



L-R: David Warmington, Curator, Cairns Botanic Gardens;  
Michael Lovave, Curator, Lae Botanic Gardens, Professor  
Darren Crayn, Director, ATH



## Cities help botanic gardens to flourish in the tropics

The curator of the Lae National Botanic Gardens, Mr Michael Lovave, recently completed a two week study tour in Cairns.

The visit, part of the 'Exploring Growth in Tropical Botanical Gardens' exchange program, was hosted by Cairns Regional Council, Friends of the Cairns and Lae Botanic Gardens, James Cook University and Papua New Guinea's [Forest Research Institute](#).

During his stay, Mr Lovave presented an overview of the Lae National Botanic Gardens Advancement Program at the Cairns Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre, the [Australian Tropical Herbarium](#) and the Australian Institute of Horticulture's International Symposium. As a result of the program more than 24 public and private sector organisations contributed approximately 750,000 kina of in-kind support toward the regeneration of the botanic gardens in Lae.

"I am very excited to be a part of this program. Its delivery will be extremely beneficial to our regions while improving the reputation and status of our gardens in Lae," Mr Lovave said.

While in Cairns, Mr Lovave discussed a range of best-practice methods with Cairns Botanic Gardens staff to incorporate into the management of the Lae gardens. "We're 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," Cairns Mayor Bob Manning said.

Cairns Institute Director Professor Stewart Lockie said Mr Lovave's visit provided an opportunity to discuss possible collaboration between The Cairns Institute, Australian Tropical Herbarium, and PNG research organisations including the Forest Research Institute.

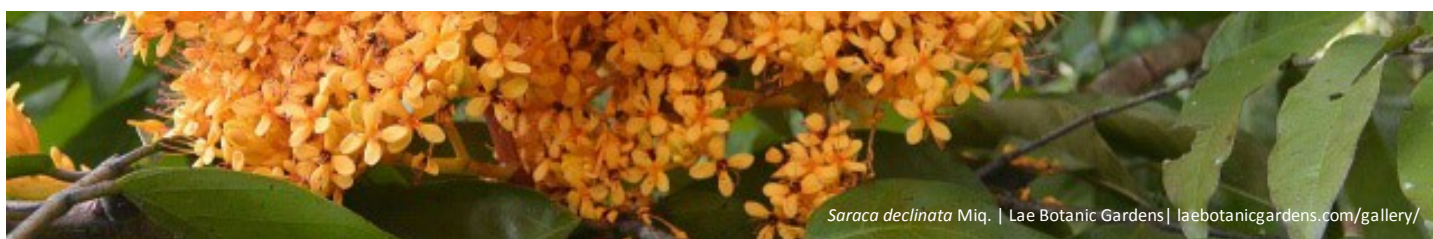
Mr Lovave was hosted at JCU's Cairns Campus for two days to undertake research exchange on botanical knowledge and plant identification.

"The experience has enhanced the motivation and capacity within our communities to deliver innovative research, and exchange knowledge in a way that benefits tropical regions," Australian Tropical Herbarium Director, Professor Darren Crayn, said.

PNG has a rich and unique flora and the National Botanic Gardens (Lae) serves as an important role as the centre for botanical research, plant conservation and education. The Gardens have been developed over the years in parallel with the National Herbarium (Lae) which houses the best reference collections (over 300,000 specimens) of the nation's rich flora. The two entities provide the scientific basis for the understanding and appreciation of plants as our natural heritage.

Exploring Growth in Tropical Botanical Gardens' exchange program, built on JCU's State of the Tropic Agenda, Cairns Regional Council's Sister Cities agreement and PNG's National Botanic Gardens (Lae) Advancement Program.

For more information about the Lae Botanic Gardens visit: [www.laebotanicgardens.com](http://www.laebotanicgardens.com)



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