



Thursday 19 December 2013

## VCCCAR News

More information about this update at [www.vcccar.org.au](http://www.vcccar.org.au)

### A great year for VCCCAR

2013 has seen significant developments in climate adaptation and in our research community in Victoria. The release of Victorian Climate Adaptation Plan in March provided a clear policy framework for the Victorian Government and a statement of the need for ongoing research and information to support effective adaptation decisions. The Plan included a number of references to VCCCAR and the value of our current research activity in informing government policies and programs.



The VCCCAR Annual Forum, held in Geelong this May, reinforced these messages and we welcomed the appointment of Hon Brad Battin MP as Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment. Brad has a clear understanding and interest in climate impacts and adaptation issues and is a strong supporter of measures to build the resilience of Victorian communities and businesses. Later in the year, the announcement of the initial investments in the Victorian Adaptation and Sustainability Partnerships indicated a further commitment from the Government in supporting adaptation activities at local and community levels. A number of these projects were formed with VCCCAR partners, or were developed from our project activities.

Within the centre, we saw the completion of major projects on green infrastructure, learning from indigenous and traditional knowledge, integrated land management, design-led decision support and green infrastructure and implementing adaptation. All these involved significant collaboration between university partners and between researchers and state and local government and community partners. We held think tanks on regional cities and adaptation in marine and coastal environments and benefited greatly from the visit by our fourth Visiting Fellow, Professor Jonathan Overpeck from the University of Arizona.

We conducted a series of strategic think tanks on future research directions for climate adaptation and the output of these discussions is informing development of a funding bid for future adaptation activities within the Victorian Government.

I would like to thank all the members of the Advisory Board, the Implementation Committee, Project Leaders and team members and all those in government, industry and the community who have contributed to the success of our activities during the year. I particularly thank our Executive Officer, Doug Scobie, Communications Officer, Phoebe Bond, and our chief government liaison, John Houlihan, for their efforts in making the centre work. In four years I feel we have built a successful partnership and created a strong and enduring community of practice in climate adaptation research in Victoria.

I wish you and your family a relaxing Christmas and I look forward to working with you in 2014 to bring this stage of VCCCAR to a successful conclusion and build the platform for future research collaboration to support a more climate safe and resilient Victoria.

Best regards

Rod Keenan

### VCCCAR's closure over Christmas

VCCCAR will close for the Christmas-New Year from lunchtime on Tuesday, 24 December, reopening on Monday, 20 January 2014. During this time you can email [enquiries-vcccar@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:enquiries-vcccar@unimelb.edu.au), or leave a voice message for Doug Scobie (03) 8344 3095 or Rod Keenan (03) 9035 822.



