

Reviving Our Rivers

Annual Report
2008-2009

Thank you

We sincerely thank all the people and organisations who have supported us over the last year and in previous years, and in doing so have demonstrated great commitment to reviving our rivers, and to realising our vision of a world in which all rivers are healthy and sustainably managed.

Without such generosity, dedication and tireless hard work, we would not be able to achieve our goals. On behalf of rivers and waterways around the world, thank you for helping us to make a difference.

International Riverfoundation invites sponsorship of:

Twinning Projects

Partnerships through which river management knowledge and expertise is exchanged and on-ground outcomes are achieved for rivers in remote or developing regions

Sponsored Delegates Fellowships

Fellowships through which delegates from developing countries are able to attend the International Riversymposium to further their knowledge and expertise in river management

Integrated Water Management Scholarships

Master's programs designed for emerging leaders in Integrated Water Management

Please contact us for more information regarding these opportunities and others.

LIFE BENEFACTORS AND SUPPORTERS



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INTERNATIONAL RIVERFOUNDATION PARTNERS



The International Riverfoundation fosters, promotes and encourages the restoration, protection and sustainable management of the world's rivers, lakes and wetlands to improve the health of these precious resources and the communities dependent upon them.

A non-profit organisation established in Brisbane, Australia, in 2003, the Riverfoundation promotes internationally the work of river managers – regional riverine management bodies, governments, community groups, academic establishments, public and private companies, and professional and other concerned individuals.

The Riverfoundation stimulates river restoration and protection by making high profile awards to successful river projects, facilitating “twinning” between winners and needy riverine regions and communities, supporting knowledge transfer mechanisms such as international symposia, and assembling an army of high profile ambassadors to promote river welfare.

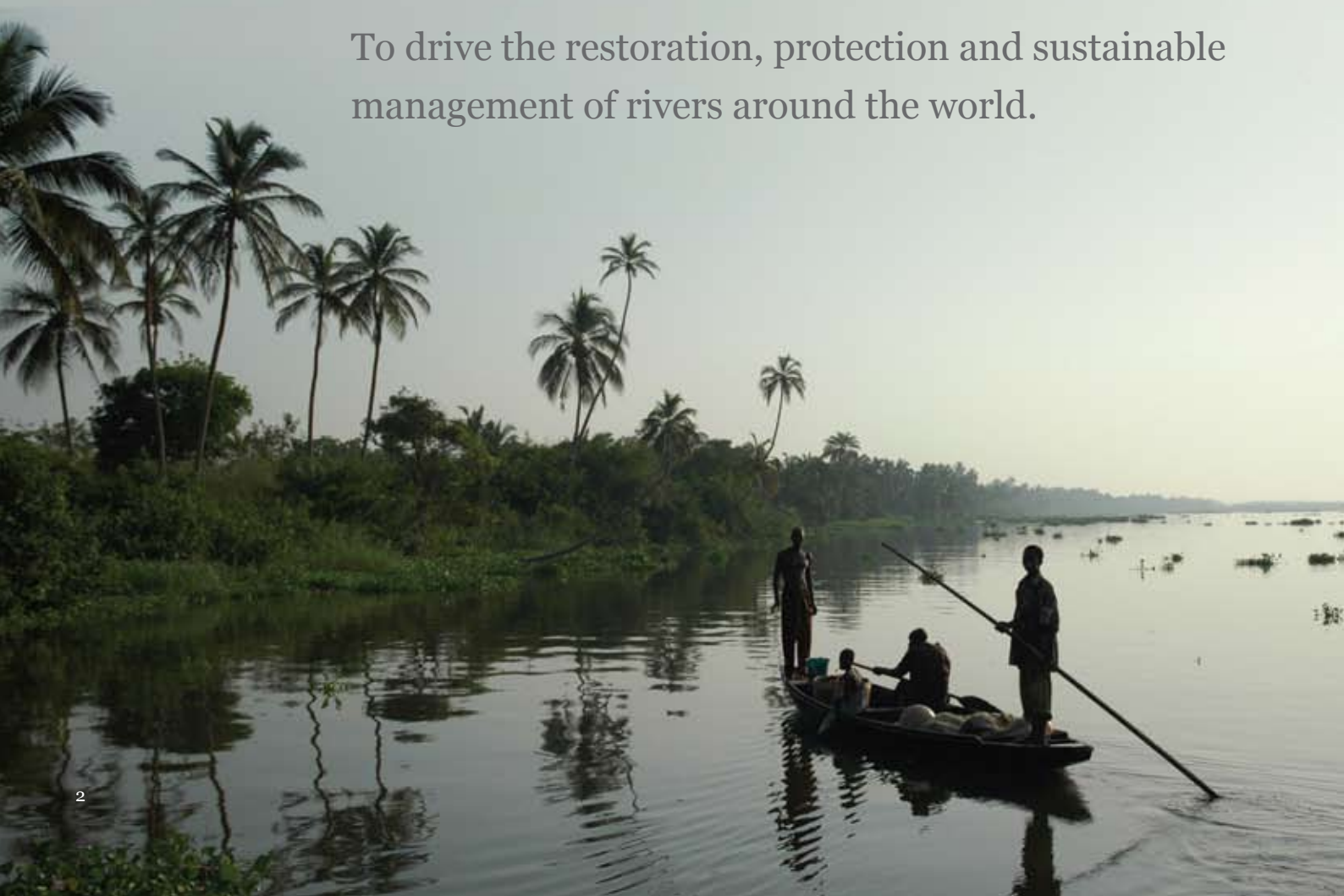
The Riverfoundation is financed by governments, companies and concerned individuals, its work being restricted only by the amount of funds it can raise.

Our Vision

A future in which every river around the world is healthy and managed sustainably.

Our Mission

To drive the restoration, protection and sustainable management of rivers around the world.



About us

International Riverfoundation is a not-for-profit organisation with a vision of a world in which all rivers and waterways are healthy and sustainably managed. Established in 2003 in response to the critical state of many of the world's rivers, International Riverfoundation is a dynamic organisation dedicated to supporting the restoration, protection and sustainable management of the world's rivers lakes and wetlands for improved health, ecological, economic, and social outcomes.

Our Values

- We operate with an independent, global and non-political stance in the interest of providing a service for public good.
- We act as a catalyst for river improvement worldwide through inspiring, rewarding, and encouraging best practice river restoration and management.
- We work directly with "river managers" in a "bottom-up" leadership approach to restore rivers and achieve on-ground results with improved ecological, social and economic benefits for communities.
- We are directly concerned with the transfer of best practice science into practical application that creates tangible results.
- We build partnerships and alliances with organisations worldwide to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

Our Objectives

- To advocate the protection and restoration of river systems around the world.
- To engage national and international organisations on the importance of sustainable river management.
- To ensure knowledge regarding effective river systems management is available to those who need it.
- To reward and champion those who are making significant achievements in the protection, restoration and management of river systems.
- To act as a catalyst for the replication of effective river system management practices.
- To promote long-term relationships between countries and organisations concerning sustainable management of river systems.

Chairman's Report

Despite the significant economic challenges of the last twelve months, the protection and restoration of the world's rivers and waterways remains fundamental to the long term future of the planet. Sustainability of our natural systems requires a long term commitment by all sectors of the community and while not immune from the conditions in the economy, I am proud to say that the IRF has been able to maintain all of its programs throughout the year. We remain determined to ensure that best practice river management techniques are recognised and celebrated. The IRF has continued to support the extension of these practices to other parts of the world and with prospects for improved an economic outlook, is developing new and exciting ways of engaging the entire community to revive our rivers.

From our ambassadors around the globe, to staff working in the offices of International Riverfoundation; from our Riverheroes working on the ground and in the watersheds to our supporters who continue to demonstrate generosity and financial support, it has been evident that the culture and passion of the International Riverfoundation community is unyielding in its vision of a world in which every river is healthy and sustainably managed.

This year, we have continued to give recognition, reward and support to Riverheroes around the world.

Rewarding Riverheroes

In 2008 we celebrated the tenth anniversary of *Riverprize* – the world's most valuable and prestigious river prize. As we marked this momentous celebration, it gave me enormous pleasure to be in the presence of such an outstanding group of individuals who have shown such vision, commitment and achievement in improving the health and sustainable management of our rivers and waterways.

We welcome two new Riverheroes to our *Riverprize* Alumni – St John's River, Florida and Lake Macquarie, New South Wales.

Partnering Riverheroes

In 2008/09 we added two new twinning projects to our agenda with Merri Creek mentoring Merri River in Australia to establish better governance for river restoration and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube sharing transboundary management wisdom with the Orange River in Southern Africa.

IRF plans to strengthen twinning initiatives and aims to establish a sustained presence in the Northern Hemisphere in order to further increase our global impact to revive rivers.

Supporting Riverheroes

The 2008 International Riversymposium theme, 'A Future of Extremes', highlighted the need for a united effort to minimise the effects of climate change. International Riverfoundation committed to making a global impact on the effects of climate change by supporting delegates to attend *Riversymposium* and in turn, apply their knowledge and skills learnt to their communities. We were pleased to sponsor 29 researchers and practitioners from 17 developing countries to spread their knowledge and through education, make a local impact on their environment and economy.

Internally, Riverfoundation has shown dedication and I must give thanks for the support contributed by our loyal board. There were several changes to the IRF Board during the year, including retirement of founding directors in Dr Ron Freethy, of Freethy and Associates UK and, Jude Munro, CEO of Brisbane City Council. On behalf of the board I thank retiring Directors for their service and am pleased to welcome, Dr Jim Gill, former CEO of Water Corporation in WA and Chancellor of Curtin University and Barry Ball, Water Resources Manager of Brisbane City Council to the Board.

Looking Forward

As we look to the future, we see hope. International Riverfoundation has plans to expand its existing programs. In 2009/10, we have a vision to increase the number of twinning projects, our *Riverprize* alumni, and the number of sponsored delegates to attend *Riversymposium*.

We also plan to expand our global community by incorporating an Affiliate and Associate program, which will strengthen our knowledge sharing networks and increase awareness of the Riverfoundation mission.

We are limited only by the financial resources we can bring to bear on our programs, and in the coming year we are offering corporations the opportunity to join us in our mission and benefit from the social and corporate responsibility an alliance with International Riverfoundation will bring.

We look forward to working with business, government and community and together achieving our objectives for 2010, and jointly driving the restoration, protection and sustainable management of rivers around the world.

Martin Albrecht, AC
Chairman
International Riverfoundation



Highlights 2008-2009



Riverprize tenth anniversary



© Marty Hancock



© Riversymposium



Dr Natalie Baker and local water vendor © Olita Ogonjo

Riverprize milestone celebrated

10th Anniversary of the Riverprize celebrated

- Spectacular River Tapestries mural is produced by past Riverprize winners
- River Journeys book launched to celebrate the achievements of Riverprize winners
- Riverprize Alumni network of former winners and finalists is launched

Riverprize grows and its long term future underwritten

- Total value of the Riverprize is increased to A\$500,000 a year
- Australian Government commits A\$1 million to the National Riverprize

Knowledge exchange

New twinning programs established, applying the expertise of Riverprize winners to challenged riverine environments

River Champions

The Ambassador program goes global with eight international appointments

Mentoring and networking

29 delegates from 17 developing countries funded to attend the 2008 International Riversymposium

Funding core programs

\$600,000 raised from government, corporate and individual donors to support Riverfoundation's core programs

International membership

International Riverfoundation becomes a member of the World Water Council

Partnerships

Former Sponsored Delegate awarded a scholarship to study International WaterCentre's Master of Integrated Water Management

Fundraising and Publicity



New support for healthy rivers and catchments

International Riverfoundation is fortunate to receive generous financial and in-kind support from a range of long term benefactors. By refocussing our efforts on fundraising and leveraging the support of our long term donors, the Riverfoundation has gained a host of new supporters—governments, corporations and individuals—who share our vision of a future in which all rivers and waterways are healthy and sustainably managed.

Our rivers and waterways are the lifeblood of our planet, and it is vital that our efforts to drive the restoration, protection and sustainable management of these precious resources endure beyond the current period of economic uncertainty.

Sincere thanks are due to all those who have shared our vision for healthy rivers amidst the present economic unrest, and particularly to our new supporters: The Australian Government, Caterpillar, Cavpower, Brent Stirton, Hampton Pty Ltd, Hastings Deering, Umwelt Pty Ltd and Westrac.

Australian Government committed to rewarding River Heroes

International Riverfoundation is proud to receive a AUD\$1 million contribution from the Australian Government specifically to support the National Riverprize and national twinning partnerships. Funded under the Water for the Future Plan over a five year period to promote best practice in catchment management in Australia, the government contribution boosts the value of the National Riverprize to a record AUD\$200,000.

Reviving our rivers with the Queensland State Government

International Riverfoundation is pleased to announce the commitment of the Queensland State Government contributing AUD\$200,000 per year over the next five years, which totals to a generous AUD\$1 million. This contribution reflects the Queensland Government's commitment to reviving our rivers, and reinforces the importance of partnerships with government, in addition to industry, business and community stakeholders, to achieving sustainable outcomes for our rivers and waterways.



Brisbane River at night © Silvia Scheibenbogen

Celebrating a decade of River Journeys

International Riverfoundation launched River Journeys this year, the human history of Riverprize winning river restoration projects worldwide. With this book, International Riverfoundation recognises the founders and winners of the Riverprize for their vision, courage, commitment, and inspiring accomplishments. Each and every one has shown true passion and dedication to changing the health of their riverine environment, creeks and wetlands.

The achievements of the last decade of Riverprize winners – commitment to environmental values, dedication to achieving restoration goals, and collaboration among stakeholders for a common good inspired the partnership between Caterpillar and International Riverfoundation. Financial support from Caterpillar and its Australian dealers Hastings Deering, WesTrac, William Adams and Cavpower was pivotal in the production of River Journeys.

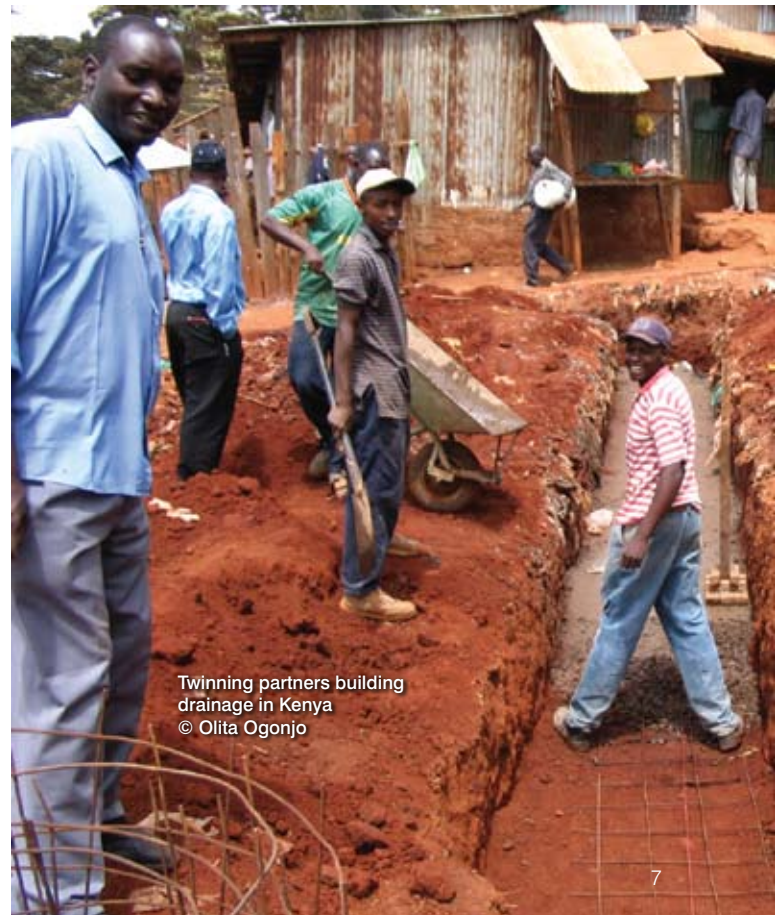
Sincere thanks is also due to all those who contributed to River Journeys, and to all those who have read and been inspired by the stories contained therein. Your support in purchasing copies of the book for your family, organisation or library is very much appreciated.

Riverfoundation's Global Ambassadors

In 2008, the Ambassador program went international, with the appointment of eight Global Ambassadors, thus extending considerably the Riverfoundation's global reach. Our Ambassadors are scientists, water practitioners and on-the-ground river managers who have been working for local and international organisations, agencies and institutes in the water field for many decades. Based around the world in Argentina, Australia, Austria, India, Kenya and the United Kingdom, Riverfoundation's Ambassadors participate in conferences and events around the world.

Last year, Riverfoundation was represented by Ambassadors at the IWA World Water Congress in Vienna, the River Restoration Conference in the UK, the International Environmental Flows Conference in South Africa, the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul, the State of the Salmon Conference in Vancouver, and a host of other conferences and workshops around the world.

We are extremely grateful to our Ambassadors for their time and effort supporting the Riverfoundation, and for advancing the reach of our programs and the spread of river restoration and sustainable water management initiatives around the globe.



Twinning partners building drainage in Kenya
© Olita Ogonjo

Future Aspirations

2010 and beyond: Expand knowledge exchange and transfer with a new Affiliate Program, new River Heroes scholarships for Masters Programs in Integrated Water Management, and by doubling opportunities for sponsored delegates to attend the International Riversymposium.

International Riverfoundation has long-term vision for the future of our rivers and waterways. In 2009/10 we aspire to continue working to increase the strength of the Riverfoundation, and our capacity to support our River Heroes and ultimately realise our vision of a world in which all rivers and waterways are healthy and sustainably managed.

Raising funds to revive our rivers

International Riverfoundation has committed to an ambitious fundraising goal to raise AUD\$1 million by June 2010. The strategy for raising these vital funds incorporates a range of opportunities for organisations to support the Riverfoundation and specific initiatives at different investment levels. We are also planning to build strategic relationships with organisations who share our vision and to host a range of exciting fundraising events.

Rewarding Riverheroes

Riverprize

We aspire to increase the profile and value of the Riverprizes so that we may continue to recognise, reward and support those who have implemented the most outstanding, visionary and sustainable programs in river management. We have a vision that the Riverprize will one day be akin to the Nobel Prize in prestige and value. In doing this, we also aspire to grow and engage Riverprize Alumni to further facilitate the sharing of knowledge between leading water experts globally.

Partnering Riverheroes

Twinning Program

We recognise the immense power of the exchange of knowledge and expertise between river management groups at all levels, and aspire to implement and fund two new twinning programs annually and to continue supporting current twinning partners.

Affiliate Program

In 2009, International Riverfoundation is launching an Affiliate program to connect the global river community. The Affiliate program will invite like-minded organisations and charities involved in river and water management at all levels to join the Riverfoundation in our mission to protect, restore and sustainably manage our rivers, and to benefit from the synergies of shared knowledge and resources.

Supporting Riverheroes

Sponsored Delegates

Riverfoundation plans to increase the number of river scientists and practitioners from developing countries sponsored to attend the International Riversymposium—the preeminent global conference on river management. Our target is double the number of sponsored delegates for the International Riversymposium 2010.

Creating Riverheroes

Master of Integrated Water Management Scholarships

International Riverfoundation has secured sponsorship and will proudly award five scholarships to emerging River Heroes around the world to undertake International WaterCentre's Master of Integrated Water Management. The Ken Thiess Memorial Scholarship will be available to one recipient each year for the next five years, and is an invaluable opportunity for emerging community leaders to develop their integrated water management knowledge and skills so that they may make a real and positive difference to the way water is managed in their local communities and countries.

International Riversymposium

As a new joint owner of the International Riversymposium, the Riverfoundation aspires to work with existing and new partners to further the global reach of the conference, and of the knowledge and expertise shared during the event.



Our Activities

IRF's Global Footprint

2008 Riverprize

Twinning Projects

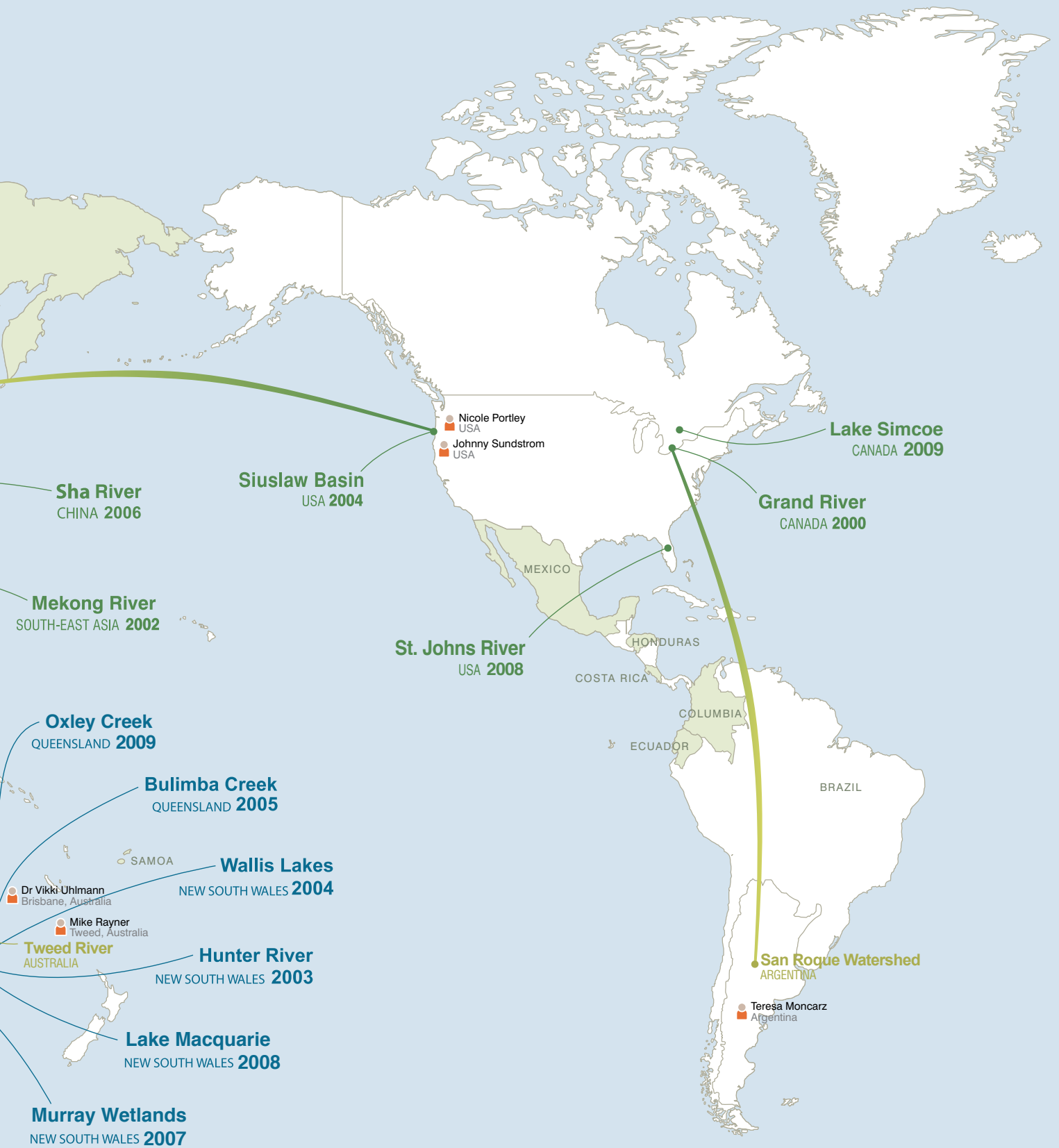
International Riversymposium

Sponsored Delegates

for the 2008 International Riversymposium

IRF's Global Footprint





2008 Riverprize

“Winning the Riverprize was a tremendous ‘pride”

© St Johns River Water Management District

Established in 1999, the *Riverprize* is awarded for excellence and outstanding achievement in river management. The national and international categories attract a wide geographic spread of entrants who vie for the title of *Riverprize* winner and a share in the prize pool, valued at \$500,000 in 2008.

As the world's most significant prize for river management, *Riverprize* recognises, rewards and supports those who have developed and implemented the most outstanding, visionary and sustainable programs for the management of their river and water resources. *Riverprize* finalists and winners also form an exclusive *Riverprize* Alumni network, through which the sharing of best-practice river management knowledge and expertise is ongoing.

In 2008, the *Riverprize* celebrated its tenth anniversary, marking a decade of outstanding contribution to river management across the globe. To commemorate this special occasion, the Riverfoundation invited representatives from all *Riverprize* alumni to participate in the celebrations at the 11th International *Riversymposium*.

The spectacular “River Tapestries” was unveiled – a unique mural consisting of panels from all previous *Riverprize* winners over the last decade, and “River Journeys” launched – a limited edition hard-cover book celebrating the achievements of our *Riverprize* winners through beautiful narratives and stunning photographs.

A decade of *Riverprize* winners 1999-2008

International Thiess *Riverprize* winners

- 2008 – St Johns River – USA
- 2007 – Danube River – Europe
- 2006 – Sha River – China
- 2005 – Drôme River – France
- 2004 – Siuslaw Basin – Oregon, USA
- 2003 – Alexander River – Israel, in cooperation with the Palestinians
- 2002 – Mekong River – Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Vietnam
- 2001 – Blackwood River – Western Australia, Australia
- 2000 – Grand River – Cambridge, Ontario, Canada
- 1999 – Mersey River – North-West England

National *Riverprize* winners

- 2008 – Lake Macquarie – New South Wales
- 2007 – Murray Wetlands – New South Wales
- 2006 – Torbay Catchment – Western Australia
- 2005 – Bulimba Creek – Queensland
- 2004 – Wallis Lake – New South Wales
- 2003 – Hunter River – New South Wales
- 2002 – Merri Creek – Victoria
- 2001 – Goulburn Broken Catchment – Victoria

Winners 2008



2008 International Winner

St John's River, Florida, USA

The 2008 International Thiess Riverprize (AUD\$350,000) was awarded to the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) for their achievements in balancing human and environmental water needs.

The Upper St. Johns River Basin Project is a system of water management areas designed to reduce damage from floods, improve water quality, reduce freshwater discharges to the Indian River Lagoon, provide water supplies, and restore and enhance wetland habitat.

“We are honoured and thrilled to have been selected as the 2008 international award winner. Not only did the Prize boost professional pride among the sizeable and diverse technical team, but it has also brought well-deserved recognition and prestige to our public agency.”

– Maurice Sterling, Project Management Director of the District



point' for our agency at large!”

– Maurice Sterling, Project Management Director of the District

2008 National Winner



Lake Macquarie, New South Wales, Australia

The 2008 National Riverprize (AUD\$150,000) was awarded to the Office of the Lake Macquarie and Catchment Coordinator for its restoration of Lake Macquarie in New South Wales. The office was recognised for its achievements in significantly improving water quality, the return of seagrass meadows, reductions in algal blooms and the recovery of marine life.

The Office was strongly supported by government, business and local community stakeholders, reflecting the success of community consultation and education initiatives, which have resulted in a dramatic increase in Landcare groups and pro-environmental business practices.

While the local community were extremely satisfied with the improvements in water quality, the Prize provided more formal and widespread recognition of the achievements.



© Office of the Lake Macquarie and Catchment Coordinator

“Applying for Riverprize is an excellent process to review your activities and results.”

– Jeff Jansson, Catchment Coordinator

2008 International Finalists

Swan River, Swan River Trust WA, Australia

The Swan River was selected as an international finalist for its Healthy Rivers program, which was developed by the Trust to improve water quality and protect the environmental health and community benefits of the Swan Canning river system. The delivery of the program is based upon continual evaluation of scientific data and adaptive management to ensure that as knowledge of the system increases, research priorities and management strategies are adapted. Work focuses on six action areas, including: nutrient contaminant sources and water quality targets, land use planning and development processes, behaviour change through community involvement, intervention techniques to improve river health, monitoring river health and reporting to the community. The Swan River Trust was also a finalist in the National Riverprize in 2008.

Lake Macquarie, The Lake Macquarie Project Management Committee, NSW, Australia

The Lake Macquarie Improvement Project was selected as an international finalist for its Priority Action Plan that was developed as an integrated approach to address catchment issues and with a strong emphasis on long-term sustainability and community involvement to encourage a positive change in behaviour. A strong commitment to treating the cause of the waterway problems originating within the catchment, rather than treating the symptoms displayed within the estuary itself, is at the core of the project. The project has shown significant improvement in lake health, reduction in algae, an increase in seagrass coverage and rehabilitation of foreshore and once endangered wetlands.

2008 National Finalists

Derwent Estuary, Derwent Estuary Program, Tasmania

The Derwent Estuary Program was selected as a national finalist for an integrated effort by government, scientists, partners and community to restore and promote the Derwent Estuary. The program was established in 1999 and has endorsed a long-term Environmental Management Plan as a basis for management of the waterway into the future. The program has a number of facets, including planning and project implementation, coordination of monitoring and fieldwork, preparation of scientific and technical reports, communications and fundraising. The program has been nationally recognised for excellence in reducing water pollution, conserving habitats and species, monitoring river health and promoting greater use and enjoyment of the foreshore.

Tweed River, Tweed Shire Council, New South Wales

The Tweed Shire Council was selected as a national finalist for its effective management of the Tweed River and for the rigour of the management studies conducted to better understand and more sustainably manage the Tweed River. These studies have led to management strategies and on-ground actions that have had a demonstrable impact on the quality of the Tweed River and its catchment. The Council was also commended for the success of its planning, project management, education and monitoring initiatives especially its water quality monitoring, acid sulfate soil research, land use and estuary management, and community capacity building initiatives displayed within the estuary itself, is at the core of the project. The project has shown significant improvement in lake health, reduction in algae, an increase in seagrass coverage and rehabilitation of foreshore and once endangered wetlands.



Past winners and finalists of Riverprize celebrate the tenth anniversary of the award. © Riversymposium





Community
involvement at
Lake Macquarie



Thank you

Riverfoundation wholeheartedly thanks
the National and International Panel of Judges:

National

Mrs Leith Bouly (Panel Chair)
Prof Paul Greenfield
Ms Kerry Olsson
Mr Joe Ross
Mr Ian Robinson
Mr Gerard Tuckerman

International

Prof Paul Greenfield
(Panel Chair)
Dr Joe Baker
Mrs Leith Bouly
Dr David Garman
Prof Stuart Bunn
Dr Ian Campbell
Mr Alan Vicory



Twinning Projects

International Riverfoundation's Twinning Program is an initiative that supports mentoring partnerships across the globe to restore rivers. This unique program enables Riverprize winners and finalists who have already demonstrated best practice in river management to transfer valuable knowledge and experience to other river groups facing similar on-ground issues.

Whether by developing watersheds to deliver effective, sustainable river management; facilitating educational workshops to discuss common river issues and brainstorm feasible solutions; implementing awareness and education programs to enhance community involvement or coordinating cooperative fieldwork for on-ground improvements, twinning partnerships offer an exchange of knowledge and skills to ensure that rivers are restored efficiently, effectively and sustainably.

Our current and emerging twinning programs include:

- Tweed River, Australia – Nairobi River, Kenya
- Siuslaw, USA – Sakhalin Island, Russia
- Bulimba Creek, Australia – Gregory River, Australia; Loire River, France; and Trang River, Thailand
- Alexander River, Israel – Lake Bam, Burkina Faso
- Drôme River, France – Tjangel Mangol, Senegal
- Grand River, Canada – San Roque Watershed, Argentina
- Danube River, Europe – Orange River, Southern Africa
- Merri Creek, Australia – Merri River Australia
- Murray Wetlands, Australia – Mondi Wetlands, South Africa

In 2008, International Riverfoundation Projects

Tweed River, Australia – Nairobi River, Kenya

The Tweed Shire Council has established the Tweed-Kenya Mentoring Project (TKMP) to improve waterways and living standards in the informal settlements of Nairobi and rural western Kenya. TKMP has networked youth groups across Nairobi in an effort to raise awareness of water and environmental issues within their communities and to carry out restoration projects. This year saw the number of youth groups grow to over 100, a native tree nursery established to guarantee a supply of suitable seedlings and environmental clubs established at three schools.

In September 2008, the TKMP Coordinator attended the International Riversymposium and spent time in the Tweed Shire learning more about catchment management and assisting with fundraising for the program. The TKMP also works to improve access to clean water in rural areas. In November 2008, Tom Alletson (Tweed Shire Council Project Officer) successfully delivered the second Safe Water Project in the village of Ohaya, providing clean water to approximately 1000 residents. International Riverfoundation has contributed over \$50,000 to facilitate the work of the TKMP since 2005.



Above and top: Twinning project in Siuslaw Basin

was proud to support the following twinning activities:

Grand River, Canada – San Roque Lake, Argentina

The San Roque Lake – Grand River Twinning project is a relationship based on sharing knowledge between the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA), Ontario, Canada, and Los Algarrobos, the principal watershed stakeholders in the San Roque Lake watershed, Cordoba, Argentina. The main activities this year have been exchanges which facilitated workshop participation, on-site consultation, and the transfer of approaches and techniques including:

- Watershed Management and Watershed Forestry workshop
- Tour of San Roque watershed and issues for visiting Grand River representatives including consultations regarding political frameworks and policies
- Presentation to GRCA board by the Los Algarrobos President

In addition, three Los Algarrobos representatives attended the International Riversymposium to gain a greater understanding of catchment management best practices and to share their knowledge and experiences. International Riverfoundation has contributed over \$25,000 to facilitate the work of this project since 2007.

Capacity building exchanges

Bulimba Creek – Gregory River

Riverfoundation supported the travel expenses of a Bulimba Creek Twinning Officer to visit the Gregory River to attend the Gregory River Landcare Annual General Meeting, deliver the first weed eradication workshop and coordinate field work to eradicate a large outbreak of rubber-vine, a noxious weed in the Gregory River.

Siuslaw Basin – Sakhalin Island

This twinning project has achieved the most success to date in transferring our knowledge regarding the topics of watershed council creation and management, and education. In 2008 Riverfoundation proudly supported the travel of three Siuslaw-based teachers to Sakhalin Island to conduct a four day workshop to build the capacity of local teachers in the successful US Salmon Watch educational curriculum – an integrated classroom and field based environmental education program utilising multimedia technology.

Murray Wetlands – Mondri Wetlands

In February 2009, Riverfoundation financially assisted the travel of two representatives from Murray Wetlands Working Group to South Africa to investigate potential twinning partnership opportunities with the Mondri Wetlands Project, and to take part in the 2009 Implementing Environmental Water Allocations Conference, an international conference showcasing their work as Riverprize winners.

International Riverfoundation has supported these exchanges by providing matched funding for travel expenses and educational workshops.

Challenges

There are many Twinning opportunities Riverfoundation would like to assist financially, but has not been able to without additional funds.

Future Initiatives

We aspire to raise enough funds to ensure all our Riverprize Alumni have the opportunity to share their knowledge and expertise where it is needed. To ensure financial support for winners wanting to undertake twinning projects, Riverfoundation will continue to divide the Riverprize money into a cash amount and a twinning component available for winners choosing to enter twinning partnerships.



Riversymposium and Sponsored



© Riversymposium

International Riversymposium

International Riversymposium is the preeminent global conference on river management and restoration integrating institutions, science, business and the community. With world class keynote speakers, it engages researchers, practitioners and industry representatives from around the world to learn and share knowledge.

Participation of delegates from different countries is fundamental to ensuring best practices arising from the Symposium have a global reach, particularly in regions in which sustainable river and watershed management is still developing. Symposium delegates are engaged in seminars, workshops and field trips pertaining to river and watershed management, resulting in research and on-ground practices being shared, developed and improved.

Riverfoundation recognises the International Riversymposium as an important source of knowledge and expertise on river management, and is dedicated to continually improving the conference and facilitating the attendance of ever more participants from all sectors and countries or origin.

Sponsored Delegates

International Riverfoundation believes that knowledge sharing and transfer is vital to ensure the restoration and sustainable management of our precious water resources, rivers and watersheds.

In 2008, Riverfoundation enabled 29 river scientists and practitioners from 17 developing countries to attend the International Riversymposium and learn, share knowledge and build networks to ensure effective river restoration in their home country.

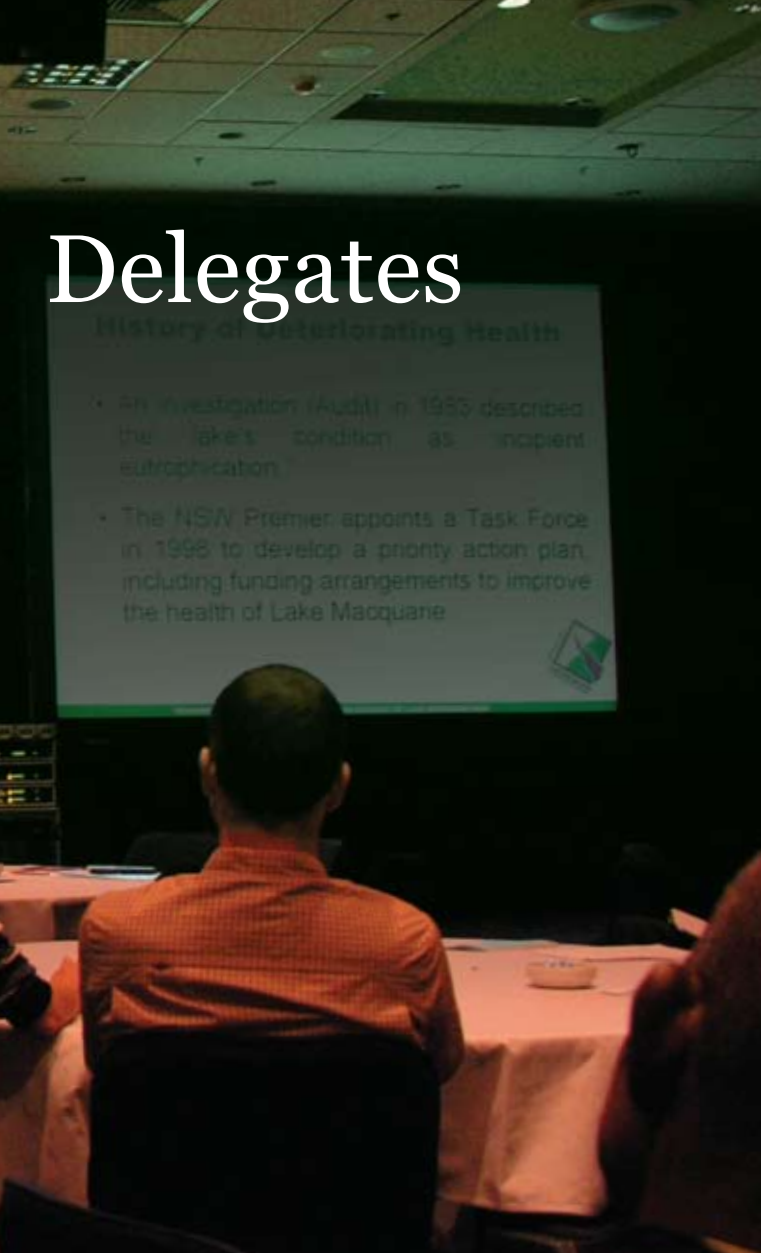
Education, Environment, Economy

The Sponsored Delegate program creates a ripple effect to change the world. Sustainable river management benefits communities in many ways, from improved health to improved economic development and a way out of poverty for communities involved.

Sponsored Delegates are given the opportunity to:

- Participate in a preeminent international conference
- Develop international networks
- Showcase projects and obtain valuable feedback and advice from experts
- Gain knowledge for world's best practice for river restoration

Delegates



Sponsored delegates in 2008:

“My attendance was very rewarding, educative and highly interesting. It enlarged my opportunity to meet academic colleagues in my area of research and exposed me to the latest discussion on water, energy and climate change. Upon my return I have collated and forwarded learnings to my University for inclusion in our graduate and professional curricular. Also the discussions I had with the various delegates at the Riverfoundation lounge were invaluable...Thank you International Riverfoundation”

– Dr Yemi Akegbejo-Samsons,
University of Agriculture, Nigeria

“I learned so many things and gained new insights as people from around the world presented and discussed various schemes of watershed management in relation to climate change. It was very rewarding to have attended a global conference. The information I gained can now be used for my academic, research and extension responsibilities within the university. My warmest regards to Riverfoundation!”

– Arturo Pasa, College of Forestry and
Natural Resources, Philippines

Challenges

This year Riverfoundation received over 150 applications from delegates from developing countries to present their work and participate in the International Riversymposium. Unfortunately funding restrictions enabled only 29 delegates of these delegates to attend.

Future Initiatives

Riverfoundation aims to secure funding to assist all eligible delegates from developing countries to attend the International Riversymposium, and to document the significant impact of our Sponsored Delegates Program. Sponsored Delegates return to their communities inspired and motivated to share their learnings with their community. The knowledge imparted and relationships built during Riversymposium translate to actual improvement of rivers and the communities that depend on them.

“I had the opportunity to obtain information about implementation of the modern methods in the areas of hydrology, water quality and water quantity assessment and development of water management and protection. I was able to meet and discuss with delegates from other countries and International Organisations and build networks for future co-operation in the water related area. I will use information and experience obtained at the Symposium in my professional activities.”

– Dr Viacheslav Manukalo, UNESCO, Ukraine

Corporate Governance



© Arne Thaysen

Director's Report

The following were continuing Directors and have been Directors up to the end of the financial year 2008-2009.

Mr Martin Albrecht, AC
Mr Haydon Coles
Professor Bill Dennison
Professor Paul Greenfield, AO
Mr Peter Krause
David McAdam
Ms Else Shepherd, AM
Mr Jim Soorley

The following persons were appointed Directors of International Riverfoundation during the financial year 2008-2009

Mr Barry Ball	28/08/08
Dr Jim Gill	28/08/08
Dr Peter Rowley	28/08/08

The following persons resigned as Directors of International Riverfoundation during the financial year 2008-2009

Ms Jude Munro	28/08/08
Mr John Smith	23/01/09
Mr Scott Spencer	06/04/09

No changes to Company Secretary occurred.

Public Funds Committee

The following were members of the Public Fund Management Committee according to clause 10 of International Riverfoundation's Constitution up to the end of the financial year 2008-2009.

Mr David Askern	Appointed 11/08/03
Mr Bob Grice	Appointed 10/11/05
Mr Doug McLaggan	Appointed 27/10/05

Board of Directors

Chairman – Martin Albrecht, AC



Chairman of IRF since its establishment in 2003, Martin is actively engaged in fundraising for the organisation. Martin is also Chairman of Geodynamics Limited, Exergen Pty Ltd, and the Wesley Research Institute. Martin is the Patron of the Brisbane Regional Youth Orchestra and The Lifestream Foundation for people with intellectual disabilities, and a member of the

Queensland Premier's Business Round Table. Martin has extensive experience in the engineering, construction and related services industries. He was CEO of Thiess for over 15 years and Chairman of Thiess from 2001-2008. Martin received his Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AC) for services to the Construction Industry, the engineering profession and community in areas of education and corporate social responsibility in 2002 and was also awarded the Centenary Medal in 2003. He is also the recipient of the Australian Constructors Association and QUT Distinguished Constructors Awards and Honorary Doctorates from UQ, QUT and Uni SA. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame for Engineers Australia (Qld Division) – 2006. He is the recipient of the AICD (Qld) Gold Medal Award for 2008 and EPA Queensland – Premier's Award for Leadership in Business Sustainability 2008.

Treasurer and Secretary – Haydon Coles



Haydon Coles is a fellow of the National Institute of Accountants, a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and former Chairman of the Infrastructure Association of Queensland (IAQ). He has had 42 years of diverse banking experience with Commonwealth Bank, specialising in Corporate Relationship Management and Business

Development. In addition to the IRF Board, Haydon serves as a Board member of the Queensland Theatre Company and the Anglican Financial Services.

Director – Barry Ball

Barry is currently the Manager, Strategic Planning and formally the Manager, Water Reform in Brisbane City Council. He was previously the Manager Water Resources, accountable for policy, strategic planning and budget for waterways, stormwater, water supply and sewerage of Brisbane. Barry started his career in Main Roads Department and joined Brisbane City Council in the early 80's and progressed to the role of Director of Planning and Development. He was a Board Member on both the CRC for Catchment Hydrology and the CRC for Coastal Zone. He was also the Project Director for the SEQ Regional Water Quality Management Strategy. Barry is the National Local Government Representative on the Urban Water Advisory Committee for the National Water Commission.

Director – Professor Bill Dennison



Bill Dennison leads the Integration and Application Network, a collection of scientists working to solve, not just study, environmental problems. He is actively involved in the Chesapeake Bay Program, USA and had an active role in the Healthy Waterways Campaign of South-East Queensland, Australia. Bill has

a marine science background, and has published books and papers on a wide range of marine topics. In his current role at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, his focus is on developing ways to effectively integrate and communicate science and to create credible and rigorous environmental report cards.

Director – Dr Jim Gill



Jim was Western Australia's Water Corporation Inaugural CEO from 1996 until his retirement in December 2008. A major focus during his tenure was a program to greatly increase the State's water source capacity and promote efficient water usage to adapt to significantly drying climate. He was Western Australia's Commissioner of Railways from 1988 to 1995, when the popular Northern line was built. He has degrees from

the Universities of Western Australia, Cambridge and Harvard. He was Chairman of the Water Services Association of Australia, President of the Western Australia Division of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and Chairman of the WA Division of Engineers Australia. In 2006, he was named the Australian Civil Engineer of the Year. He was awarded the Grand Award of the International Water Association in 2008.

Director – Professor Paul Greenfield, AO, FTSE



Professor Paul Greenfield is currently Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Chemical Engineering at The University of Queensland. He currently chairs the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Healthy Waterways Partnership, which focuses on the health of

the rivers, estuaries and bays of South-East Queensland. Paul is a Director of several university companies and has consulted for national and international companies and government agencies in the fields of biotechnology, wastewater and environmental management. He also chairs the *Riversymposium* Strategic Planning Committee and the International Thiess Riverprize Judging Panel.

Board of Directors cont.



Director – Peter Krause

Peter Krause is the President of Trillium Environmental Consulting Inc. and the immediate Past Chair of Conservation Ontario, the umbrella organisation representing Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities. Peter is also the immediate Past Chair of the Grand River Conservation Authority, an environmental agency in South-Western Ontario, Canada

and recipient of the 2000 International Thiess Riverprize. Peter was also a founding board member of the Clean Water Centre of Excellence in Walkerton, Ontario Canada. Peter has served on several provincial panels created in recent years to provide the Ontario government with advice on the framework for developing source protection planning and safe drinking water, now legislated as "The Clean Water Act".



Director and Thiess Representative – David McAdam

BE (1st Class Hons), MBA (Exec), FAICD, FIEA General Manager Queensland, Thiess Pty Ltd

David is the General Manager Queensland and is responsible for directing the business strategy, project creation and delivery, business performance, capability development and

business improvement, specifically in the areas of infrastructure, rail and building. He commenced his professional engineering career in the early 1980s working in operations roles in the oil and gas industry. In the late 1980s he moved into the project design and construction arena and since then has created and delivered projects throughout Australasia and South East Asia. These projects have typically been complex multi-discipline developments in infrastructure, power and water, oil and gas, petrochemical, food, minerals and metals. David is known for his hands on leadership and is dedicated to the professional development and care of his employees and members of the industry.



Director – Jude Munro

Jude Munro is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Brisbane City Council, a challenging role she has enjoyed since 2000. Prior to this she was CEO for the cities of Adelaide Moreland and St Kilda in Victoria, and Brisbane City Council's Manager of Recreation and Health. Before joining local government in 1991, she was a senior executive in the Victorian Public Service. An active member of Brisbane's business community, Jude holds post-

graduate business administration and public policy qualifications. She also serves as Director of United Way Queensland, Australia Trade Coast, the Brisbane Institute and was previously a Director of Brisbane Riverfestival.

Director – Dr Peter Rowley

Peter is the London-based Director and Head of the Global Oil & Gas Services Sector with ERM, and was also a Fulbright Fellow and Associate Professor of Environmental Chemistry at Colorado State University. Peter has worked in the environmental consulting industry and has been involved in a large range of extractive industry projects in Asia, the Middle East, North America, Europe and the former Soviet Union. He is the ERM Liaison Delegate to the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. He has lectured at The Judge Institute of Management at Cambridge University in the UK on sustainability in the global mining industry and gave the keynote address at the Zurich Global Risk Managers Conference on emerging mega risks for the industry.



Deputy Chair – Else Shepherd, AM

Else Shepherd AM is Chairman of Powerlink Queensland, a member of the Brisbane City Works and Brisbane City Design Advisory Boards and a Trustee of the Brisbane Girls Grammar School. She is also on the management committee of the Camerata of St John's. An electrical engineer, Else first worked as a process control engineer in the Queensland sugar industry

and since 1986 has co-founded two engineering businesses specialising in innovative telecommunications products. Else is an Honorary Fellow of Engineers Australia and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.



Director – John Smith

John Smith currently holds the position of Vice President, Resourcing and Development appointed in December 2008. Prior to this role, he was the Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Metallurgical Coal, BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA), Australia's largest coal producer and a leader in the international coal industry, accounting for more than a quarter of Australia's annual coal exports and 28 per cent of the world's seaborne trade in

metallurgical coal. Formerly John was responsible for Energy Coal Customer Sector Group operations in Australia, the US and Colombia.



Director and Patron – Jim Soorley

Jim Soorley had a successful career as a management consultant and sales trainer in the USA and Australia before he decided on a political career. In 1990, Jim entered local government politics because he strongly believed he could make a difference. He was elected Lord Mayor of Brisbane in March 1991, and was the driving force behind the establishment of Brisbane's International Riversymposium and Thiess Riverprize.

Jim retained his office through three more election victories until stepping down in 2003. Since then, Jim has developed a portfolio of interests that reflects his diverse experiences and skills. He currently serves as a company director and consultant to a range of businesses.



Director – Scott Spencer

As former Director General, Scott led the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Water which has overall responsibility for state water policy and planning activities as well as land planning and regional natural resource management initiatives. Scott has been a member of the department's executive management team since the mid 1990s. He leads or participates in a variety of state and national natural resource management

forums, including the group that developed the National Water Initiative, and he has been a Queensland Commissioner on the Murray-Darling Basin Commission. Prior to moving to the department, Scott was involved in fisheries management and also acquired a strong background in agricultural policy specialising in drought.

Financial Summary

for financial year 2008-09

Income Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2009

	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
Revenue from continuing operations			
Investment earnings	2	(435,870)	(463,398)
Donations and sponsorship	2	458,197	391,842
		22,327	(71,556)
Interest		9,709	
		32,036	(71,556)
Expenses			
Other expenses from ordinary activities			
Assisted delegates and Riversymposium		187,741	194,699
Riverprize		564,365	451,192
Twinning expenses		160,256	164,070
Corporate support costs		587,570	377,481
		(1,499,932)	(1,187,442)
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities before income tax	3	(1,467,896)	(1,258,998)
Income tax expense		-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities after related income tax		(1,467,896)	(1,258,998)
Net surplus/(deficit)		(1,467,896)	(1,258,998)
Total changes in equity other than those resulting			
From transactions with owners as owners		(1,467,896)	(1,258,998)

The above income statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Balance Sheet

For the year ended 30 June 2009

	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and liquid assets	4	1,083,798	112,007
Non-current assets			
Financial assets at fair value	5	1,103,288	2,539,158
TOTAL ASSETS		2,187,086	2,651,165
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	6	22,836	19,019
Deferred income	6	1,000,000	
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,022,836	19,019
NET ASSETS		1,164,250	2,632,146
EQUITY			
Retained profits	7	1,164,250	2,632,146
TOTAL EQUITY		1,164,250	2,632,146

The above balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Statement of Changes in Equity
For the year ended 30 June 2009

	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
Total equity at the beginning of the financial year		2,632,146	3,891,144
Net income recognized directly in equity			
Deficit for the year		(1,467,896)	(1,258,998)
Total recognized income and expense for the year		1,164,250	(1,258,998)
Transactions with equity holders in their capacity as equity holders			
Total equity at the end of the financial year		1,164,250	2,632,146

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

Statement of Cash Flow
For the year ended 30 June 2009

	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts		458,197	388,062
Riverprize sponsorship		1,000,000	
Payment to suppliers and employees		(1,496,115)	(1,181,000)
		(37,918)	(792,938)
Interest received		9,709	3,680
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	9	(28,209)	(789,258)
NET CASH PROVIDED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Funds withdrawn		1,000,000	773,607
NET CASH PROVIDED FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
TOTAL NET DECREASE IN CASH HELD		971,791	(15,651)
CASH AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR		112,007	127,658
CASH AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	4	1,083,798	112,007

The above statement of cash flow should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes



International
Riverfoundation

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