

*9th International
Riversymposium 2006*
4-7 September Brisbane Australia

Water solutions to feature in public events

The world's river and catchment management community will descend on Brisbane from 4 to 7 September for the 9th International *Riversymposium*. They will be joined by internationally acclaimed speakers to share ideas, new science and best business practice, public policy and community initiatives showing the way forward in response to the challenges of climate change, expanding populations and sustainability of our river systems.

The public program allows the general public to understand and engage in the environmental issues discussed by world leading scientists and the river community at this forum.

For ideas on how and why we should change our water use, protect our rivers and waterways, and avert greenhouse gas emissions - in our homes, neighborhoods and cities – Brisbane residents are invited to attend five free Symposium public events:

Opening speeches of the International *Riversymposium*

Speakers include the Federal Minister for Environment and Heritage, Senator Ian Campbell; Premier Peter Beattie; World Bank water policy advisor David Grey, and environment writer Fred Pearce, author of the new book 'When the Rivers Run Dry'.

Date: Monday, September 4

Time: 9.00am – 10.30am

Cost: Free

Venue: Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, Plaza Terrace Room

An Inconvenient Truth

If the vast majority of the world's scientists are right, we have just ten years to avert a major catastrophe that could send the planet into a tail-spin of destruction involving extreme weather, floods, droughts, epidemics and killer heat waves beyond anything we have ever experienced. That's the bottom line message from an '*An Inconvenient Truth*' a new movie by director Davis Guggenheim which offers a passionate and inspirational look at one man's fervent crusade to halt global warming's deadly progress in its tracks by exposing the myths and misconceptions that surround it. Former US Vice President Al Gore's devotion to help save the planet from irrevocable change is captured in this poignant film described as 'activist cinema at its best'.

Date: Special advanced screening, Sunday, September 3

Time: 6.30pm – 8pm

Venue: South Bank Cinema Complex, 167 Grey St, South Bank

Cost: Free

Bookings: Open on Friday 18 August at rsvipinconvenient@riverfestival.com.au. One double pass only per booking.

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Will Brisbane drink recycled water?

Riverfestival has challenged five leading Brisbane advertising agencies to use their creative genius to sell the public on drinking recycled water. A hypothetical challenge but potentially a very real possibility in the future, each agency has been briefed to develop a single billboard campaign to debunk some of the myths surrounding recycled water and use their creative brilliance to convince the public that recycled water is in fact easy to swallow. Hear from our panel of experts from scientific and research fields and cast your vote for the billboard campaign that convinces you to drink recycled water.

Date: Monday 4 September

Time: 6pm-7.30pm

Cost: Free

Venue: Plaza Terrace Room, Plaza Level, Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, South Bank

Billboard display, Tuesday 5 – Wednesday 6 September 8am-5pm and Thursday 7 September 8am-12noon, Plaza Level Foyer, Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

When the Rivers Run Dry

Fred Pearce calls for a 'blue revolution' to avoid the impending global water crisis in his latest book, *When the Rivers Run Dry*. The author's 15 year odyssey researching water issues has taken him to 30 countries - from our own Murray Darling River system to the banks of England's Thames River. He reveals the personal stories behind failing rivers, barren fields, desertification, floods, water wars and the death of cultures. Locating our regional water crisis in a global context, he also offers a way forward to meet this global challenge.

Date: Monday 4 September

Time: 6.30pm to 8pm

Venue: The Irish Club, 173 Elizabeth Street, City

Cost: \$12 full price, \$8 concessions

Bookings: Avid Reader on 3846 3422, or purchase in person at the store at 193 Boundary, Street, West End

H2O Solutions Forum

Want solutions for smarter water use? A panel of experts will discuss the alternatives of desalination, water recycling and dams. The forum will be moderated by ABC presenter Richard Fidler. The panel includes environmental authority Dr Caroline Sullivan of the UK's Centre for Ecology and Hydrology; international desalination expert and head of the Global water Partnership, Emilio Gabbriellini; pioneering Toowoomba Mayor and advocate for water recycling, Cr. Di Thorley; director of the Australian Research Centre for Water in Society, Dr Blair Nancarrow; and river scientist Dr Stuart Bunn of the Centre for Riverine Landscapes, Griffith University.

Date: Wednesday, September 6

Time: 6 pm – 7.30pm

Cost: Free

Venue: Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Plaza Terrace Room

Visit: www.riversymposium.com and www.riverfestival.com.au

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