

**Ben Woodward**  
**Director of Sales & Marketing, The CaPTA Group**

Ben Woodward has grown up in the tourism industry, with his parents pioneering one of Tropical North Queensland's premier attractions, Rainforestation Nature Park Kuranda, in the late 70s.

He attended Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane where he completed a Degree in Bachelor-Business (Journalism), and after university worked as a radio journalist and Producer for 4CA & Hot FM in Cairns.

In the early 2000s Ben lived in the UK, then returned to Cairns in 2006 to work for the family business, The CaPTA Group, which had expanded significantly to become the region's largest privately owned group of attractions and touring companies (now consisting of Wildlife Habitat Port Douglas, Jungle Tours, Tropic Wings, Wooroonooran Safaris, Rainforestation, Cairns ZOOM & Wildlife Dome, and Australian Butterfly Sanctuary). He then based himself between London and Cairns for several years whilst managing Western Markets for the group.

Now as Director of Sales & Marketing, he managed a multi-faceted team across local, domestic, international, and digital markets, understanding the many different segments critical for tourism.

He served on the Australian Tourism Export Council's North Queensland Committee, became Chair of the NQ YATEC Committee in 2012 and soon after became the National YATEC Chair and a Director on ATEC's National Board until 2013, when he was honoured as the recipient of the Len Taylor YATEC Award for Excellence. He was re-elected to the ATEC Board in 2017 and completed his final, third two-year term in 2023.

He served on the Tourism Port Douglas & Daintree Board from 2014 to 2021 (as Chair 2018 to 2019), was President for SKAL International Cairns 2019-20, and is currently Vice President of Gay And Lesbian Tourism Australia. Since 2021 he has also served on the TTNQ Board as General Director, having been re-elected at their 2023 AGM.

Ben is passionate about the region and its diverse communities, in his own time engaging with community voluntary work. He shows his keen interest in music through DJing at regular events, and since 2015, has also run the immensely popular and successful unofficial dance party that accompanies the Australian Tourism Exchange, "gAyTE".

