

Building Bridges with the Pasig River Community

MARIE CABRIOLE


2017 VERA THIESS FELLOW

Why bridges?



Image source: Wikimedia Commons

Vera Thiess Fellowship



Vera Thiess
FELLOWSHIP FOR WOMEN AWARD

Presented to
Marie Aislinn Cabriole


The Vera Thiess Fellowship for Women is awarded by the International RiverFoundation to advance women's participation in water and river management.

Vera was born on 29th January, 1920, the only daughter of Henry and Agnes Thiess, dairy farmers who lived at Hodgsonville near Toowoomba on the Darling Downs, Queensland. In the 1920's a business partnership was formed with Henry Horn and the Thiess family from Drayton, to be called Horn and Thiess. It was a very successful venture providing contracting work for local farms and the area council doing mostly hard manual labour from sun rise until dark.

Vera worked for her father in his business interests in Toowoomba and Brisbane where she met Bert, one of the younger Thiess men and married in June 1939. She then joined the other women on the road construction jobs being in very basic rough hewn built of hessian bags and even used for roofing and a dirt floor. Cooking on an open pit fire. It wasn't very easy during the third years. By 1940 time the Thiess Brothers were building roads and airfields in North Queensland and New Guinea under the direction of US General MacArthur.

Due to the hard conditions, Vera went home to Hodgsonville when giving birth to 2 sons, Ken in 1941 and Neil in 1942. A daughter Heather was born in 1948 while they were living in Hampton Street Woolongahbah.

Marie Aislinn Cabriole
Chairman International RiverFoundation
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Goal of advancing and bridging the gap of women's participation in water and river management

Pasig River



Image source: Kapit Bisig Para sa Ilog Pasig Facebook Page

Pasig River



Metro Manila

47 tributaries

27km

**Laguna Lake
to Manila Bay**

Image source: Wikimedia Commons

Pasig River THEN



Image source: Rappler.com

- “Toilet bowl of Metro Manila”
- Used for settlement, industrial and commercial activities, and as an international access point
- Biologically dead

Pasig River NOW



Image source: Rappler.com

- Rehabilitation through collaboration
- Clean-up drives with community volunteers and *River Warriors*
- Adaptation of ferry services
- Finalist for the 2018 Asia Riverprize and 2017 Thiess International Riverprize awards

Building Bridges



To share inspiration with the women of
Pasig River about reaching their own
visions and living up to their potential.

Why?



Revitalizing the **quality
of life** in the river
community

Women



- Barangay Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
- Maytunas Creek

Small group meetings



Image source: Wikimedia Commons

Empowerment



- Believing in one's self
- Support of loved ones, gaining knowledge, and having clean surroundings

River rehabilitation



- Collaboration
- Community volunteers

Discussions



Feel limited with their actions

Seminar series

Liwliwa:

*Inspiring lives, embracing progress
for the continuous rehabilitation of Pasig River*

Individual







Moving forward



Own story



Motivation



Vision board



Lessons



We hold ourselves back.



We can positively change our outlooks.



Better self, better Pasig River.

Thank you!

