



NCCARF Newsletter

Director's Welcome

Professor Jean Palutikof, NCCARF Director

Welcome to the first edition of the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility Newsletter. This newsletter will provide you with a regular update on NCCARF activities and links to other activities, events and information relevant to climate change adaptation research in Australia.

The role of NCCARF is to lead the national research community to generate the information needed by government, business and the community to manage climate change impacts.

It has been just over a year since the Australian Government announced NCCARF would be hosted by Griffith University. The months since have been an important establishment phase for the facility. In this busy period we have:

- Coordinated the completion of National Adaptation Research Plans for Human Health, Marine Biodiversity and Resources and Emergency Management
- Established eight Adaptation Research Networks, hosted by leading research institutions across Australia
- Established the NCCARF Website www.nccarf.edu.au
- Initiated the NCCARF Synthesis and Integrative Research Program
- Established the NCCARF office, with a staff of nine, to support its activities.

Key activities for the next six months include finalising National Adaptation Research Plans for other priority thematic areas; supporting Networks during their establishment phase; assisting the Australian Government in the implementation of its Adaptation Research Grants Program; and organising a 2010 International Climate Change Adaptation Conference to be co-hosted by NCCARF and CSIRO's Climate Adaptation Flagship.

This newsletter provides more information about these activities. If you have feedback, information or items you would like included in subsequent editions, email j.langan@griffith.edu.au

Professor Jean Palutikof



Professor Jean Palutikof took up the role of NCCARF Director in October 2008, having previously managed

the production of the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report for Working Group II (Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability), while based at the UK Met Office.

Prior to joining the Met Office, she was a Professor in the School of Environmental Sciences and Director of the Climatic Research Unit at the University of East Anglia, UK, where she worked from 1979 to 2004. Earlier, she was a lecturer at the Department of Geography, University of Nairobi, Kenya, from 1974 to 1979.

Her research interests focus on climate change impacts, adaptation and the application of climatic data to economic and planning issues.

NCCARF priority themes

NCCARF will provide information that will assist governments, industry and communities to adapt to the anticipated impacts of climate change.

It will focus on eight priority thematic areas:

- Human Health
- Settlements & Infrastructure
- Water Resources & Freshwater Biodiversity
- Marine Biodiversity & Resources
- Terrestrial Biodiversity
- Emergency Management
- Primary Industries
- Social, Economic & Institutional Dimensions of Climate Change.

Living with extremes

In early 2009, Australia faced an unprecedented combination of record extreme weather events. These included:

- Heatwaves in Melbourne and Adelaide, with a record run of days with temperatures greater than 40°C, and severe impacts on human health, transport and energy supply.
- Extensive flooding in Queensland with, at one time, 60% of the state under water.
- The bushfires in Victoria associated with record high temperatures, extreme dryness and low humidity, and high windspeeds, which led to multiple outbreaks of intense fire moving at high speeds – a tragic combination leading to the loss of over 200 lives.

Climate scientists have speculated that these events are the result of climate change which is already happening. Whether this is the case, or whether these events simply demonstrate the remarkable variability of the Australian climate, the need for successful adaptation is very clear.



National Adaptation Research Plans

The development of National Adaptation Research Plans (NARPs) has been a priority activity for NCCARF over its establishment year.

The Plans are being developed by leading researchers and key stakeholders and are critical as they aim to coordinate climate change adaptation research in Australia, identify gaps in the information available to decision makers and set out national adaptation research priorities.

These priorities will provide a platform to guide the Australian adaptation

research community and inform Australian Government investment in research over the next four years.

The Plans for Human Health, Emergency Management, and Marine Biodiversity & Resources have all been finalised.

The Plan for Human Health which has been approved by the Minister for Climate Change is available for download from the NCCARF website.

For further information, please visit the NCCARF website, or contact Professor Jan McDonald on: jan.mcdonald@griffith.edu.au

NARP Completion schedule

Completed — Human Health

Completed — Marine Biodiversity & Resources; Emergency Management

June 2009—Terrestrial Biodiversity; Social, Economic & Institutional Dimensions

Mid 2009—Water Resources & Freshwater Biodiversity

Mid 2009—Settlements & Infrastructure; Primary Industries.

Climate Change and Human Health

The National Adaptation Research Plan for Human Health is the first of a series of National Adaptation Research Plans to be finalised.

This plan has identified national research priorities relevant to human health, such as the capacity of the health system to cope with disasters and the health benefits or adverse effects of adaptation and mitigation strategies.

The National Health and Medical

Research Council will consider applications that address priorities outlined in this Plan in its current round, which closed in March 2009. For further information about this research funding, please visit www.nhmrc.gov.au

Copies of this Plan are available for download from the NCCARF website, or on request by emailing Frank Stadler on f.stadler@griffith.edu.au



Climate Adaptation Networks

Adaptation Research Networks have now been established at leading Australian research institutions.

The role of Adaptation Research Networks is to work with the Facility to promote collaborative research, exchange of information and sharing of resources, and to build Australia's climate change adaptation research capacity.

The Networks will address each of the eight NCCARF priority themes. Listed below are the Adaptation Research Network host institutions, and convenors:

Terrestrial Biodiversity hosted by James Cook University, and co-convened by Associate Professor Stephen Williams, and Professor Lesley Hughes (Macquarie University).

Water Resources & Freshwater Biodiversity hosted by Griffith University and convened by Professor Stuart Bunn.

Marine Biodiversity & Resources hosted by University of Tasmania and convened by Associate Professor Neil Holbrook.

Human Health hosted by the Australian National University and convened by Associate Professor Tony Capon.



Network convenors and members including (L-R) Snow Barlow, Stephen Williams, Lesley Hughes, Jon Barnett, Ron Cox, Neil Holbrook, Tony Capon, Liz Hanna, John Handmer and Stuart Bunn met in Brisbane in February to share progress and ideas.

Settlements & Infrastructure hosted by the University of New South Wales and convened by Professor Ron Cox.

Primary Industries hosted by Land & Water Australia, and convened by Professor Snow Barlow (University of Melbourne).

Emergency Management hosted by RMIT University and convened by Professor John Handmer.

Social, Economic & Institutional Dimensions hosted by the University of Melbourne and convened by Dr Jon Barnett.

Membership to these Networks is open to researchers with expertise

or interest in relevant thematic areas and stakeholders from government, industry and the community.

Network participants will have the opportunity to exchange information, participate in workshops and other events, receive regular network updates and contribute towards synthesis publications.

Participants will also be kept up to date on relevant research funding opportunities.

If you would like to participate in these networks or would like further information please visit the NCCARF website, or contact Marie Waschka on 07 5552 7735 or email m.waschka@griffith.edu.au

2010 International Climate Adaptation Conference

NCCARF and the CSIRO's Climate Adaptation Flagship will host an international conference at the Gold Coast, Queensland in July 2010.

The *Climate Adaptation Futures: preparing for the unavoidable impacts of climate change* conference will be one of the first international forums to focus solely on climate impacts and adaptation.

It will bring together scientists and decision makers from developed and developing countries to share research approaches, methods and results.

It will explore the way forward in a

world where impacts are increasingly observable and adaptation actions are increasingly required.

Who should attend?

- The international community of researchers in climate change impacts, adaptation and vulnerability seeking to present and discuss the latest science developments.
- Representatives of government,

business, industry and vulnerable communities seeking to interact with that science.

A call for abstracts will be made in June 2009.

Registrations will open in August 2009.

For further information, please visit the NCCARF website at:

www.nccarf.edu.au/conference2010

NCCARF Seminar Series



Prof David Karoly

The National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility will host a public seminar series addressing critical issues and events relating to climate change adaptation. The NCCARF Seminar Series will feature speakers from

across the climate change research community sharing their work with a broad audience of stakeholders and the general public.

The first seminar '*The 2009 bushfires and heatwaves in south eastern Australia: are they related to climate change?*' will feature world-leading authority on global climate and climate variability, David Karoly, Professor of Meteorology at the University of Melbourne who was heavily involved

in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Date: Friday, 27 March 2009, 4pm-5pm

Venue: Central Theatre, Queensland College of Art, Southbank

RSVP: Registrations essential to Kerry Fitzgerald on 5552 7326 or email k.fitzgerald@griffith.edu.au

Contact us

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About NCCARF

In 2008 the Australian Government established the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility to lead the Australian research community in a national interdisciplinary effort to generate the information needed by decision makers in government and in vulnerable sectors and communities to manage the risks of climate change impacts.

NCCARF is based at Griffith University Gold Coast and has nine partners: The Queensland Government, Griffith University, James Cook University, Macquarie University, Murdoch University, The University of Newcastle, Queensland University of Technology, University of Southern Queensland and University of the Sunshine Coast.

NCCARF has nine staff working to deliver its priority activities, these are:

- To provide national scientific leadership for adaptation research, including the development of National Adaptation Research Plans.
- To coordinate researchers and funders to implement the National Adaptation Research Plans using resources available Australia-wide.
- To coordinate the Australian research community, particularly through the Adaptation Research Networks.
- To undertake Synthesis and Integrative research to address national priorities and synthesise existing and emerging national and international research on climate change impacts and adaptation.
- To communicate research findings and facilitate the adoption of adaptation knowledge.

NCCARF Partners:



Australian Government
Department of Climate Change



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