

**widcorp**

water in drylands  
collaborative research program

## 4<sup>th</sup> WIDCORP Research Forum

Tuesday 1 July 2008

Yellow Gum Room  
Grains Innovation Park  
110 Natimuk Rd, Horsham

### “Regional Futures”

Our Future and Our Vision for the Wimmera Mallee

## Program

- 9.00-9.15           **Registration**
- 9.15- 9.30           **Welcome**  
Research in the Wimmera: WIDCORP and the Forum  
*Dr Pam McRae-Williams, Research Director WIDCORP*
- 9.30-9.45           **Opening Address**  
UB in the Wimmera: Our future and our vision  
*Professor David Battersby, Vice Chancellor University of Ballarat*
- 9.45-10.30           **Leading our future in the Wimmera Mallee**  
Introduced by *Anne Bothe, Leadership Wimmera*
- My vision for the region  
*David Jochinke, Grain, Prime Lamb and Wool Producer; Nuffield Scholar*
- 10.30-11.15           **Keynote Address**  
Introduced by *Tony Gregson, Chair, WIDCORP*
- Managing the risks of climate change  
*Rob Gell, Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society; Inaugural Fellow of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand; President, Greening Australia, Victoria; Executive Chairman, Access Environmental.*
- 11.15-11.30           **Morning tea/coffee**
- 11.30-12.45           **Research guiding the future of the region**  
Presentations introduced by Pam McRae-Williams
- The Wimmera Mallee Pipeline and regional futures  
*Dr Imogen Schwarz, Research Fellow WIDCORP*

- Northern Mallee pipeline optimisation: planning for the future  
*Dr Andrew Barton, Senior Water Resource Engineer GWMWater; Honorary Research Fellow, Centre for Informatics and Applied Optimisation, UB*
- Wetlands and biodiversity into the future  
*Jonathan Starks, Birchip Cropping Group; Wimmera CMA; Masters student, UB/WIDCORP*
- Socio-ecological values of wetlands as water regimes change  
*Dawn McBride, PhD student, UB/WIDCORP*
- Water and the sustainability of regions  
*Holly Foster, PhD student, LaTrobe University/WIDCORP*
- Tourism futures in the Wimmera Mallee  
*La Vergne Lehmann, PhD student, UB/WIDCORP; Coordinator, Conservation and Land Management, Longerenong College*

### Questions/discussion from the floor

12.45-1.30

**Lunch**

1.30-3.00

### **WORKSHOP SESSIONS**

#### **Working groups to develop specific projects**

*Facilitated by Dr Joel Epstein, Director, Institute for Regional and Rural Research and Innovation, UB*

#### **Project Group 1: Post Pipeline – Understanding on-farm water use**

*Facilitated by Dr Patrice Braun, Centre for Regional Innovation and Competitiveness, UB*

#### **Project Group 2: Understanding the McKenzie Creek System**

*Facilitated by Dr Patrick Graz, Centre for Environmental Management, UB*

#### **Project Group 3: Developing decision support systems for water management**

*Facilitated by Professor John Yearwood, Centre for Informatics and Applied Optimisation, UB*

3.00-3.15

Afternoon coffee/tea

3.15-3.45

#### **Workshop Round-up**

*Discussion led by Dr Joel Epstein*

3.45-4.00

#### **Closing Address**

Looking into the Future  
*Rob Gell*