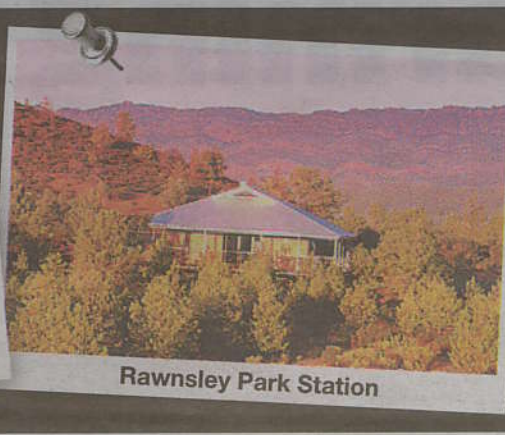




Banrock Station



Rawnsley Park Station



Baird Bay

Travel meeting coup for state

JESSICA HURT
TRAVEL EDITOR

SOUTH Australia has won the right to host a national eco-tourism conference next year that is expected to attract about 400 national and overseas delegates.

The 2008 National Eco-tourism Conference will be hosted by Ecotourism Australia, the peak national body for the eco-tourism industry.

It is expected to generate more than \$1 million.

The state's eco-tourism experiences, which range from swimming with sea lions at Baird Bay to River Murray cruises, will be on show during the conference in November.

The Adelaide Convention Tourism Authority predicts the event will be worth \$690,000 to the SA economy although the wider impact will be higher.

Tourism Minister Jane Lomax-Smith said eco-tourism was an industry with huge potential. "Eco-tourism desti-

FOUR OF THE BEST

South Australia's top eco-friendly tourist spots include:

Rawnsley Park Station - Explore the Flinders Ranges while staying in eco-villas.

Temptation Sailing Pty Ltd - Go dolphin spotting on the 58ft Temptation sailing catamaran that operates from Glenelg.

Banrock Station Wine and Wetland Centre - About 200km from Adelaide, in the Riverland. Taste award-winning wines and explore the wetlands.

Baird Bay Ocean Eco Experience - Swim with dolphins and sea lions at an isolated fishing village on the West Coast of Eyre Peninsula.

nations now attract about 15 per cent of the global tourist market and that number is climbing fast," she said.

Dr Lomax-Smith said the Government was committed to marketing SA's credentials as a "green" holiday destination.

She said SA was already a leader in ecologically sustainable tourism, with about 15 per cent of the nation's Eco-Certified tourism operators based here.

"Our 76 Eco-Certified tourism experiences range from

swimming with dolphins and cave-diving to wine-tasting and camel safaris through the Outback," she said.

"We believe SA offers visitors easily accessible, world-class ecotourism experiences and there is a great opportunity for us to be a leader in this area in the future."

SA's first six-star resort - the nature-based Southern Ocean Lodge at Hanson Bay on Kangaroo Island - is expected to open on March 1.



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