

Restored rivers listed for national Riverprize

15 July 2006

Four large Australian river restoration projects have been short listed for the 2006 National Thiess Riverprize award for excellence in river and waterway management.

The rivers are Margaret River, WA (Cape to Cape Catchments Group), Dee River, Qld (Wowan Dululu Landcare Group), Lake Macquarie, NSW (Office of the Lake Macquarie Catchment Coordinator), and Torbay Catchment, WA (Torbay Catchment Group and WA Department of Environment).

The prestigious \$75,000 Riverprize and trophy is awarded each year to an outstanding Australian river or catchment restoration project.

All finalists have been recognised for their outstanding efforts in restoring, protecting and managing river systems and catchments.

The National and International Thiess Riverprize will be presented on 5 September 2006 at International Riversymposium, a forum focussing on world's best practice river and catchment management, in Brisbane.

The International Riversymposium is a wake up call to better preserve and manage water resources. This year's theme of '*Managing rivers with climate change and expanding populations*' will address the challenge of meeting human needs for water under changing climatic conditions.

The International Riversymposium is an integral part of Brisbane's annual broad-based cultural event, the Riverfestival. Now in its ninth year, the global forum attracts water experts from around the world and Brisbane will be buzzing with new ideas, policies, agreements, debates and technology to address some of the world's most pressing water related issues.

The 9th International Riversymposium will be held at Brisbane's Convention Centre from 4-7 September. For further information and registration details visit: www.riversymposium.com

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Editors note: Regular Riversymposium news updates will be posted at:
<http://www.riversymposium.com/index.php?page=SymposiumMedia>

2006 NATIONAL THIESS RIVERPRIZE FINALISTS

MARGARET RIVER CATCHMENT - Cape to Cape Catchments Group, WA

The Cape to Cape Catchments Group was formed in November 2000. It works with the community and management agencies to ensure that natural systems, people and their activities coexist in a healthy, productive and sustainable way. It is a community organisation that works in partnership with all land managers (public and private) to undertake on-ground environmental work and other natural resource management activities. The group works in catchments between Cape Naturaliste and Cape Leeuwin, extending inland to include the Margaret River catchment, in the south west of Western Australia.

<http://www.swcatchmentscouncil.com/cape.htm>

http://www.wrc.wa.gov.au/ribbons/geographe_region.html

DEE RIVER CATCHMENT - Wowan Dululu Landcare Group, QLD

The Dee River is in the upper reaches of central Queensland's vast Fitzroy River catchment. For years, the Dee River was contaminated by acid mine drainage. The Wowan Dululu Landcare Group, concerned about acid seepage into the river downstream from the historic Mount Morgan mine, has driven a suit of environmental repair including a dam remediation project, a lime-dosing water treatment plant, and a holistic approach to river management. After flowing through the historic Mount Morgan gold mining area, Dee River flows west into the Dawson River, which eventually feeds into the Fitzroy River near Rockhampton.

<http://www.catchment.com/cis/Dee/nht.html>

LAKE MACQUARIE CATCHMENT - Lake Macquarie Catchment Coordinator, NSW

Lake Macquarie is part of a large estuary system on the central coast of New South Wales. The Lake Macquarie Improvement Project began as a joint initiative of Lake Macquarie City Council, Wyong Shire Council and the New South Wales State Government. Developed by the NSW Premier's Task Force in 1998 to improve the health of Lake Macquarie, overall management is the responsibility of the Lake Macquarie Project Management Committee and implementation is carried out through the Office of the Lake Macquarie and Catchment Co-ordinator. The project has developed a successful integrated catchment and estuary management program with a strong emphasis on community involvement.

<http://www.livinglakemacquarie.org>

TORBAY CATCHMENT – Torbay Catchment Group and Department of Environment, WA

The Torbay Catchment is a valuable fishing, farming, tourism and conservation resource for the people of the south coast of Western Australia. The catchment is located 26 kilometres west of Albany on the south coast of Western Australia. The Torbay Catchment Group's vision for its catchment is 'an environmentally clean, balanced ecology supporting a prosperous community in which people respect each other's use of the catchment and waterways'. The Department of Environment is the lead government agency in Western Australia to manage and protect the state's environment and water resources. Both organisations coordinate "Watershed Torbay" to restore catchment and waterway health.

<http://www.torbay.scric.org/index.html>