

## **Mr. Ted Burling**

Project Officer/Network Development Officer, RAPAD/DKA Outback Business Networks, Remote Area Planning and Development Board

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Ted Burling is a closet rural sociologist employed by RAPAD and is currently working as a DKA Outback Business Network Development Officer for the CWQld region. His interests include rural community development and racehorses, mostly very slow racehorses. Ted who has spent two-thirds of his life working throughout this region, is becoming a dinosaur - if he's not already, and strongly subscribes to the theory that "the older I get, the better I was".

### **ABSTRACT**

**Outback Business Networks: delivering to a big Australia from the desert and semi-desert regions.**

Desert Knowledge Australia's Outback Business Networks addresses this year's *SEGRA* theme of "Regions Delivering a big Australia" by connecting small-medium business enterprises (SMEs) across nine diverse regions of Outback Australia

The Australian Government through Enterprise Connect and the Aboriginals Benefit Account, BHP Billiton, NT Government, Telstra and Qantas has combined with a wide range of regional partners to support the project.

Desert Knowledge Australia Outback Business Networks gives SMEs across desert Australia the opportunity to address a lack of critical mass and sustain its SMEs across five industries by:

- Saving time accessing information and contacts,
- Connecting with people across industry, regions and Outback Australia
- Reducing cost through shared marketing, training and purchasing
- Increasing revenue through collaboration

This presentation intends to demonstrate how a "bigger" economic Outback Australia can occur from the synergies developed by networking, collaborating and clustering businesses across borders. The businesses involved include: Mining Services, Local Produce, Sustainable Buildings, Creative Industries and Tourism.