

**SISTER CITY**

# Botanic minds meet

CAIRNS is providing a helping hand to re-establish a botanic garden in its sister city Lae in Papua New Guinea.

The curator of the Lae Botanic Gardens is in Cairns to meet his Cairns Botanic Gardens counterparts and to share botanical knowledge and ideas.

Michael Lovave (above) arrived in Cairns on Monday as part of an innovative partnership involving the two gardens along with The Cairns Institute and the Australian Tropical Herbarium at James Cook University.

"Cairns Botanic Gardens is renowned for having one of the



best exhibitions of tropical plants in Australia," Mayor Bob Manning said.

"Having been closed for many years, the Lae Botanic Gardens has recently reopened, thanks to the efforts of

volunteers and sponsors.

"We are pleased to be able to offer assistance to our nearest sister city as they redevelop and grow their gardens for the enjoyment of residents and visitors."

Mr Lovave will check out best-practice methods that could be incorporated into the Lae gardens management.