

**Editorial:
'I heard it on the grapevine'**

For immediate release

14 February, 2007

Australian Chief Scientist to visit Mildura

Australian Chief Scientist, Dr Jim Peacock AC, will visit Mildura in March to speak about research innovations and encouraging young people to science. Riverlink.PRN (postgraduate research network), a collaboration between Riverlink and La Trobe University, will host the event.

The postgraduate research network aims to encourage young scientists to undertake PhD, Masters and Honours projects that will contribute to the development of the Sunraysia-Riverland regional horticultural industries.

Dr Peacock is a keen supporter of the Riverlink program, which promotes research agency collaboration, and assisted in the establishment in 1991.

Dr Peacock was appointed Australian Chief Scientist in March 2006. The Chief Scientist contributes advice on science, technology and innovation issues to the Prime Minister and Ministers. The role also provides a link between government and science, engineering, innovation and industry groups, facilitating active communication and input into strategic thinking.

An award winning molecular biologist and enthusiastic science advocate, Dr Peacock is recognised internationally as a well respected researcher in the field of plant molecular biology and its applications in agriculture production.

In 2000, Dr Peacock was a co-recipient of the inaugural Prime Minister's Science Prize, for his co-discovery of the Flowering Switch Gene. This gene determines when plants end their vegetative growth phase and begin flowering. The discovery will help to boost the productivity of the world's crops by billions of dollars each year and could also assist to increase the nutritional value of crops.

Dr Peacock is a strong advocate for the integration of science and global business. He drives innovative communication efforts to inform the general public as to the outcomes and value of modern science. Dr Peacock has brought the excitement of science to a broad cross-section of the community and to Australian schools.

Horticultural growers, representatives and community members are encouraged to attend the Riverlink.PRN Showcase Event to be held at the La Trobe University Lecture Theatre, Benetook Avenue, Mildura, on Friday 2 March, 10am.

To attend, please call Lee Byrne, Riverlink Communication and Development Officer on 5051 4569 or email lee.byrne@dpi.vic.gov.au.

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