



## Board Update

The Board of Wet Tropics Management Authority held its first Board meeting 2012 in Cairns on the 12-13 March 2012.

Heading discussions was a series of papers reviewing a number of World Heritage policy and guidelines in anticipation of the proposed amendments to the *Wet Tropics Amendment Plan*. The Board considered issues ranging from seed collecting, fish translocation, road management and cattle grazing in the World Heritage Area. The Board endorsed these policies and requested the Authority continue to consult with government and infrastructure agencies to complete the development of an offset policy and guideline.

The Board were enthusiastic to hear that the Authority submitted a funding bid, 'Creating Connections', to the Government's Biodiversity Fund. The bid includes restoring 11 ecological corridors from the coast between Cardwell and Cairns to the Tablelands and the cool, wet rainforests of the mountain ranges. The Board was also pleased that the Authority submitted two smaller funding bids to the latest round of Caring for Our Country (CfoC) including one for 'Sustainable grazing practices for Eastern Kuku Yalanji people' and the other for 'Stamping out the tramp ants before they invade the Wet Tropics WHA'.

The Board was presented with an overview of tourism and presentation initiatives that the Authority is leading in collaboration with various state and commonwealth agencies, including work with:

- QTIC and DEEDI to develop high standards in tourism accreditation and training
- DEEDI and TQ to provide sponsorship and support for the World Heritage Gateway Centre
- Tourism Australia and Parks Australia to market the Wet Tropics National Landscape as a premier nature-based and cultural tourism destination, and
- TQ to promote product development, marketing and support for the Wet Tropics, as the outstanding Australian nature based and cultural tourism destination.

Shaun Sims, a consultant engaged by the Authority to undertake branding and communication work, presented to the Board an outline of his approach to refreshing WTMA's brand, communication products and in particular redevelopment of the Authority's website.

The Board expressed gratitude to the Chair of the CCC, Moni Carlisle who has resigned her position as Chair to take up a new role in Boston with the School for field Studies. The Authority will seek expressions of interest from outside the CCC to fill this position.

WTMA staff joined the Board for a morning tea to celebrate the appointments of the new directors as well as to farewell outgoing Regional Manager, QPWS Wet Tropics Region, Wolf Sievers, who is leaving the tropical north to take up a new role as Director of Threatened species in Brisbane. Wolf played an important role in facilitating a very constructive and cooperative relationship between the Authority and QPWS over the time he was based in the Wet Tropics.

