

Media Release

For immediate release

28 February, 2007

Young scientists contribute to horticulture research

Horticultural growers currently face a number of major barriers affecting markets, price and production.

Australian Chief Scientist, Dr Jim Peacock AC promotes innovative research as the way to reduce these barriers, "When faced with adversity, we often have no choice but to reconsider the way we do things. Climate change, water scarcity, economics and industry forces are placing unprecedented demands on our horticulture and viticulture industries."

"Growers are creatively reassessing current practices but it is likely that new technologies and new varieties will be needed to ensure future success. Close working partnerships between researchers, growers and government agencies will be integral to this process," Dr Peacock said.

Dr Peacock is the keynote speaker at the Riverlink.PRN (postgraduate research network) Showcase Event to be held on Friday 2 March, 10am, at the La Trobe University Lecture Theatre, Benetook Ave, Mildura.

The Sunraysia-Riverland region has five state and federal government horticultural research departments located in the area. Riverlink is a collaborative network of these agencies, who share resources to progress research projects and develop relationships with growers and industry.

Riverlink horticultural research and development aims to increase market development, improve energy efficiency, implement mechanisms to cope with climate change, develop new products, create awareness of health benefits, assist biosecurity and encourage innovation.

Encouraging young researchers to the region to cooperate in horticulture projects is also a major priority for Riverlink.

"There's a pressing need to attract young scientists and researchers to the Sunraysia-Riverland region, and to be committed to working with Riverlink industries to help solve problems and generate new opportunities," Dr Peacock said.

This 'need' stems from the demand to broaden research capability and assist the advancement of Australian horticultural industries and future development.

Riverlink.PRN (postgraduate research network) is a joint initiative partnering Riverlink with La Trobe University. The network aims to encourage postgraduate research in the region through assistance with funding and mentoring.

For further information contact: Lee Byrne, Riverlink Communication and Development Officer,
Tel: 03 5051 4569 Email: lee.byrne@dpi.vic.gov.au

ENDS