

# Achievements by Ben Gawne as Director of MDFRC

## ***Projects Managed***

1. Linking Sediment Dynamics, Riparian Vegetation and Aquatic Ecology in the Ovens River. North East Catchment Management Authority
2. Development of a Monitoring Program for willow removal activities in the North East. North East Catchment Management Authority
3. Mitta Mitta River: Review of the 1999 Waterway Management Strategy Objectives and Stream Stabilisation Activities. North East Catchment Management Authority and EarthTech
4. Review of monitoring data from the Broken River. Goulburn Broken CMA
5. Investigation of the role of low flow events in the Ovens River. North East Catchment Management Authority
6. Development of community engagement in institutional monitoring of environmental condition. North East Catchment Management Authority
7. Living Murray Intervention Monitoring Assessment Framework 2006-07. Murray-Darling Basin Commission
8. Floodplain connectivity during the 2005/2006 Barmah floodplain watering. Murray-Darling Basin Commission.
9. River condition monitoring within the Murray Irrigation region. Partnership with Murray Irrigation Limited.
10. Lowland River Project: The influence of flow on patterns of productivity on lowland rivers. CRC Freshwater Ecology.
11. The influence of slackwaters on the ecology of lowland rivers. CRC Freshwater Ecology.
12. Flow related variation in diets of Murray-Darling Fish. AFFA

## ***Knowledge Exchange***

### **Hosted TISORS Ninth International Conference on River Research and Applications**

The *Ninth International Conference on River Research and Applications* was held at the Albury Convention and Performing Arts Centre from 6 to 11 July 2003. Ben Gawne was on the Organizing Committee, and 13 papers were presented by MDFRC staff, including an entire session of *Variability of Lowland Rivers*. In addition, staff were involved in the organisation of the mid-conference field trip- Ben Gawne coordinated the *Mountains to the Murray* field trip (a trip down the Ovens River, one of the few unregulated rivers in the Murray Darling Basin).

A workshop on **Ecological Responses to Flow Changes**, organised by the CRCFE, and held at the MDFRC on 4 and 5 July prior to the Ninth International Conference on River Research and Applications.

Chairman of Organising Committee for the **Australian Society for Limnology Annual Congress, Albury-Wodonga (2006)**,

### **Various**

- 37 Radio Interviews
- 23 TV Interviews
- 11 Newspaper Interviews

- Developed MDFRC Web Site
- Redesigned Rotary Murray-Darling School of Freshwater Research (Easter School)
- T J Hillman Honour's Scholarship
- Reclaimed Ripples (Internal newsletter)
- Issued Basin Links
- Instituted Annual Staff Meetings
- Member Living Murray Monitoring Technical Advisory Group
- Member of NSW Murray Wetlands Working Group
- Board Member, Wetland Care Australia
- Instigated MDFRC Research Advisory Committee and Community Advisory Committees for Albury/Wodonga, Mildura and Goondiwindi

## ***Management***

- Managed Regional Office (Albury, then transferred to Wodonga) and two satellite laboratories (Mildura and Goondiwindi) Closed Goondiwindi Laboratory.
- Assessment of future accommodation needs and options of MDFRC
- Secured Agreement for Wodonga laboratory
- Designed and Moved Wodonga laboratory
- Implemented Project Management System
- Reclaim and Improve Financial Management of Centre
- Involvement in eWater CRC
- Managed transition from CRCFE to eWater CRC
- Declared 4 positions redundant
- Instigated transfer of 2 staff back to CSIRO
- Negotiated new MDFRC agreement
- Member of CRC FE Senior Management Team
- MDFRC Annual Staff Meetings
- Drafted MDFRC Strategic Plan
- Drafted MDFRC Science Plan
- Hosted visits by Politicians
  - Susan Ley
  - Sophie Panopolous
  - John Brogden
  - Greg Aplin
  - Richard Colbeck