

The Board of Wet Tropics Management Authority held its 87th Board meeting in Cairns on 31 October 2011.

Joining Board Directors, Peter Valentine, Alastair Birtles and Julia Leu for the meeting were observers from the Rainforest Aboriginal community, Leah Talbot and Ernie Grant; Departmental Representatives from Queensland Parks and Wildlife (QPWS), Wolf Sievers and Peter Ogilvie, and the Chair of the Community Consultative Committee Chair, Moni Carlisle.

Heading Board discussions was development of a framework for the 2012-13 WTMA workplan. The Board reaffirmed WTMA's Mission Statement from the 2008-13 Strategic Plan; i.e. to '*Lead, inspire, advise and support the Australian and global community to protect and share the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area in perpetuity*'. The Board acknowledged that new climate change legislation and recent announcements for national environmental law reform, continue to change the national and state policy and planning context in which WTMA operates. As a key objective of the Authority is to ensure that its activities are aligned to the priorities of Commonwealth and State investors and partners, the Board wishes WTMA to develop new business development ideas. This includes seeking out new sources of investment, and new partners and programs.

The Board recognised that the prospective National Heritage Listing of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area for its cultural values provides opportunities to partner with Rainforest Aboriginal People, QPWS and others in the region. Activities could include but not limited to: developing a Rainforest Aboriginal Heritage Management Strategy; reinvigorating the cultural heritage mapping program; and strengthening systems that facilitate Traditional Owner participation in the management of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Representatives from the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) briefed the Board on emerging community and scientific issues. As the CCC and SAC are in their first year of three year appointments, the Board wishes to maintain close and mutually beneficial relationships with both committees.

The Chair of the Community Consultative Committee, Moni Carlisle advised that she was working with individual CCC members to encourage them to network with their communities of interest. The CCC will endeavour to provide advice to WTMA about emerging community issues and the possible impacts of WTMA management decisions and community engagement processes.

The Board received with great interest SAC's discussion paper; *WTMA's Strategic Direction for Responding to Climate Change*. The paper responds to the management challenge posed by Climate Change on the integrity of the World Heritage Area. It builds on the 2008 WTMA report [*Climate Change in the Wet Tropics: Impacts and Responses*](#), in which the magnitude of the climate change risk for the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area was highlighted. Whilst recognising the challenges that climate change will bring for the WTWHA, the paper establishes a framework for actions and emphasises that much can be done at a regional level to adapt to the anticipated changes.

WTMA staff joined the Board for lunch to celebrate the contributions of outgoing QPWS Officer, Peter Ogilvie. Peter is retiring after serving 46 years in the public service. Peter joined the National Parks Branch of the Forestry Department in January 1966 as the first National

Parks zoologist. He has accumulated many achievements and is widely respected as a champion of conservation and an advocate of the parks service. Peter's achievements include: establishing the first marine national parks in Queensland; overseeing the design and roll-out of the QPWS 'herbie' logo; and close involvement in developing the Nature Conservation Act.

Peter jointly coordinated a United Nations conservation training program in Malaysia and acted as the States and Territories representative on the Australian negotiating team for the Convention on Biodiversity. More recently, Peter has been coordinating state-wide World Heritage matters and has been representing the agency at national and international forums, including participating in WTMA Board meetings. In 2002, Peter was awarded the Public Service Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for 'outstanding public service in the field of conservation in Queensland'. Peter will be greatly missed by the Authority.

The Board will meet again in March 2012.