

# 13<sup>th</sup> International Riversymposium



## 2010 Future Water Leaders Award Winner could be from Western Australia

The Future Water Leaders Award is designed to recognise young researchers who have new results to communicate about a water-related topic. The Award promotes excellence in the development of those who are capable researchers, communicators and innovative thinkers. It gives postgraduate students the opportunity to raise the profile of their research and receive recognition for their work.

The finalists for the Future Water Leaders Award will present their work during concurrent sessions on Monday 11 October and the winner will be announced during the closing plenary on **Thursday 14 October**, 11:00am – 12:30pm.

Congratulations to the finalists for 2010 –

### Chris Hallett

Centre for Fish and Fisheries Research  
Murdoch University, WA



Originally from the UK, Chris gained a BSc in Biology from the University of Manchester, studying among other topics, the effects of light on the health of Costa Rican tree frogs, before commencing an MSc in Marine Environmental Protection at the University of Wales, Bangor.

During his MSc, Chris held a volunteer research fellowship at CSIRO in Hobart, studying the diet and feeding ecology of two deep-sea dogfish species on Tasmanian seamounts.

Chris fell in love with Australia during his time in Tasmania and so in February 2007, began a PhD in the Centre for Fish and Fisheries Research at Murdoch University. His thesis, funded by the Departments of Water and Fisheries, the Swan River Trust and the Western Australian Marine Science Institution, sought to develop a multimetric index for assessing the ecological health of the Swan Estuary.

### Dominic Skinner

The University of Adelaide, CSIRO Water for a Healthy Country Flagship, SA



Dominic Skinner is currently undertaking a PhD at the University of Adelaide in collaboration with CSIRO's Water for a Healthy Country Flagship Programme (2009-11 scholarship recipient). Dominic's research examines the effects of water level decline on Lake Alexandrina in the Lower Murray River,

focussing on the changes to sediment redistribution by wind. More broadly, his research interests include the cumulative effects of climate change and river regulation on water availability for human use and environmental flows.

Most recently, Dominic's research was presented in Santa Fe, USA to the joint meeting of ASLO and NABS. He has also presented at the Australian Climate Change Adaptation Research Network for Settlements and Infrastructure and a number of other meetings.

Chris' current research centres on estuarine fish community ecology, the concept of ecological health, its monitoring and assessment and the use of ecological indicators for aquatic ecosystem management. In addition, his broader research interests include approaches to managing and restoring estuaries, wetlands and other ecosystems; the relationship between biodiversity and ecosystem function; studies of diet and trophic partitioning among fish; the factors affecting the temporal and spatial distributions of species and multivariate methods for analysing ecological data.

Dominic was recently a consultant on a project examining the toxicity of limestone on small-mouthed Hardy Heads. He has also worked in the Biological Research Division of the Australian Water Quality Centre, in the Environment Department of West Torrens Council and for Measurement Engineering Australia building weather monitoring systems.

Dominic completed Honours in Environmental Management at the Flinders University of South Australia and has a Bachelors degree in Science, majoring in Chemistry and Biochemistry, from the University of Adelaide. He is an avid squash player and has a keen interest in wildlife photography.

To see exactly when both Chris and Dominic are presenting, view the full program on our website - [www.riversymposium.com](http://www.riversymposium.com)

### **MEDIA SHOULD REPORT TO THE REGISTRATION AREA ON ARRIVAL AT BURSWOOD CONVENTION CENTRE FOR INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE**

For information regarding these themes and the program, please visit – [www.riversymposium.com](http://www.riversymposium.com)

For further information and interview opportunities contact –

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**Riversymposium is being held at the BURSWOOD ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX, Convention Complex**

