

24th International

RIVER SYMPOSIUM

EXCELLENCE – COLLABORATION – INTEGRATION

PROGRAM

28-30 September 2021
BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

HYBRID

Recovery to Resilience:
Leveraging Partnerships



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WELCOME

This year, we are very excited that the 24th International Riversymposium (IRS) will be a hybrid event for the first time! The whole world will continue to become our venue for this event – our boundaries to share and learn from each other will cease to exist.

2020 was a 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 for a future where healthy, resilient rivers support thriving communities, ecosystems and economies.

Riversymposium continues to provide 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, and our venue partners, The University of Queensland (UQ), we bring some new and exciting activities. Delegates have been provided with the option of attending either face to face at UQ's beautiful St Lucia campus on the Brisbane River, or online from the safety of their offices and surroundings for those who are not able to travel as yet.

This year we are introducing a new type of special session called RiverPitch which will enable river managers, champions and communities to showcase to potential investors or partners the work they are doing or planning to do to achieve the resilience of our rivers and waterways. The very popular Learn-Inspire-Transform (LIT) sessions as well as exciting oral/video presentations are still happening. There are also several opportunities to meet other delegates in a social setting either face to face or virtually.

In line with the theme, we are launching the 1000+ Resilient Rivers Collective and celebrating the recognition of the Brisbane River as the inaugural member of the Collective. An exciting campaign for the resilience of our world's rivers and waterways, the 1000+ Resilient Rivers encourages and recognises river basins and their communities to proceed along their journey of river resilience.

Riversymposium is more than just a meeting of great minds and sharing knowledge – it is also about celebrating our passion for giving our rivers a voice and the great work we do to achieve healthy and resilient rivers. This year marks the 21st anniversary of the International Riverprize, the world's most prestigious prize for excellence in river basin management. We look forward to awarding the prize during the Celebrating Resilience Gala Dinner which will be recorded to share with the delegates who are unable to make it in person.

I would like to sincerely thank all our partners who have so generously supported us this year, with a special mention to our Platinum, Gold and Silver Partners: Brisbane City Council, the Australian Water Partnership, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Queensland Government for their invaluable support. Without our partners this event would not happen. On behalf of the IRF Board, staff, Organising Committee and volunteers, I hope you all enjoy the 24th International Riversymposium and use the time to learn and share new ideas, become inspired, and create new friendships. I look forward to meeting you all in Brisbane and online this year.



Dr Eva Abal
CEO, International RiverFoundation
Convenor, 24th International
Riversymposium



Prof. Paul F Greenfield
Chairman, International RiverFoundation



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

GOLD PARTNER | dfat.gov.au

Australia is working with partners across the Indo Pacific to support health security, stability, and economic recovery in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Investing in climate-resilient water resource management, as well as water, sanitation, and hygiene, is contributing to these goals.

The Australian Government is committed to achieving SDG6 and leaving no one behind by supporting inclusive WASH and WRM programs.



THE
AUSTRALIAN
WATER
PARTNERSHIP

ARUP

Cities need to be sustainable and climate resilient – ask us how

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Healthy land & water

For over **20 years**, we've been dedicated to **protecting** and **improving** South East Queensland's environment and liveability.

See how: hlw.org.au

PROGRAM





TUESDAY 28TH OF SEPTEMBER 2021

9:00 - 10:30	Opening Ceremony Chair: Prof Paul Greenfield, Chair, International RiverFoundation 1. Welcome to Country, Eddie Ruska 2. Michael Wilson , Chief Executive, Australian Water Partnership 3. Welcome from the Queensland Government 4. Councillor Tracy Davis , Civic Chair for Environment, Parks and Sustainability and Councillor for McDowall, Brisbane City 5. Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner , Brisbane City Council 6. Peter Varghese , Chancellor, University of Queensland 7. Launch of 1000+ Resilient Rivers and Recognition of the Brisbane River as inaugural member into the 1000+ Resilient Rivers Collective. Keynote Resilience is in the Eye of the Beholder Prof Hugh Possingham , Queensland Chief Scientist		
10:30 - 11:00	Morning Tea		
Room	Brisbane	Mekong	Mississippi
	Understanding River Systems	Understanding River Systems	Putting Report Cards to Work
	Facilitator: Selina Ward	Facilitator: Misko Ivezich	Chair: Bill Dennison and Bill Street
11:00	Data Dashboards to Support our Understanding and Management of Waterways Shannon Mooney	Stakeholder Engagement for Process of Coastal Ocean Assessment for Sustainability and Transformation (COAST Card) Keita Furukawa	Sponsored by: James River Association & University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science River Report Cards are widely used to track ecosystem health and distill complex system interactions into understandable progress reports. However, the ultimate goal of river report cards is to spur action for improved river health and overall grades. In this session, Bill Street and Bill Dennison will facilitate an interactive workshop to share examples of groups that have utilized their report cards to catalyze meaningful action. Additionally, group discussion will help generate a broad range of opportunities for utilizing report cards into action and key steps to implement them. The discussion will be structured following a model of individual engagement - Awareness, Appreciation, Action and Advocacy – which the James River Association has utilized to organize its programs and organizational goals. Specific experience with report cards will be shared from the Chesapeake Bay and Coral Reefs in the USA and from Queensland, Australia. Groups and agencies working on other waterbodies are encouraged to participate.
11:15	A Looming Environmental Disaster: Sediment, Brisbane River and Moreton Bay Michael Linde	Collective Wisdom: Lessons and Insights from Nine Environmental Flow Practitioners Amy McCoy	
11:30	A Strategic and Outcomes-based Approach to Managing Catchments for Reef Health Robert Speed	Potential of Managed Aquifer Recharge in an Irrigated River Basin - A Case Study from Punjab Pakistan Ghulam Zakir-Hassan	
11:45	Ecological values of Kinypanial Creek and Lake Lyndger Davide Di Mauro	Applying Human Rights-Based Approach Framework in Water Research Program: Case Study of Lower Mekong Countries Phan Thanh	
12:00	End of the Pipe Environmental Management at the Mouth of a River Craig Wilson	Application of HEC-HMS for Flow Modelling in Gin River Catchment Sri Lanka Melisha Fernando	
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch		
	Lunchtime Film: The River Moorabal		
	The Journey to Resilience - Brisbane River	Understanding River Systems	Effective River Governance
	Chair: Eva Abal	Facilitator: Daniel Niven	Facilitator: Claire Miller
13:30	Sponsored by: Brisbane City Council Brisbane River will be in the spotlight over the coming years as we head towards the 2032 Olympics. This is an important journey for the River as well as the many stakeholders who value it so highly. The Brisbane River is the first river to join the 1000+ Resilient Rivers Collective. There has been much effort from a variety of stakeholders to get to this point. This session dives into the results of the self-assessment tools as well as the strategy moving forward to see the Brisbane River fast track its journey towards resilience.	Climate Change and Environmental Flow Management Barriers to Incorporation Meegan Judd	Mind the Gap! What About Municipal Actors in River Governance? Wikke Novalia
13:45		The Warragamba Dam and the Western Sydney Floodplain - Dammed if you do, Damned if you don't. Again Joel Dalberger	Lessons from Drought on Managing Floods: The Development of Floodplain Harvesting Law in NSW Christine Freak
14:00		Small is Beautiful: Alternatives to Massif Project on River Interlinking Exist Seema Ravandale	Social Licence to Operate From a Water Authority Perspective Annelise Herman
14:15		Estimation of Sediment Delivery Ratio from Nillambe Watershed in Upper Mahaweli Catchment, Sri Lanka Melisha Fernando	Advancing Indigenous Rights: Learning from Recent Australian Experience to Support Sustainable Water Governance in Indonesia Katie O'Bryan

14:30-15:00	Afternoon Tea		
	River Co-Lab: Catchment Action Plans - The Lessons	No Session	No session
	Chair: John Howlie		
15:00	Sponsored by: Council of Mayors Catchment Actions Plans (CAPS) have been developed for catchments across South East Queensland. These plans identify assets and associated services, threats, issues and impacts for a particular catchment. During this session, John Howlie from the Council of Mayors will elaborate on the CAPs and how they were developed. As well as how have they been used, what has been their impact and how they guide the programs and projects to improve catchment resilience. The session will also discuss the work Council of Mayors is doing in coordinating funding programs and projects through the Catchment Investment Program (CIP), touching on the learnings and successes.		
15:15			
15:30			
15:45			
16:00 - 17:00	Keynote Take Me To The River Siwan Lovett , Director, Australian River Restoration Centre		
17:00-19:00	Welcome Function Sponsored by Alluvium Tickets: included in registration Location: Art Museum - University of Queensland		

WEDNESDAY 29TH OF SEPTEMBER 2021

9:00 - 10:15	Welcome and Summary of Tuesday Dr Eva Abal , CEO, International RiverFoundation Keynote The River Resilience Journey: Who invited the Economist? Jim Binney , Director Natural Capital Economics, Alluvium			
10:15 - 10:45	Morning Tea			
	Room	Brisbane	Mekong	Mississippi
		River Co-Lab - Lessons Learned from Champions Across the Generations	Understanding River Systems	Effective River Governance
		Chair: Sandra Hall	Facilitator: Meegan Judd	Facilitator: Katie O'Brien
10:45	Sponsored by: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade The Emerging Water Professionals Program (EWPP) fosters education and innovation in water management by supporting the professional and personal development of future water leaders. This special mentoring panel will bring together expertise from across generations. Six panel members from a variety of sectors and levels of experience will share their knowledge and stories with this years Emerging Water Professionals cohort. This is an open session and anyone, no matter your level of experience is invited to participate in the conversation.	Developing a Socio-Environmental Vision for Waterways Bill Dennison	Puny Pixels of Periphyton: Near-Surface UAS Remote Sensing to Assess Periphyton Dynamics in Small Streams Christopher DeRolph	
11:00		Time Heals: A Pathway to Ease Community Angst Over Water Reform Claire Miller	OUR Waters: Stewards Together Elaine Ho	
11:15		Tracking Global Dams is Dynamic, Cutting Edge, and a Total Pain in the Neck Penny Beames	Breaking Down Barriers: Best Practices for Stronger Global Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement Kelly Dobroski	
11:30		Groundwater and Livelihood - A Case Study From Indus River Basin in Pakistan Ghulam Zakir-Hassan	Co-developing an Environmental Justice Index for Resiliency, Sustainability and Adaptive Environmental Governance Vanessa Vargas-Nguyen	
11:45			River Addressing System: An innovative approach to address Rivers & communities Shrikant Mukate	
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch			
		Lunchtime Film: Maroochy Catchment - A Community Collaboration Film		

	River Co-Lab: A “Green and Gold” revolution for South East Queensland	Effective River Governance	
	Chair: TBA	Facilitator: Natalie Baker	
13:00	Sponsored by: Healthy Land and Water Healthy Land and Water has tracked the health of waterways and ecosystems of South East Queensland Australia for over 20 years. The evidence tells us that despite considerable efforts the trajectory of many of our natural assets are in decline. As the Olympics head to Brisbane and South East Queensland in 2032, ambitious sustainability objectives have been set that have the potential to transform the region, including an overall climate positive target*. In this workshop, we will explore the state-of-the-art in regional monitoring, and collaborative and engaging approaches to natural resource management planning working with traditional owners, the broader community, scientists and policymakers. In a creative session, participants will be invited to imagine and draw a range of potential futures for South East Queensland. As we move toward 2032, can South East Queensland harness the Olympic dream and transform the region with a “green and gold” revolution? Don’t miss an opportunity to be part of shaping the future of SEQ!	Cultural Water for Cultural Economies Erin O’Donnell	
13:15		Feral Horses (Equus Caballus) Increase Suspended Sediments and Impact Ecosystem Condition of Sub-alpine Streams of Kosciuszko National Park, Australia Peter Scanes	
13:30		Our Rivers are Changing, so Should We: Key Insights from Independent Reviews of NSW Water Sharing Plans Emma Collins	
13:45		Data Exchange in Transboundary Basins Should we Identify and Respond to Local Needs Before Applying Global Prescripts? Patience Mukuyu	
14:00 - 14:30	Afternoon Tea		
14:30 - 15:30	Keynote Forget The Elephant In The Room, Show Me The Platypus. Paul Satur , Lecturer for Water Sensitive Cities, Monash Sustainable Development Institute & Co-founder of Our Future Cities		
16:00- 18:30	Diversity in Water Sponsored by: The Australian Water Partnership Theme: Diversity - Resilience in the time of COVID		

THURSDAY 30TH OF SEPTEMBER 2021

9:00 - 10:15	Welcome and Summary of Wednesday Dr Eva Abal , CEO, International RiverFoundation Keynote Sponsored by: Murray-Darling Basin Authority Empowering First Nations in the Fight for Cultural Water and Policy Change. Melissa Kennedy , CEO Tati Tati Kaiejin, Tati Tati Aboriginal Water Officer & Brendan Kennedy Director, Tati Tati Kaiejin, Aboriginal Water Officer		
10:15 - 10:45	Break		
Room	Brisbane	Mekong	Mississippi
	RiverPitch - Waterway Health Opportunities: Levers, Incentives and Mechanisms	Understanding River Systems	The Show Must Go On! The San Antonio River Authority's Pivot to a Virtual World of Education and Public Engagement
	Chair: Eva Abal	Facilitator: John Connel	Facilitator: TBA
10:45	Sponsored by: Brisbane City Council This RiverPitch is future-focused - set in 2031 - one year before Brisbane hosts the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. How do we ensure our River, waterways and Bay are ready for all the visitors, both national and international? Brisbane’s global identity is defined by its River, as well as Moreton Bay - a Ramsar site, that is home to herding dugongs, marine mammals and six of the world’s seven turtle species - all in close proximity to Brisbane’s CBD. A panel will pitch ideas for how we maximise the value of our River and Bay and a group of reactors will offer solutions to achieve these opportunities.	Emerging Women Water Leaders - Mahakali Basin Suman Gupta	Sponsored by: The San Antonio River Authority During the pandemic the San Antonio River Authority, a regional government organization in South Texas, transformed its volunteer engagement and education programs to fit a virtual world. This presentation will introduce viewers to the River Authority, an organization committed to safe, clean, and enjoyable creeks and rivers and will briefly discuss how it achieves its mission and vision. We will then dive into lessons learned from transforming an outdoor-based environmental education program into an engaging virtual format during the COVID-19 pandemic. We will also showcase how we developed unique ways to inspire the community into volunteerism from their own spaces while helping them connect with, care for, and safely recreate on their rivers and creeks.
11:00		Can Citizen Science Inform Science? Evaluating Results of the Bellingham Riverwatch Citizen Science Program and a Parallel Government Monitoring Program Adrian Dickson	
11:15		THE TALE OF TWO RIVERS: CHICAGO AND PASIG River: Restoration through Partnerships Haydee Jacklyn	
11:30			
11:45			
12:00- 13:00	Lunch Film		

	Shaping River Solutions	1000+ Resilient Rivers Collective - The What, The Why and The How	Shaping River Solutions
	Facilitators: Ryan Davis	Chair: Eva Abal	Facilitator: Simon Otereo
13:00	Refuge Gullies Support Improved Land and Stream Management in South East QLD Nathaniel Parker & Mark Waud	International RiverFoundation 1000+ Resilient Rivers is the first public campaign of the Resilient Rivers Blueprint. Dozens of river basins around the globe have already been using the Resilient Rivers Self Assessment Tools. Both the Tuul River in Mongolia and the Brisbane River in Australia, have or are in the final stages of being official members of the 1000+ Resilient Rivers Collective by committing to their river resilience journey. Come and hear from the Resilient Rivers Blueprint Expert panel, Bill Dennison from the University of Maryland, Julie McLellan, CEO of Healthy Land and Water and Chi Mun Woo from Deloitte have a conversation with representatives from river basins around the world who have explored the assessment tools and been involved in the 1000+ Resilient Rivers campaign.	Key Ingredients for Long-Term Viable River Restoration Mark Briggs
13:15	Water Stewardship Initiatives Changing Fitzroy Basin's Water Future Leigh Stütz		Mary River Recovery Misko Ivevich
13:30	The Australian Cotton Industry Adapting to Rivers of Change Michael Murray		Collaboration to Protect Water Quality from Wildfire in Small Municipal Watersheds in the PNW, USA Rebecca Flitcroft
13:45	Changing Dam Failure Assessment in Queensland and the Implications Daniel Niven		Learning & Innovation for River Revitalisation in Indonesia Jane Holden
14:00	Looking for a Win-win on the Burdekin: Shifting from Pioneering to Mature and Efficient Water Use John Connell		
14:15 - 14:45	Afternoon Tea Break		
	River Co-Lab: City Design, Water and Climate Change: The effects of climate change are here - perhaps earlier and with greater impacts than any of us anticipated	Shaping River Solutions	No session
	Chair: TBA	Facilitator: Emma Collins	
14:45	Sponsored by: ARUP As Brisbane looks to become an Olympic city focused on the creation of a sustainable region, what role will our waterways play and how will the Olympics legacy shape a climate resilient future for the region? This co-lab will explore these themes, building on discussions around how the driving climate change imperative leads us to consider how we can accelerate and further coordinate efforts to create climate change resilience and sustainable cities. The 2032 Olympic Games will need to be climate positive – what a wonderful catalyst this gives us for change.	Traditional, Tree-dominant Agriculture Reverses Forest Loss in Watersheds Kamal Melvani	
15:00		International Practice - Assessing and Securing Investment to Adapt Steven Trehwella	
15:15		China's New Policies to Improve Environmental Quality in Rivers: The River Chief System Yixin Cao	
15:30		Barrier Removal Selection Methods in Rivers: A Short Review of Strengths and Weaknesses Ana Mascarenhas	
15:45			
16:00-17:30	Keynote Restoring Danube Rivers And Wetlands Andreas Beckmann , Regional CEO, WWF Central and Eastern Europe & Sofia Kilifi , Sustainability and Community Manager, Coca Cola European Partners Closing Prof Paul Greenfield , Chair, International RiverFoundation Dr Eva Abal , CEO, International RiverFoundation Phil Weller , Board Member, International RiverFoundation Councillor Tracy Davis , Civic Chair for Environment, Parks and Sustainability on behalf of the Lord Mayor of Brisbane Adrian Schrinner Welcome to International Riversymposium Vienna 2022 Michael Ludwig , Mayor and Governor of Vienna Walter Kling General Secretary of the International Association of Waterworks in the Danube Catchment Area		
18:00 - 22:00	Thiess International Riverprize Announcement within the Celebrating Resilience Dinner, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre		

FRIDAY 1ST OF OCTOBER 2021

Study tours

Our field trips will allow you to explore the fascinating projects being conducted in South-East Queensland. If you're attending face to face, then you will have the opportunity to attend one of the Queensland based tours. If you are a virtual delegate, then you will be able to watch the tour, live from the comfort of your own office or home no matter where you are. View tours [here](#).

Sunshine Coast Catchment Tour

Focused on the South Maroochy Catchment, this tour will demonstrate a collaborative partnership approach to source water protection and building landscape resilience for our waterways and water bodies.

Port Of Brisbane Environment Tour

Learn about the various operations and subsequent environmental management controls in place with focus on the river and subsequent ecological values in and around the port.

University Of Queensland Green Building Tour

Sustainability has become an integral aspect of contemporary architectural design. Join us on this tour where we will explore some of the buildings located on the St. Lucia campus that are rising to the challenge of sustainable architectural design.



Resilient Rivers

RIVERS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



START YOUR RESILIENCE JOURNEY - Join the Global Collective of Rivers Progressing through the Journey of Resilience

An exciting campaign for the resilience of our world's rivers and waterways, the 1000+ Resilient Rivers encourages and recognises river basins and their communities to proceed along the journey of river resilience.

Contact Us

Dr. Eva Abal

Chief Executive Office

Phone: +61 7 3002 9062

Mobile: +61 419 719 140

Email: eva@riverfoundation.org.au



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



TUESDAY 28TH OF SEPTEMBER



PROF HUGH POSSINGHAM

Queensland Chief Scientist

Tuesday 28th of September, 9:00-10:30

Professor Hugh Possingham has had a long and distinguished career developing mathematical and economic tools for solving nature conservation problems such as where to place protected areas and which the most efficient actions for saving threatened species.

His scientific career started at the University of Adelaide where he completed his Bachelor's degree with Honours in Applied Mathematics in 1984, which was followed in 1987 by a doctorate in Ecological Modelling as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University.

Aged 32 he became the inaugural Chair and Professor of Environmental Science and Management at The University of Adelaide. He joined the University of Queensland in 2000 as Chair in the Department of Mathematics and Biological Sciences where he has led several research centres and held Australian Research Council Professorial, Laureate and Federation Fellowships.

He was Director of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions, as well as the Australian Government's Threatened Species Recovery Hub.

In 2016 he became the Chief Scientist at The Nature Conservancy, a global conservation organisation with 400 scientists and 4000 staff, that has protected more than 40 million hectares of land and thousands of kilometres of rivers worldwide.

His combination of expertise in mathematics and ecology has enabled Professor Possingham to undertake conservation initiatives that integrate spatial planning and economic factors.



DR SIWAN LOVETT

Director, Australian River Restoration Centre

Tuesday 28th of September, 15:45-16:45

Siwan is a familiar face in Australian river management, beginning in 1996 as a researcher examining the impediments to managing water for the environment, to then managing a portfolio of riparian restoration projects with the former Land and Water Australia. In 2008, she founded the Australian River Restoration Centre, which she manages together with a growing team of multi-disciplinary experts. Over the past twenty-five years she has consistently raised awareness about the need for river management to acknowledge many different sources of knowledge, not just our biophysical sciences. She is a skilled communicator, facilitator, mentor and coach, and specialises in helping people find their purpose and value.

The road to resilience can be a complex journey with the interdependence of environmental, social and economic outcomes. Only through unlocking the transformative power of partnerships can we, together, achieve resilient rivers, resilient communities and resilient economies.

WEDNESDAY 29TH OF SEPTEMBER



JIM BINNEY

Director Natural Capital Economics, Alluvium

Wednesday 29th of September, 9:00-10:15

Jim is a resource and environmental economic practitioner. He has undertaken in excess of 150 consulting assignments in the last ten years. Cost-benefit and cost effectiveness analysis are tools used in most of his projects. A major focus of his work is the integration of environmental values into mainstream decision making and investment.



DR PAUL SATUR

Lecturer for Water Sensitive Cities, Monash Sustainable Development Institute & **Co-founder** of Our Future Cities.

Wednesday 29th of September, 14:30-15:30

Paul Satur is a keen surfer, nature lover and punk music tragic. These (amongst other things) have led him to a budding career in environmental and social science research, bringing particular expertise to complex socio-institutional and socio-ecological sustainability challenges, through programs, knowledge and partnerships designed to empower people in place for the revitalisation of water environments. Paul is currently a research fellow and lecturer, as part of Monash Sustainable Development Institute's MSDI Water unit, and the co-founder and director of the Our Future Cities organisation- a not for profit that seeks to broaden the dialogue, empowering young and diverse voices in the shaping of our cities and places. Paul was recently recognised as the Australian 2020 Young Water Professional of the Year.

THURSDAY 30TH OF SEPTEMBER



MELISSA KENNEDY

CEO Tati Tati Kaiejin, Tati Tati Aboriginal Water Officer

Thursday 30th of September, 9:00-10:15

Melissa Kennedy is a Tati Tati woman from the Murray River Country in North-West Victoria

As co-founder and CEO of Tati Tati Kaiejin, a grass-roots Indigenous owned and operated not-for-profit organisation, Melissa's aim is to uplift First Nations people and support sustainable environmental practices through the progression, restoration and replenishment of culture and Country.

Also holding the position of Tati Tati Aboriginal Water Officer, Melissa's role in the community includes supporting river restoration projects, creating spaces for traditional knowledge gathering and sharing, as well as engaging with various environmental stakeholders to progress Tati Tati water and landcare objectives.

Recently starting on as a Research Fellow with the University of Melbourne's Centre of Excellence Places Program, Melissa's focus is on better understanding and documenting the relationship between water (Cultural Flows) and Indigenous wellbeing over the lifecycle, with a view to enabling policy change and empowering local Indigenous stakeholders.



BRENDAN KENNEDY

Director – Tati Tati Kaiejin, Aboriginal Water Officer

Thursday 30th of September, 9:00-10:15

Tati Tati, Latji Latji, Wadi Wadi, Mutti Mutti man, Brendan has been reviving culture and language for over 15 years, producing language books, animations, digital apps, Country reports and art exhibitions.

Descendant of the Murray River & Murrumbidgee River Traditional Nations, Brendan is a leader in all areas advocating for First Nations rights to water and Country, Tati Tati nation sovereignty, and community self-determination. He has taught language in schools and early childhood centres in Robinvale and continues to share and create learning opportunities for the North-western Victorian Aboriginal Communities.

Performing responsibilities such as deputy chair and Tati Tati delegate for Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN); former chairperson of the Department of Environment, Land, Water, and Planning (DELWP) Water for Country Project Control Group (PCG); and chairperson of Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages (VACL); Brendan's goals are to increase employment opportunities and see First Nations knowledges, values, aspirations and culture prioritised and thriving.

Brendan's roles as Aboriginal Water Officer and Tati Tati Kaiejin Cultural Engagement Officer include continuing efforts to achieve Cultural Flows and purinya kaiejin kathiwatha – healthy water flowing.

THURSDAY 30TH OF SEPTEMBER



ANDREAS BECKMANN

Regional CEO, WWF Central and Eastern Europe

Thursday 30th of September, 16:00-17:00

As Regional CEO of WWF Central and Eastern Europe, Andreas Beckmann is responsible for leading and coordinating the efforts of WWF, the global conservation organisation, to ensure a living planet for nature and people in and from the Central and Southeastern Europe. „WWF-CEE“ seeks to preserve the „Green Heart of Europe“, including globally important forests, wetlands and wildlife and promote long-term sustainable local development. The organisation currently employs ca 170 staff working from WWF-Romania, -Bulgaria, -Hungary, -Slovakia and -Ukraine as well as in the Czech Republic and Moldova (www.panda.org/cee).

Previous to his current position, Andreas worked at WWF as deputy director for the WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme, the predecessor of „WWF-CEE“ (2005-09) and as EU Accession Coordinator (2001-05). Before coming to work for WWF in 2001, Andreas spent 10 years living and working in Prague, the last five years managing communications and development as well as regional coordination for the Environmental Partnership (www.environmentalpartnership.org), a consortium of foundations dedicated to fostering partnership action for the environment and local communities in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria.



SOFIA KILIFI

Sustainability and Community Manager, Coca Cola European Partners

Thursday 30th of September, 16:00-17:00

Sofia Kilifi is Sustainability and Community Manager Coca Cola European Partners. At the conference she will describe the relevance of rivers and wetlands to Coca Cola and other businesses and the company's new global freshwater strategy.

SPECIAL SESSIONS



TUESDAY 28TH OF SEPTEMBER

PUTTING REPORT CARDS TO WORK

Tuesday 28th of September, 11:00 - 12:30
Mississippi Room

Sponsored by: **James River Association & University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science**

River Report Cards are widely used to track ecosystem health and distill complex system interactions into understandable progress reports. However, the ultimate goal of river report cards is to spur action for improved river health and overall grades. In this session, Bill Street and Bill Dennison will facilitate an interactive workshop to share examples of groups that have utilized their report cards to catalyze meaningful action. Additionally, group discussion will help generate a broad range of opportunities for utilizing report cards into action and key steps to implement them. The discussion will be structured following a model of individual engagement - Awareness, Appreciation, Action and Advocacy – which the James River Association has utilized to organize its programs and organizational goals. Specific experience with report cards will be shared from the Chesapeake Bay and Coral Reefs in the USA and from Queensland, Australia. Groups and agencies working on other waterbodies are encouraged to participate.



THE JOURNEY TO RESILIENCE - BRISBANE RIVER

Tuesday 28th of September, 13:30 - 14:30
Brisbane Room

Sponsored by: **Brisbane City Council**

Brisbane River will be in the spotlight over the coming years as we head towards the 2032 Olympics. This is

an important journey for the River as well as the many stakeholders who value it so highly. The Brisbane River is the first river to join the 1000+ Resilient Rivers Collective. There has been much effort from a variety of stakeholders to get to this point. This session dives into the results of the self-assessment tools as well as the strategy moving forward to see the Brisbane River fast track its journey towards resilience.



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

CATCHMENT ACTION PLANS - THE LESSONS

Tuesday 28th of September, 14:30 - 15:30
Brisbane Room

Sponsored by: **Council of Mayors**

Catchment Actions Plans (CAPS) have been developed for catchments across South East Queensland. These plans identify assets and associated services, threats, issues and impacts for a particular catchment. During this session, John Howlie from the Council of Mayors will elaborate on the CAPs and how they were developed. As well as how have they been used, what has been their impact and how they guide the programs and projects to improve catchment resilience. The session will also discuss the work Council of Mayors is doing in coordinating funding programs and projects through the Catchment Investment Program (CIP), touching on the learnings and successes.



Council of Mayors
South East Queensland



WEDNESDAY THE 29TH OF SEPTEMBER

A “GREEN AND GOLD” REVOLUTION FOR SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND

Wednesday 29th of September, 13:00-14:00
Brisbane Room

Sponsored by: **Healthy Land and Water**

Healthy Land and Water has tracked the health of waterways and ecosystems of South East Queensland Australia for over 20 years. The evidence tells us that despite considerable efforts the trajectory of many of our natural assets are in decline. As the Olympics head to Brisbane and South East Queensland in 2032, ambitious sustainability objectives have been set that have the potential to transform the region, including an overall climate positive target*. In this workshop, we will explore the state-of-the-art in regional monitoring, and collaborative and engaging approaches to natural resource management planning working with traditional owners, the broader community, scientists and policymakers. In a creative session, participants will be invited to imagine and draw a range of potential futures for South East Queensland. As we move toward 2032, can South East Queensland harness the Olympic dream and transform the region with a “green and gold” revolution? Don’t miss an opportunity to be part of shaping the future of SEQ!



LESSONS LEARNED FROM CHAMPIONS ACROSS THE GENERATIONS

Wednesday 29th of September, 10:45-11:45
Brisbane Room

Sponsored by: **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

The Emerging Water Professionals Program (EWPP) fosters education and innovation in water management by supporting the professional and personal development of future water leaders. This special mentoring panel will bring together expertise from across generations. Six panel members from a variety of sectors and levels of experience will share their knowledge and stories with this years Emerging Water Professionals cohort. This is an open session and anyone, no matter your level of experience is invited to participate in the conversation.



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



@sanantonioriver
#BeRiverProud



THURSDAY THE 30TH OF SEPTEMBER

THE SHOW MUST GO ON! THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY'S PIVOT TO A VIRTUAL WORLD OF EDUCATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Thursday 30th of September, 11:00 - 12:00
Mississippi Room

Sponsored by: **The San Antonio River Authority**
During the pandemic the San Antonio River Authority, a regional government organization in South Texas, transformed its volunteer engagement and education programs to fit a virtual world. This presentation will introduce viewers to the River Authority, an organization committed to safe, clean, and enjoyable creeks and rivers and will briefly discuss how it achieves its mission and vision. We will then dive into lessons learned from transforming an outdoor-based environmental education program into an engaging virtual format during the COVID-19 pandemic. We will also showcase how we developed unique ways to inspire the community into volunteerism from their own spaces while helping them connect with, care for, and safely recreate on their rivers and creeks.



WATERWAY HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES: LEVERS, INCENTIVES AND MECHANISMS.

Thursday 30th of September, 11:00-12:00
Brisbane Room

Sponsored by: **Brisbane City Council**
This RiverPitch is future-focused - set in 2031 - one year before Brisbane hosts the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. How do we ensure our River, waterways and Bay are ready for all the visitors, both national and international? Brisbane's global identity is defined by its River, as well as Moreton Bay - a Ramsar site, that is home to herding dugongs, marine mammals and six of the world's seven turtle species - all in close proximity to Brisbane's CBD. A panel will pitch ideas for how we maximise the value of our River and Bay and a group of reactors will offer solutions to achieve these opportunities.



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

1000+ RESILIENT RIVERS COLLECTIVE - THE WHAT, THE WHY AND THE HOW

Thursday 30th of September, 13:00 -14:15
Mekong Room

Sponsored by: **International RiverFoundation**
1000+ Resilient Rivers is the first public campaign of the Resilient Rivers Blueprint. Dozens of river basins around the globe have already been using the Resilient Rivers Self Assessment Tools. Both the Tuul River in Mongolia and the Brisbane River in Australia, have or are in the final stages of being official members of the 1000+ Resilient Rivers Collective by committing to their river resilience journey. Come and hear from the Resilient Rivers Blueprint Expert panel, Bill Dennison from the University of Maryland, Julie McLellan, CEO of Healthy Land and Water and Chi Mun Woo from Deloitte have a conversation with representatives from river basins around the world who have explored the assessment tools and been involved in the 1000+ Resilient Rivers campaign.



CITY DESIGN, WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE: THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ARE HERE - PERHAPS EARLIER AND WITH GREATER IMPACTS THAN ANY OF US ANTICIPATED

Thursday 30th of September, 14:45-16:00
Brisbane Room

Sponsored by: **ARUP**
As Brisbane looks to become an Olympic city focused on the creation of a sustainable region, what role will our waterways play and how will the Olympics legacy shape a climate resilient future for the region? This co-lab will explore these themes, building on discussions around how the driving climate change imperative leads us to consider how we can accelerate and further coordinate efforts to create climate change resilience and sustainable cities. The 2032 Olympic Games will need to be climate positive – what a wonderful catalyst this gives us for change.



STUDY TOURS



Our field trips will allow you to explore the fascinating projects being conducted in South-East Queensland. If you're attending face-to-face, then you will have the opportunity to attend one of the Queensland based tours. If you are a virtual delegate, then you will be able to watch the tour, live from the comfort of your own office or home no matter where you are.



PORT OF BRISBANE ENVIRONMENT TOUR

Date: Friday 1st of October

Price: \$25 (plus GST) includes transport

Leave from the university of Queensland at 9:00 am and return at 12:00 pm

Learn about the various operations and subsequent environmental management controls in place with focus on the river and subsequent ecological values in and around the port. During the tour, you will run through the Port west and Port Gate estates and then the main Fisherman Island areas.



SUNSHINE COAST CATCHMENT TOUR, HOSTED BY SEQWATER AND ECOLLABORATION

Date: Friday 1st of October

Price: \$55 (plus GST) includes lunch and transport

Leave from the University of Queensland at 7:30 am and return at 1:30 pm

The Sunshine Coast Catchment tour will demonstrate a collaborative partnership approach to source water protection and building landscape resilience for our waterways and water bodies. The partnership involves fostering a dynamic relationship between Seqwater (South East Queensland's peak government water supply authority), ECollaboration (an environmental organisation based on the Sunshine Coast), Farmwell Project (Maroochy Landcare) and private landholders.

The site tour will include visits to Poona and Wappa Dams, and two private properties, showcasing how Leveraging partnerships can result in a win-win for all stakeholders.





UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND GREEN BUILDING TOUR

Date: Friday 1st of October

Price: Free

Meet at the Global Change Institute building at 9 am.
Morning tea provided

Sustainability has become an integral aspect of contemporary architectural design. As climate change becomes an increasingly pressing concern, so too does the need to create sustainable buildings that offer minimal environmental impact and maximum human comfort. Join us on this tour where we will explore some of the buildings located on the St Lucia campus that are rising to the challenge of sustainable architectural design.



**THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND**
AUSTRALIA

Australia – water partners for development

Enhancing sustainable management of water in the Indo-Pacific and beyond



PROUDLY SUPPORTING DIVERSITY IN WATER

Visit our website to download BasinGuide and other river basin planning resources

**Australian
Aid** 

The Australian Water Partnership is supported by the Australian Government and managed by eWater Ltd

waterpartnership.org.au

**THE
AUSTRALIAN
WATER
PARTNERSHIP**

NETWORKING EVENTS



Riversymposium networking events offer the chance to network, mingle and relax with other delegates working towards sustainable river basin management. The 2021 Riversymposium networking program includes the Diversity in Water event, Welcome Function, and the world-renowned Riverprize Gala Dinner.



WELCOME FUNCTION

Date: Tuesday 28th of September 2021

Price: Included in Registration

Venue: Art Museum - University of Queensland

It is our pleasure to invite you to join us at the beautiful UQ Art Museum for the 24th International Riversymposium Welcome Function. This year's theme "Recovery to Resilience: leveraging partnerships" recognises the urgent need to build the capacity of our rivers, communities and industries to quickly recover from extreme events, such as droughts and floods, and return to a healthy state, ensuring social and economic prosperity. This special event, sponsored by Alluvium Consulting, is by invitation only and will bring together key players in the river management, water and economic industries.

alluvium



DIVERSITY IN WATER: RESILIENCE IN THE TIME OF COVID

Date: Wednesday 29th of September 2021

Price: Included in Registration

Venue: ModWest Building, University of Queensland, St Lucia

AWP invites you to a diversity networking event where we explore questions around how diversity has emerged as a key element to help adaptation and resilience in water throughout the time of the pandemic, where women, young girls, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups have been most affected. This event is part of our ongoing inquiry into how to use the disruption to our business model as an opportunity to support diversity and locally-led approaches in our work in water and development.

Australian Aid

THE AUSTRALIAN WATER PARTNERSHIP

GALA DINNER

Date: Thursday 30th of September 2021

Price: \$220 (plus GST) and booking fee

Venue: Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

Riverprize is a prominent environmental award giving recognition to those who have developed and implemented outstanding, visionary and sustainable programs in river management and restoration. The *Riverprize* Gala Dinner is the highlight of the Riversymposium networking program, bringing award finalists, conference delegates, IRF partners and VIPs together for a night of networking, entertainment, food and drinks—and, of course, the announcement of the 21st International *Riverprize* winner.

THIESS INTERNATIONAL *Riverprize*

BY THE BERT AND VERA
THIESS FOUNDATION

This year marks the 21st anniversary of the Thies International *Riverprize*. Today *Riverprize* is the world's most valuable environmental prize, celebrating inspiring initiatives that go beyond business as usual. First awarded in 1999, the Thies International *Riverprize* recognises excellence in river management and restoration. The International RiverFoundation (IRF) has awarded 20 International *Riverprize*'s and after examining what it takes to be a winner, these five key elements have been identified as the recipe for success: An emphasis on long term commitment; Collaboration and partnerships; Equality, diversity, and inclusiveness; A holistic and integrated approach to planning, evaluation, and monitoring; and very clear vision.

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. Enabling the resilience of our world's rivers by addressing the complex social, economic and ecological pressures associated with global change such as the current changes and challenges that have come about with the COVID-19 pandemic, becomes more relevant than ever. We need to ensure our rivers are there for future generations. Previous winners and finalists have received widespread recognition, built new partnerships, shared their knowledge and won other awards following *Riverprize*, becoming part of a network of river practitioners and experts from around the world. This year, the focus of *Riverprize* was on building community and river resilience rather than recovery. The International RiverFoundation encouraged and welcomed a number of applications that reflect a journey towards the resilience of the rivers including a whole-of-system approach, effective institutional arrangements, adaptive cross-sectoral solutions, and effective financial mechanisms.





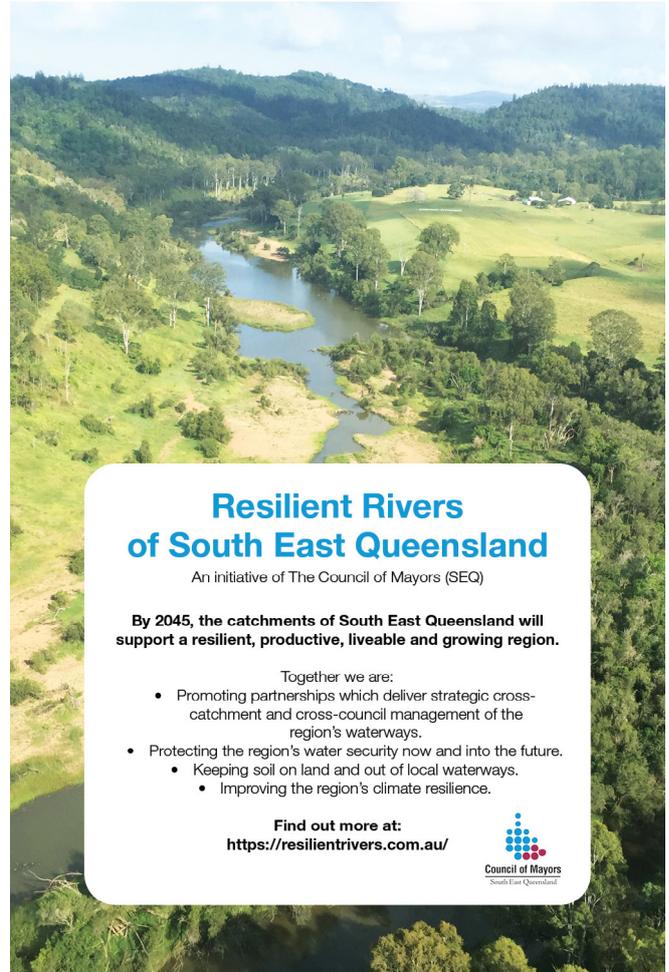
Water is an essential part of life, and science is an essential part of water management.

Find out how the Queensland Government is putting science at the heart of preserving our environment, sustaining our communities and is providing for the farming and mining industries which are the backbone of our rural economies in the *Water Planning Science Plan 2020-2030*.

CS10275 9/21



Queensland Water Planning Science Plan



Resilient Rivers of South East Queensland

An initiative of The Council of Mayors (SEQ)

By 2045, the catchments of South East Queensland will support a resilient, productive, liveable and growing region.

Together we are:

- Promoting partnerships which deliver strategic cross-catchment and cross-council management of the region's waterways.
- Protecting the region's water security now and into the future.
 - Keeping soil on land and out of local waterways.
 - Improving the region's climate resilience.

Find out more at:
<https://resilientrivers.com.au/>



Brisbane City Council is proud to sponsor the 24th International Riversymposium

PARTNERS



PLATINUM



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL

Brisbane is Australia's River City and home to more than one million people. Brisbane City Council is committed to finding ways to meet the city's growing need for water, air and energy resources in a region prone to drought and floods. Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable 2017-2031 highlights key sustainability achievements and future targets to ensure a cleaner, greener and more resilient city.



THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

For more than a century, The University of Queensland (UQ) has maintained a global reputation for delivering knowledge leadership for a better world.

The most prestigious and widely recognised rankings of world universities consistently place UQ among the world's top universities.

UQ has also won more national teaching awards than any other Australian university. This commitment to quality teaching empowers our 53,600 current students, who study across UQ's three campuses, to create positive change for society.

Our research has global impact, delivered by an interdisciplinary research community of more than 1500 researchers at our six faculties, eight research institutes and more than 100 research centres.



INTERNATIONAL RIVERFOUNDATION

The International RiverFoundation champions integrated river basin management for the restoration, protection and sustainable management of the world's rivers. We do this by facilitating leadership, celebration and collaboration.

Water is crucial for all life—and we need healthy rivers, lakes and wetlands for sustainable development. We promote and support effective management of these resources by facilitating knowledge sharing, education and best practice river basin management, and by recognising and rewarding those making a difference.

GOLD



THE AUSTRALIAN WATER PARTNERSHIP

AWP is an international cooperation initiative helping developing countries primarily in the Indo-Pacific region work towards the sustainable management of their water resources. We enable this by facilitating collaboration between governments, international organisations, and our partner network of more than 200 Australian public, non-government and private sector organisations to share Australia's world-class water expertise internationally.

GOLD



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

The Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade promotes and protects Australia's international interests to support our security and prosperity. The department is delivering the government's development policy, Partnerships for Recovery, which has pivoted Australia's development program to focus on health security, stability and economic recovery, together with our partners.

SILVER



Queensland
Government

QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, MANUFACTURING AND WATER

The Queensland Government Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water's role is to generate economic growth and jobs through competitive regional economies and make best use of our water resources by delivering sustainable, safe, secure and affordable water state-wide.

RIVER CO-LAB

ARUP

ARUP

Arup is the creative force at the heart of many of the world's most prominent projects in the built environment and across industry. Working in more than 140 countries, the firm's designers, engineers, architects, planners, consultants, and technical specialists collaborate with clients on innovative projects of the highest quality and impact.



Council of Mayors

South East Queensland

COUNCIL OF MAYORS

The Council of Mayors (SEQ) Resilient Rivers Initiative recognises a collaborative approach to managing the catchments of SEQ is vital to the future economic, social and environmental health of the region whilst providing efficient, effective management of funding.



HEALTHY LAND AND WATER

Healthy Land and Water is the peak environmental group for South East Queensland. As experts in research, monitoring, evaluation and project management, we deliver innovative and science-based solutions to challenges affecting our landscapes, waterways and biodiversity. We are dedicated to improving and protecting South East Queensland's environment for future generations.

LEARNING-INSPIRE-TRANSFORM



SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY

The San Antonio River Authority (River Authority) was created by the 45th Texas Legislature on May 5, 1937 and reorganized in 1961 to plan, manage, and implement water-related programs and projects within the San Antonio River Basin. The State of Texas empowered the River Authority to preserve, protect, and manage the resources and the ecology of the San Antonio River and its tributaries. The River Authority is committed to safe, clean, and enjoyable creeks and rivers, and strives to harmonize the needs of people and nature through our stewardship of rivers and land.

JAMES RIVER ASSOCIATION

The mission of the James River Association is to be a guardian of the James River. We provide a voice for the river and take action to promote conservation and responsible stewardship of its natural resources.

WELCOME FUNCTION



ALLUVIUM

Alluvium is a niche, employee-owned consulting company focused on the sustainable management of catchments, water resources and waterways. We work across all states and territories and a growing presence in the Asia Pacific region.

With over 120 people, Alluvium is now one of the largest providers of river health consulting services in Australia.

KEYNOTE



MURRAY-DARLING BASIN AUTHORITY

MODWEST BUILDING

ABOUT THE MODWEST BUILDING

The name ModWest is derived from the word 'modular' – meaning composed of standardised units or sections for easy construction or flexible arrangement – with 'west' representing the building location on campus in relation to other similarly named buildings (e.g. General Purpose North and General Purpose South). The St Lucia campus is only seven kilometres from Brisbane's city centre, making it an appealing place to study, work or visit. We look forward to seeing you

TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

Brisbane prides itself on being green, so it's no wonder that getting around South East Queensland using public transport is easy. On the TransLink website you'll find

timetables, maps and destinations, plus everything you need to know about catching a bus, train, ferry and tram including information about late night services and safety and security.

WIFI ACCESS

Delegates will have free access to WIFI using the UQ guest log in: **Visitor-UQconnect.**

UQ MAPS

To help you find your way around campus, download '**UQ Maps**' free from the app store.

