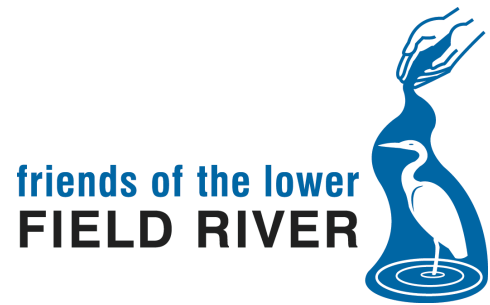


# MEDIA RELEASE

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## From the Field River to Buckingham Palace

One of the founding members of Friends of the Lower Field River (FoLFR) will be recognised for his volunteer work at a Buckingham Palace gala dinner in June.

**David Speirs**, 25, of Hallett Cove, has been selected as one of ten young leaders from around the world as part of the Peter Cruddas Social Innovation Program, an initiative of one of the UK's most generous entrepreneurs.

David was one of a group of Hallett Cove residents who founded FoLFR in 2006 to preserve and revitalise the river that flows near their homes. From a nucleus of neighbours keen to stop the river from being choked by rubbish and pollution, the group has grown in scope and membership to become a vibrant community committed to handing future generations a river that is a thriving focal point in the heart of Hallett Cove.

David's work as a long-term FoLFR committee member has included a range of community engagement activities focused on bringing the wider community along on the group's journey. This has included a successful youth forum, regular newsletters and an ongoing drive to see other groups established further upstream to improve the health of the river.

David will now travel to London to join ten other young people from Pakistan, Canada, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa and the UK who have been selected to participate in the Peter Cruddas Social Innovation Initiative. Peter Cruddas, one of the UK's richest people, established the Peter Cruddas Foundation in 2006 to assist young people into community leadership opportunities. In 2009, he sent researchers across the world to select ten young people worthy of recognition for the work they were doing in their community. Through the South Australian government's Office for Youth, and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, David's work was discovered and nominated to a selection panel in London where it was chosen for international recognition.

All ten young people will be involved in a series of workshops with community development experts to look at ways to increase the influence of their initiatives and will then be recognised at a Buckingham Palace dinner hosted by HRH Prince Edward.

David said that the opportunity to go to London was a great honour which was more a reflection on the power of a community pulling together than his own achievements.

'I've always been passionate about my community and the environment. I've been doing environmental work since I was a little kid and when I heard that a group was getting together to fix up the river on my doorstep, I had to get involved. It's been a great way to get to know my neighbours and make a real environmental difference.'

David Greenhough, Chair, Friends of the Lower Field River, said that the trip was 'exciting news and that it was good to see David receive such significant recognition for his involvement in the group.'

David is also an Adelaide University law graduate, 2009 City of Marion Young Citizen of the Year and Brighton Surf Life Saver.

**David can be contacted on 0401 163 183.**

**For more information about Friends of the Lower Field River visit: [www.fieldriver.org](http://www.fieldriver.org)**