

PARTNERSHIP  
PROSPECTUS

23rd International

# RIVER SYMPOSIUM

EXCELLENCE – COLLABORATION – INTEGRATION

10-13 NOVEMBER 2020 | VIRTUAL

VALUING OUR RIVERS

MANAGED BY

 INTERNATIONAL  
RiverFoundation

# Invitation

Welcome to the first ever virtual *International Riversymposium*.

For all of us, 2020 is the year of change. The COVID pandemic has and is continuing to change the world – causing significant interruptions to our traditional activities and the way we go about with our lives. The pandemic has allowed us to reflect and look at opportunities to remain connected, and work together to have a future where healthy, resilient rivers support thriving communities, ecosystems and economies.

We are very excited that the 23rd *International Riversymposium* (IRS) will be held virtually for the first time! The whole world becomes our venue for this event – our boundaries to share and learn from each other will cease to exist – insightful presentations and knowledge sharing will be at our fingertips.

*Riversymposium* provides a unique global forum for river managers, policy developers, scientists, consultants, students, NGOs, indigenous and community organisations as well as business

and industry representatives to collaborate to improve the sustainable management and achieve resilience of river basins all over the world. As with previous symposia, you can still expect to see an exciting program of stellar keynotes, passionate presentations and interactive networking sessions whilst celebrating best practice across four jam packed days. However this year, there is so much more on offer. Together with our digital partners, Iconic Live, we bring some new and exciting activities – all in the safety of your offices and surroundings without the need for travel.

IRS will continue to provide the platform for you to hear and engage with keynote speakers and presenters while networking with other river leaders. There are also several opportunities to meet other delegates in a social setting.

Come and join us in this transformational journey of the *International Riversymposium*.



**Dr Eva Abal**  
CEO, International RiverFoundation  
Convener, 23rd *International Riversymposium*



**Prof. Paul F Greenfield**  
Chairman  
International RiverFoundation

## WHY ATTEND?



Join **500+**  
delegates from  
around the world



**Transform**  
your knowledge to  
solutions that can be  
applied to your rivers



Have your  
**voice heard**  
by delegates from  
around the world



Be part of a  
transformed and  
**innovative**  
*Riversymposium*



Be part of one of the  
**world's premier**  
environmental forums



**Participate**  
in interactive sessions that  
are focused on sharing  
solutions



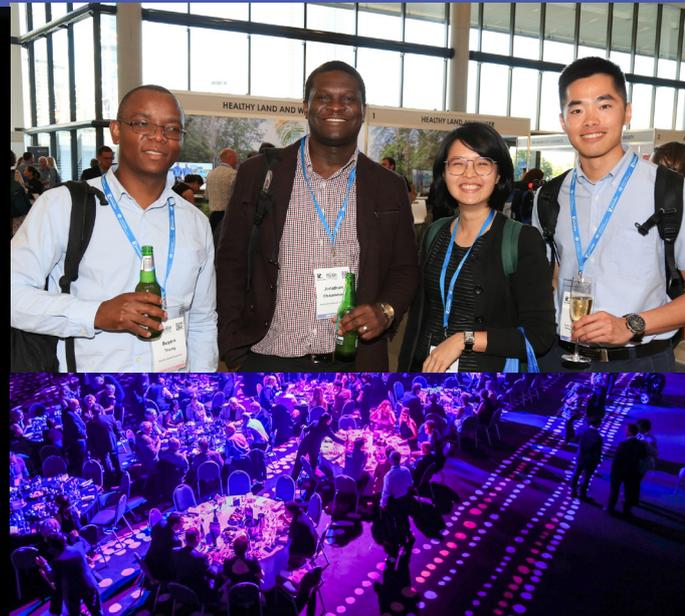
Be recognised and  
**awarded**  
with a micro-credential



**Immersive**  
networking experience -  
attend virtual networking  
events and chat with peers



Enjoy the  
convenience and  
**safety**  
distance is no longer  
a restriction



## WHO ATTENDS?



Utilities



Corporate



Education/  
Research



Government



Community



Consultancy



Not  
for profit



River/  
NRM  
Manager

# 2020 Conference Theme



This year the themes are diverse and encompass a variety of relevant, informative and inspirational topics.

In addition to the five core themes reflecting the dimensions of the over-all IRS theme of “Valuing our Rivers”, the program has been extended to include other important topics such as the impacts of fire on our rivers and how COVID-19 has affected the environment.

## Valuing our Rivers:

- Aquatic ecosystem health and river flows (environmental value)
- Diverse uses, benefits and trade-offs (economic value)
- Governance, leadership and institutional arrangements (political value)
- History, traditional knowledge and cultural heritage of rivers (cultural value)
- Protecting and transforming river communities (social value)

## Others:

- River Reset: Responses to COVID and other calamities
- River Report Cards
- River Resilience, climate change and water security
- Rivers by design – from restoration to resilience
- Rivers and Human Health
- Rivers on Fire – impacts of bushfires on rivers
- RiverArt and River Stories
- Sustainable development goals for our rivers
- Transboundary Rivers

# What to expect at v-IRS2020

If the world can't come to us, we'll come to the world! The *Riversymposium* online platform gives us the opportunity to bring features to delegates that have never been offered before.



## Renowned Keynote Speakers

v-IRS invites distinguished water professionals from across the globe to present engaging and informative keynotes on a range of topics relevant to the theme. The six keynote speakers will be announced in the coming weeks with one being live-streamed around the world from the Gala Dinner on the first day of the conference. Keynote speakers will be available for Q&A after their presentations and will also be present at our thematic networking sessions for a more up close and personal discussion.

## Virtual Program

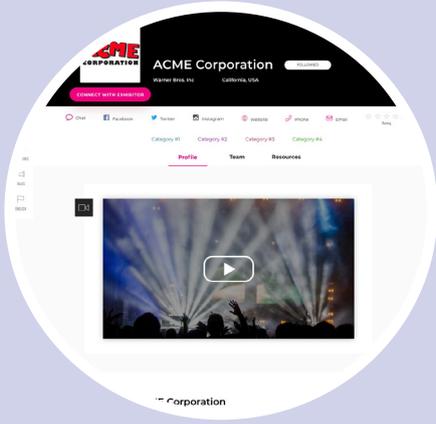
The virtual program includes over 100 presentations grouped into the v-IRS 14 themes. Each themed session will include five speakers presenting on a similar topic, but from different perspectives – this could include views from a community, technical, governance or academic point of view.

Themes will be concurrent, as they would be in the traditional IRS, so you can pick and choose what you would like to listen too. More excitingly, you will also not be missing out on anything as all content is recorded and will be available to delegates for at least six months after the event.



## Learn-Inspire-Transform (LIT) sessions

The popular LIT sessions are back in 2020! These interactive sessions give delegates an opportunity to dive deeper into specific topics. LIT sessions are curated by IRF but presented by specific organisations so they offer a focused look into a topic, within a workshop format. Getting more involved in the topics being discussed allows delegates to gain new professional knowledge and ideas they can implement in their own projects. LIT sessions are always popular and spaces are often limited to ensure great delegate engagement, so delegates will need to look out for these session when the program is released and register quickly!



## RiverExpo

RiverExpo is a place to explore, learn and network. Discover the innovative projects, products and services our partners and exhibitors are working on. These virtual booths offer you the chance to chat to industry experts one-on-one via instant message or video, view and download their resources and information kits and see who is attending the symposium on their behalf. This is a great networking and learning opportunity not to be missed.

## RiverHunt

We are proud to be associated with our event partners and want to ensure that you have the chance to meet as many of them as possible as well as explore the good work that they are all embarking upon. RiverHunt encourages you to visit RiverExpo booths and partner profiles by going on a hunt for a CODE to be provided during the event. Finding all the pages with the code allows you to go into the draw for an amazing prize!



## RiverGallery

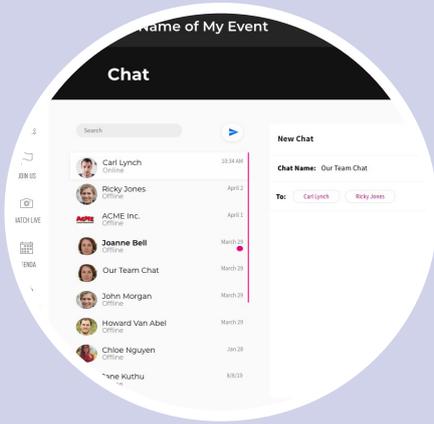
It goes without saying that there are many beautiful rivers, lakes and creeks around the world. This is your opportunity to take one of them home! IRF is bringing together a collection of prints from international artists and photographers that show the natural wonder of these bodies of water. Many of these pieces of art have never been displayed in public before and RiverGallery presents a unique and special opportunity to take home a piece of art that will no doubt take centre stage in your home or office. High-resolution digital images and/or prints will be available to purchase during the conference. If you are an artist that is interested in displaying your art in RiverGallery, please contact us for more information.

## Virtual Study Tours

Our virtual field trips will allow you to explore one of the fascinating projects being conducted on rivers around the globe, or perhaps just take a virtual stroll on a riverbank somewhere that you have never been before.

## RiverFilms

A selection of short films will be available to view at your leisure. These films always offer an interesting mix of topics and perspectives highlighting different rivers around the world. Titles will be released in the coming weeks.



## RiverNetworking

Just because we can't all be in one room, doesn't mean we can't connect professionally and socially.

The *Riversymposium* event platform offers the ability to chat and have open discussions during presentations and keynotes as well as ask questions during live Q&A. You can connect through instant messages or video chat and we are introducing some fantastic group networking and social functions, including thematic network sessions which will include opportunities to meet and greet with specific speakers and keynotes.

## RiverTrivia

Following the plenary session on Day Two, we will be hosting a trivia night for all our delegates! This general knowledge quiz will be a fun, light-hearted session where teams battle it out to be the *RiverTrivia* champions! You can form your own team, or we are happy to place you in a team randomly so you get to meet other participants.

## RiverBingo

If trivia isn't your thing, then maybe *RiverBingo* is for you! On the final day of the v-IRS, settle in for an action-packed game of online bingo! This final networking event guarantees to be fun-filled as you try to beat your fellow delegates to take home the *RiverBingo* title!



## Thematic Networks

Day Four of the conference will be dedicated to a more targeted networking experience. Concurrent networking sessions will be held to allow delegates to meet the keynotes and other speakers within a specific theme. Register for the themes that interest you and come along and meet others with the same interest or experience. These casual sessions will run for 30 minutes each and provide open discussions and opportunities to share contacts and connect.

## Post-conference video-on-demand

Unlike traditional conferences where you often must decide between two sessions that are clashing, our online platform has you covered! All keynotes, themed sessions and LIT sessions will be available on demand for delegates for six months following the conference. This means if you missed a session, or want to watch it again, you can do so with ease by just logging back into the platform within the six-month period.

## Conference eSatchels

One of the things people look forward to at a face to face event is the 'goodies' bag! At v-IRS you don't have to go without this. The virtual satchels will include some informative collateral and great deals offered by our partners and exhibitors. All of this will be available within the event platform for you to access at any time throughout the conference.



## Live-streamed Gala Dinner

The closing keynote for Day One of v-IRS will be live-streamed from Brisbane's heritage-listed Customs House, where our VIP Gala Dinner will be held. This dinner will bring together river leaders and other professionals from around the globe. If you can't be with us in person, then celebrate with us from home or your office by watching the live-streamed event online.



## Diversity in Water

This panel discussion celebrates diversity in all its forms and highlights how equal opportunities can advance sustainable river basin management. Delegates will hear from experienced water professionals from a diverse range of backgrounds and experience. In addition to the official Q&A which forms part of this session, there will also be an opportunity to meet and interact with fellow delegates following the discussion.



## Emerging Water Professionals Program

The Emerging Water Professionals Program (EWPP) fosters education and innovation in water management by supporting the professional and personal development of future water leaders.

EWPP is open to anyone within the first 10 years of their career and identifies as an emerging water professional – including postgraduate students and early career professionals. Participants from any related discipline are welcome, including science, policy, planning, community development, business, governance, aid, development and many more.

EWPP is run at the same time as the International Riversymposium and will include exclusive networking opportunities and a dedicated session designed especially for them.