Mr Gschwind said the



Gschwind: Award top accolade for sustainable tourism.

award was the culmination of efforts by industry, government and environmental stakeholders to ensure the Reef was protected for the future.

"Marine operators and industry organisations, including QTIC, have worked intensely and co-operatively with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to ensure the long term sustainability of the Reef while building a world class tourism industry" Mr Gschwind said.

"At a time when environmental concerns are rising, not least over the impact of climate change, this is shining example of how the tourism industry, government and conservation can work together in addressing the challenges."

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is the world's largest heritage site.

It is estimated to generate \$5 billion in tourism earnings each year and supports up to 50,000 jobs along the Queensland coast.



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