



The Royal Society of New South Wales

Southern Highlands Branch 18th April 2013 Lecture



Dr Andrew Ash

Dr Andrew Ash is the director of the CSIRO Climate Adaptation National Research Flagship

Dr Ash has over 20 years' experience in understanding how climate, grazing and fire influence the productivity and health of agriculture and ecosystems in northern Australia. His research on sustainable grazing practices in the highly variable climate of the Australian rangelands prompted an interest in the techniques of seasonal climate forecasting. This led him to develop and apply ocean-based seasonal forecasting methods for both agricultural and natural resource management

Dr Ash works closely with government agencies, businesses and communities, raising awareness of the need to adapt to unavoidable climate change. He oversees a nationwide portfolio of research projects, partnerships and collaborations. Dr Ash has a keen interest in better integrating our understanding of climate science with decision-making and developing ways to mainstream climate adaptation into policy and industry. Throughout his career, a feature of Andrew's research has been a systems approach that strives to examine both biophysical and management aspects of environmental sustainability.

Topic :Managing extreme weather and climate impacts: Fiddling while Rome burns

Australia is a continent beset by climatic extremes – of droughts and flooding rains. There is a perception that we have adapted well to this climatic variability. However, drought, bushfires, floods and cyclones cause significant disruption to the economy, to the communities they affect and to livelihoods. Moreover, our settlement patterns mean that risk and exposure has been growing over the last few decades. Climate change will exacerbate these risks. In this presentation I will examine these risks, outline how we can better adapt to climate variability and change and identify the cognitive and institutional barriers to change.

DATE: Thursday 18th April 2013 **TIME:** 6.30 PM

VENUE: Performing Arts Center. Chevalier College Bowral
[Enter off Charlotte St.](#)
Doors open 6 pm.

PRICES: Lecture only: Non-members \$10 (RS Members \$5) only students are free.
Following the lecture, there will be a dinner open to members and non-members at : [BRIARS BURRADOO](#)
Booking for dinner by Monday April 15th is essential.
Any other queries please contact Hub 0411192917

