EXTENDING EXTENSION
virtual shed meetings in a digital age
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DIGITAL FUTURES-CRN
Collaborative Research Network (CRN)
- CRN partners: USQ, ANU & UniSA
- Federally-funded: $5.1 M over 3 years (2012-2015)
- 5 projects (post doctoral research fellows, PhD scholarships)

DF-CRN sub-themes
- social and policy challenges in a digital future;
- participation in higher education; and
- technology rich learning environments.

DF-CRN PROJECT 3
Investigating the impact of a web-based, ‘discussion-support’
agricultural-climate information system on Australian farmers’
operational decision making

Project partners
- Australian Centre for Sustainable Catchments (ACSC)
- Australian Digital Futures Institute (ADFI)
- ANU, UniSA & CANEGROWERS

Project objectives
- to enhance farm management decision-making around climate risk
- to support sustainable (resilient) agricultural systems and rural communities

CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT

VIRTUAL WORLDS & EDUCATION

Source: SMH 2009
Source: USQ in SL (LindyMac, 2010)
**JIBE**

- 3D immersive virtual world
- Hosted on external servers
- Decreased bandwidth requirements compared to other vws
- Decreased learning curve

**CUSTOM AVATARS AND ENVIRONMENTS**

**ADVANTAGES**

- Reduce cost of hosting events
- Reduced cost and reduced time in attending events
- Reduced transport costs
- Reduced time away from the farm
- Accessible to producers from geographically distant regions
- Permanent record can be made of event for replay
- Demonstrations can be readily repeated
- Readily scalable
- Enhanced communication affordances

**THE FUTURE**

- Accessibility via mobile devices
- Augmented reality
- Augmented multi-user reality

**SWEET SUCCESS**

*developing machinima for Australian sugar farmers*

Set: ... a typical Australian sugarcane farm ... coastal mountains, Queenslander, shed, machinery, dog
SWEET SUCCESS –
developing machinima for Australian sugar farmers

Avatars

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Industry collaborator: Matt Kealley (CANEGROWERS)

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