



MEDIA RELEASE

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Lake Macquarie Wins \$150,000 in 2008 National Thies Riverprize

A groundbreaking river management project initiated by the Lake Macquarie Project Management Committee has won the prestigious \$150,000 National Thies Riverprize – the largest award in its field and presented in partnership by International Riverfoundation (IRF) and Riverfestival.

Lake Macquarie was announced as the winner at the National Thies Riverprize Presentation Dinner tonight at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre during the 11th International Riversymposium (1 to 4 September 2008).

Riverprize Judging Panel Chair, Professor Paul Greenfield, said the improvements made to Lake Macquarie's long term sustainability were outstanding and those involved in delivering the project should be very proud of their efforts.

"The Lake Macquarie Project Management Committee has been working towards improving the health and ecological sustainability of Lake Macquarie for a number of years and as a direct result has seen important increases in sea grasses and improved water quality," Professor Greenfield said.

"The project also initiated a dedicated team to implement community education and engagement programs which has developed a permeating culture of green living and positive changes in behaviour throughout the community.

"The inspirational outcomes of this project were made possible through the co-operation of scientists, community groups, industry members and government agencies and exemplify the spirit of the National Thies Riverprize.

"It's an honor to reward a project that has done such a brilliant job taking river and water issues into its own hands and delivering such exceptional results.

"2008 marks the 10th year of the National Thies Riverprize and it's inspiring to see such dynamic projects improving our waterways' ecological sustainability year in and year out," he said.

Lake Macquarie was chosen over three other outstanding Australian finalists which included the Derwent Estuary in Tasmania, the Tweed River in New South Wales and the Swan Canning River System in Western Australia.

The Thies Riverprize is a partnership between International Riverfoundation and Riverfestival - a dynamic ten day event in celebration of Brisbane's river, people, culture and environment held from 29 August to 7 September 2008.

For further information on the 2008 National Thies Riverprize visit www.riversymposium.com.

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Riverfestival is an initiative of Brisbane City Council and the Queensland Government.