**Video transcript: Environmental Management & Ecology**

**Kelly Thomas - Environmental Management and Ecology Student**

I chose Albury/Wodonga because it suited me, it suited my lifestyle, you’ve still got that close communication with Melbourne which is only 3 hours away.

**Vicki McCartney- PHD Student**

I can actually study in the Alpine area, which is one of my passions.

**Adrian Clements – PHD Student**

There’s a range of expertise; so we’ve got fresh water people, salt water people, birds, bugs, everything.

**Dr Susan Lawler – Head of Department/Senior Lecturer**

One of the unique things about our department is that we have a breadth of experience; we have one chemist, one geologist, one geneticist a couple of zoologists. I think it provides a unique environment. We’re also located in an area where we are very close to the Alps, we are close to the river, we are close to agricultural environments which we study so our students are always going out on field trips or stepping out to go and experience the environment directly and that’s something we can’t do in the city.

There are several undergraduate courses or you can just do the first year here at Albury Wodonga, it gives you a nice transition to university experience and life. It just so happens the first year of those programs is the first year of our flagship degree as well, and that is a program you can do right here in Albury/Wodonga for the entire 3 years, you can do the 4th year in Honourrs and you can go on and do your PHD.

**Adrian Clements – PHD Student**

Well I’ll be out in the field pretty constantly catching turtles- I’ll be looking at habitat comparison, so turtles live in the river compared to turtles that live in wetlands.

**Vicki McCartney- PHD Student**

I’m looking at ground water and vegetation in the Alpine, Bogong High Plains.

**Adrian Clements – PHD Student Environmental Management and Ecology**

I really want to do something outdoors and that was actually a lot of fieldwork, in the field trips in the first year, second year and all through the course

**Cassie Bates – Environmental Management and Ecology Student**

We learn how to write experiments, we learn how to test hypothesis and learn how to write reports for scientific publishing.

**Erin Doran -** **Environmental Management and Ecology Student**

My course is full of subjects that I really like. We have two electives in first year, we can do; geology, and extra chemistry. We get to go on lots of field trips, they are really, really fun.

**Kelly Thomas - Environmental Management and Ecology Student**

We have several trips - just locally; I’ve been to the Bogong High Plains.

**Erin Doran -** **Environmental Management and Ecology Student**

We climbed up Table Top.

**Kelly Thomas - Environmental Management and Ecology Student**

Healesville.

**Erin Doran -** **Environmental Management and Ecology Student**

We went on top of this big hill, over there!

**Kelly Thomas - Environmental Management and Ecology Student**

We went to Mount Hotham.

**Cassie Bates – Environmental Management and Ecology Student**

You walk outside the classroom and you go to the lake on campus or you go up to the forest and you go up to the Alpine areas and you go swimming at the Murray when it’s hot.

**Sarah Ning- North East Catchment Management Authority**

The North East Catchment Management Authority has been lucky enough to have a few La Trobe University work placement students, so students who have been in their third year of study and it’s been a great opportunity for our organisation to have students come along and undertake some work for us, it benefits us, but at the same time it’s also benefiting them in their studies and helping them to work out where they might like to go with their career.

**Cassie Bates – Environmental Management and Ecology Student**

I was selected by the Murray Darling Basin Freshwater Research Centre to do ten week work placement with them and as a part of that I was able to design my own experiment, I got all their research, all their information that had which was really cool and got to go out in the field and measure and then after that write a proper report.

**Dr Ben Gawne- Director of the Murray- Darling Freshwater Research Centre**

We run a summer scholarship program for undergraduates so they actually get to do some research over the summer vacation and then there are opportunities if they’re an Honours student to do projects in the centre or to go on and do a postgraduate degree with the centre. There’s job opportunities with the centre so you can come here, do your degree and then circumstances being right there might be a job opportunity where you actually get to apply those skills in a work context.

**Associate Professor Phil Suter- Freshwater Ecologist**

The job opportunities for graduates are actually pretty good here, in many cases our students go and work with an industry and they end up working there over summer and then maybe getting a job. It also provides them with references from an industry and some practical experience.

**Adrian Clements – PHD Student**

There are plenty of jobs around, you can get a job in government, you can get a job in consulting - it’s really broad.

**Erin Doran -** **Environmental Management and Ecology Student**

It’s a really good course and it gets you a really, really great degree and its based in science, not humanities and a lot of employers really, really like that.

**Cassie Bates – Environmental Management and Ecology Student**

I would not change my decision to come to Albury-Wodonga for anything in the world, the friends I have made here have are amazing and the things we do on campus outside of the uni are also really fun.

**Dr Susan Lawler – Head of Department/Senior Lecturer**

You’re going to be really happy with your degree in Albury-Wodonga, you’ll get to know a number of staff and students really well, you’ll have an intimate cohort, its small class sizes and you’re going to get to know a lot of the Australian environmental habitats really well. You’ll know the plants and animals and the eco system problems of different habitats; the desert, the alps, the rivers and the agricultural environments. I think that’s what the planet needs.