

# Available now...



VICTORIAN UNIVERSITIES REGIONAL  
RESEARCH NETWORK INITIATIVE

## The Changing Nature of Australia's Country Towns

Edited by **Maureen F Rogers** and **David R Jones**, Research Fellows,  
Centre for Sustainable Regional Communities, La Trobe University, Bendigo, Australia

Much has changed since 2000, when the first national conference on The Future of Australia's Country Towns heard a great deal about the decline of the bush, and many appeals against the callousness of governments. Today the very varied circumstances of towns are better understood, non-government initiatives increasingly prevalent, and (some) governments more sensibly attentive. Growth, stasis and decline are not just employment-driven, nor is all employment agricultural. The most interesting and encouraging trend of recent years is toward many different kinds of self-help and mutual aid. Towns are identifying their problems, articulating their intentions, and finding ways to solve and achieve them.

The ideas and actions described in this book are those of academics and inhabitants of country towns (sometimes the same people) often working closely together. They reflect our growing understanding of the realities, sometimes harsh, frequently hopeful, of non-metropolitan Australia. The book covers 5 themes: people and the changing social and economic trends as drivers of rural and regional development; the art of engaging people in their own development; new modes of development - re-seeing the old and making it new again; water and its management at the community level; and the planning processes and frameworks including a detailed look at Australian local government and the New Rural Economy program in Canada.

### Contents:

**Introduction: Renewing Country Towns** – *Maureen Rogers and David Jones*; A Comparative Overview: the Canadian/Australian Experience – *Bill Reimer*. **People and the Changing Socio/Economic Trends:** Seachange to Hillchange: a New Equilibrium? – *Peter Murphy*; Sponge Cities and Small Towns: a New Economic Partnership – *Trevor Budge*. **The Art of Engaging People:** Art, Science and Community – *Maureen Rogers and Barry Brockley*; From Margins to Mainstream: the Other Transforming Knowledge and Wisdom – *Helen Sheil and Neil Smith*. **New Modes of Development – Re-Seeing the Old and Making it New Again:** Sparse Urban Environments: Design Strategies for Possible Futures – *Nigel Bertram and Marika Neustupny*; Reinventing Childers: Small Town Recovery After Tragedy – *Steve Johnson*; Community Cultural Capital as a Factor in Economic Renewal: the Anakie Gemfields, c.2004 – *Daniel Teghe and Jim McAllister*; Quality Food Production, Diversity and Sustainability: Opportunities for Small Towns – *Anna Galton and Frank Vanclay*; Seasonal Migrant Labour: a Boon for Australian Country Towns? – *Peter Mares*. **Water and its Management:** Sustainable Water Supplies and Sustainable Small Towns – *Pam McRae-Williams and Julian Lowe*; Preferences and Values for Urban Waste Water Services in Small Rural Communities in Northern Victoria – *Bethany Cooper, Lin Crase and Brian Dollery*. **Plans, Policies and Practices:** The Business Network as Community Engagement – *Derek de Vrieze*; Measuring Community Capacity: an Electronic Audit Tool – *Brian Cheers, Mellissa Kruger, Hilton Trigg and Greg Cock*; Local Government in the Australian Country Town: New Challenges for the 21st Century – *John Martin*; The New Rural Economy: Key observations for Research and Policy in the Canadian Context – *Bill Reimer and Ray D. Bollman*. Notes on Contributors



Oct 06  
Paperback, 264 pages  
ISBN 1876851236  
AUS \$ 33.95

# Order Form



VICTORIAN UNIVERSITIES REGIONAL  
RESEARCH NETWORK INITIATIVE

Fax or post this form to:

VURRN Press  
University of Ballarat  
Suite 1, Greenhill Enterprise Centre  
University Drive, Mount Helen,  
c/- P.O. Box 663,  
Ballarat, Victoria 3353  
Australia

Tel: +61 3 5327 9318  
Fax: +61 3 5327 9055  
Email: [cric@ballarat.edu.au](mailto:cric@ballarat.edu.au)

ABN 51 818 692 256



Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of:

## The Changing Nature of Australia's Country Towns

*Edited by MF Rogers and DR Jones*

ISBN: 1876851236

Price: \$33.95 including GST.

P&H within Australia, add: 1 book \$5.-, 2-5 books \$9.70

(For larger numbers of books or international postage, please contact VURRN Press)

Deliver to (WRITE CLEARLY PLEASE):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Company / Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Options (please complete all details):

I enclose a Cheque  (made payable to University of Ballarat) or  
Charge my Bankcard  MasterCard  Visa  (Please indicate which)

Card Number:

Expiry date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Total Amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



This order form will become a tax invoice for the purposes of GST when paid.