



# Employees off to China and Brazil

THREE WA Alcoa employees have been chosen to travel to China and Brazil to participate in critical ecological rainforest research projects.

The announcements were made during the company's Green Works volunteering initiative which encourages Alcoa employees to live green while volunteering for environmental preservation.

The expeditions are part of Alcoa Foundation's partnership with the Earthwatch Institute – just one of many global and local community programs the company is involved with to address environmental sustainability.

Cornelia Major of Alfred Cove, Peter Machen of Warnbro and Todd Bell of Lakelands are among just 25 employees from Alcoa who will join research scientists from around the world to better understand how rainforests are responding to climate change.

They will assist by collecting scientific data as well as undertaking leaf counts, canopy surveys and forest transects.

Todd Bell from the Willowdale Mine said he couldn't believe his luck when he got the news.

"To be selected out of 250 applicants is an amazing feeling," Todd said.

Todd will travel to Brazil at the end of July for a week to explore its forests and jungles.

"Since I can remember, it has been a dream of mine to go to Brazil," he said.

"It contains a large amount of the world's biodiversity which is sadly being pushed to the brink of extinction due to human pressures for land.

"The thing I'm most looking forward to is working with different people from all over the world.

"It will be good to discuss how climate change is impacting them in their home countries and then I will be able to bring their stories home and spread them around the work place to help make people more environmentally aware."

Alcoa of Australia managing director Alan Cransberg explained the importance of this program to Alcoa.

"Besides the fact that this is critical research, we also want to give the people of Alcoa the chance to learn more



**Research:** Todd Bell from Alcoa's Willowdale Mine will travel to Brazil at the end of next month to better understand how rainforests are responding to climate change.

about the environment and hopefully even inspire them to become sustainability ambassadors, bringing about change at work, at home and in our communities.

"This is more than just a volunteering opportunity, it's really an extension of Alcoa's sustainability program," he said.

2011 marks the ninth year Alcoa Foundation has partnered with the Earthwatch Institute to provide the people of Alcoa with these opportunities and offer Earthwatch the value of Alcoa volunteers.

This partnership has seen more than 6800 research hours donated by Alcoa employees since 2003.