

Western Australia

The University of Western Australia

LP0774871 A/Prof M Barbetti; Prof Dr K Sivasithamparam

Approved Project Title **Race status, sources of resistance and mechanisms of resistance to Peronospora parasitica, a major threat to oilseed Brassica production in Australia.**

2007 : \$ 90,000

2008 : \$ 90,000

2009 : \$ 90,000

Primary RFCD 2704 BOTANY

Collaborating/Partner Organisation(s)

Department of Agriculture Western Australia

Administering Organisation The University of Western Australia

Project Summary

Through successful identification of mechanisms and molecular characterisation of resistance to Peronospora parasitica races and the identification of sources of host resistance against these races, breeders, for the first time, will be able to develop cultivars with resistance against the full spectrum of P. parasitica races occurring across southern Australia. Benefits include prevention of severe losses in canola from downy mildew, and more viable and sustainable production with less reliance upon fungicides. This research addresses the National Research Priority 'An Environmentally Sustainable Australia' and the Priority Goal of 'Transforming existing industries', and will particularly benefit southern Australian rural communities.

LP0774846 Dr SM Broomhall; Prof JE Malpas; A/Prof JE Barclay Lloyd; Prof JA Griffiths; Mr C Wood

Approved Project Title **An interdisciplinary framework for place-based research and its impact on the tourist industry**

2007 : \$ 27,410

2008 : \$ 53,868

2009 : \$ 51,133

Primary RFCD 4301 HISTORICAL STUDIES

Collaborating/Partner Organisation(s)

Australians Studying Abroad

Administering Organisation The University of Western Australia

Project Summary

The project situates Australian research at the heart of an interdisciplinary inquiry into the understanding of place, and its socio-cultural analysis. It promotes national research on the interpretation of place in social analysis, and the publications produced respond to commercial needs for high-level interpretative place-based studies in the tourism industry. The generation of intellectually rigorous knowledge capital for outbound educational tour operators locates Australia at the intellectual cutting edge of scholarly content for educational tourism and for heritage organizations worldwide. The project is explicitly designed to provide early career training, with opportunities for research on the tourist industry.

Summary of Linkage Projects Proposals for Funding to Commence in 2007

LP0774881 Prof JT Lambers; Dr CB Hinz; Dr EJ Veneklaas; Dr GR Hancock; Dr A Kepic; Mr MJ Wealleans; Dr P Kendrick; Dr A Porporato

Approved Project Title **Ecohydrological feedbacks between vegetation and soil in natural and engineered landforms in arid Australia**

2007 : \$ 300,000

2008 : \$ 280,000

2009 : \$ 248,287

2010 : \$ 200,000

Primary RFCD 3008 ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

APA(I) Award(s): 2

Collaborating/Partner Organisation(s)

Minerals and Energy Research Institute of WA (MERIWA)

Newcrest Mining - Telfer Gold Mine

BHP Billiton

Pilbara Iron Pty Ltd

WA Department of Conservation and Land Management

Administering Organisation The University of Western Australia

Project Summary

We address 'An Environmentally Sustainable Australia'. 1. Water is the binding factor in our project, defining vegetation, geomorphology and hydrology. 2. Rehabilitation is an integral part of the mining business. Our project is instrumental in developing ecological engineering approaches to rehabilitation. 3. Ultimate goal of the project is to develop stable landforms, protecting underlying rock. 4. We investigate locally adapted native plant species for use in arid-zone land rehabilitation, to preserve biodiversity. 5. The area of study is exposed to long droughts and cyclonic rainfall. Understanding the resilience of the landscape will provide pivotal insight into the impact and potential adaptive response to climate variability.

LP0775021 Dr SF Pettigrew; Prof RJ Donovan; Prof DP Boldy; Prof R Newton

Approved Project Title **Investigating older Australians' beliefs about and understanding of mental health and their practice of relevant protective behaviours**

2007 : \$ 56,000

Primary RFCD 3212 PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES

Collaborating/Partner Organisation(s)

Department for Community Development - Office for Seniors Interests and Volunteering

Department of Health, Western Australian Office of Mental Health

Administering Organisation The University of Western Australia

Project Summary

Healthy ageing and mental health are acknowledged national priorities. This project will generate new knowledge relating to older Australians' mental health literacy and the motivators and barriers influencing their engagement in protective behaviours. The resulting communications strategy will provide tangible outcomes for the industry partners to utilise. The project will thus produce knowledge advancement and tools for practitioners, both of which will enhance public welfare and reduce long-term healthcare costs. While this project focuses on older Australians, those of all ages will benefit from a communications campaign that provides individuals with knowledge to protect and strengthen their mental health.

Summary of Linkage Projects Proposals for Funding to Commence in 2007

LP0775540 Dr MA Tonts; Prof R Jones
Approved Project Title **The Arts and Social Wellbeing in Rural Communities**

2007 : \$ 25,118

2008 : \$ 25,118

2009 : \$ 25,118

Primary RFCD 3704 HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

APA(I) Award(s): 1

Collaborating/Partner Organisation(s)

Country Arts Western Australia

Department of Culture and the Arts

Administering Organisation The University of Western Australia

Project Summary

The social wellbeing of Australia's rural communities is of ongoing concern and importance to governments, communities and businesses. It is often held that the arts have the potential to contribute to wellbeing by fostering social connectivity, community cohesion, social inclusion, trust and reciprocity. However, relatively little research examines the hypothesised link between the arts and these outcomes. This project will make an innovative contribution in this area. It will address industry and government calls for research on the contribution of the arts to rural social wellbeing. It will also provide a basis for more effective policy in the arts and regional development.

LP0775351 Dr G Yan; Dr DC Hardie; Dr T Khan

Approved Project Title **Fast tracking pea weevil resistance into field pea cultivars through interspecific hybridisation**

2007 : \$ 87,000

2008 : \$ 80,000

2009 : \$ 80,000

2010 : \$ 100,000

Primary RFCD 3003 HORTICULTURE

Collaborating/Partner Organisation(s)

Dardin Agri Holdings (Australia) Pty. Ltd. - a subsidiary of the Aztech Group Companies

Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia

Administering Organisation The University of Western Australia

Project Summary

Field pea is a high value export product of Australia and increased adoption will lead to greater sustainability of agriculture, improved farm income and value adding opportunities (eg. food industry) in regional Australia. Novel breeding tools used within this project will accelerate the development of pea weevil resistant field peas that are less dependent on the application of pesticides than current varieties. Their availability will encourage further uptake of field pea into Australian cropping systems, contributing to environmentally sustainable farming systems by improving soil nitrogen levels and reducing the environmental effect of pesticides.