

MEDIA RELEASE

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Contributions to regional horticultural research recognised

Three Riverlink awards were presented yesterday, recognising research staff and industry representatives who have made outstanding contributions to horticultural science and extension in Sunraysia-Riverland.

Graham Robertson, Chairman of the Riverlink Council, said that each year staff within the tri-state Riverlink network work on more than 130 horticultural research projects. Regional industries provide high levels of support for this research and development; providing land, plantings, and infrastructure for research trials, as well as commitment of time for research planning and consultation.

“These awards recognise the contribution made by industry to regional horticultural research, and celebrate the achievements of the excellent science and extension staff working within Riverlink,” Mr Robertson said. “This year’s winners are again outstanding examples of the proactive and visionary scientists and dedicated horticulturists in our region. We thank them for the contributions they make to Australia’s horticultural industries.”

Allan Anderson, table grape industry leader and visionary, was awarded this year’s Riverlink Industry Award. Allan has been a major contributor across a broad spectrum of Riverlink activities involving the table grape industry. He was heavily involved in the establishment of a national R & D levy for the table grape industry and has worked closely with Riverlink research staff to address industry issues.

Riverlink Staff Award winner, Gerard Kelly, has been a consistent and enthusiastic supporter of regional collaboration and research. Gerard is the District Horticulturalist for vegetables at NSW Agriculture’s Dareton Research and Advisory Centre. He is also the Riverlink program leader for vegetables and is widely recognised for his support of regional melon and vegetable industries.

A Riverlink team working on the large Cooperative Research Centre for Viticulture - Murray Darling Basin Commission water use efficiency project has won this year’s Riverlink Scientific Team Award. Over the last three years, this collaborative group of scientists from CSIRO Plant Industry Merbein, NSW Agriculture Dareton, DPI – Mildura and Tatura, Loxton Research Centre and the University of Adelaide have developed new knowledge on water use efficiency in grapevines and the benefits of adopting strategic irrigation and pruning technologies. This knowledge has been used to develop best management practices for the industry and has the potential to assist in reducing water use in grape production.

ENDS

Photograph and Interview Opportunities

These awards will be presented at a ceremony to be held on **Friday 27 February in the Acacia Room at DPI Mildura on the corner of Eleventh Street and Koorlong Avenue, Irymple Victoria.**

Awards will be presented at approximately 2.00pm, with the best time for photographs and interviews being approximately 3.00pm (at the conclusion of the ceremony).

Attached program will provide further information.

Please contact Merryl Whyte or Ray Patterson to arrange photographs or interviews.

Further Information:

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