

9 October 2007

## WESTERN CATCHMENT PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The winners of the 2007 "Life & Light in the Western Catchment" photographic competition were announced today.

### Open Colour

Winner 'Shearing Time' – Alison Mead, Broken Hill  
Runner up 'The Importance of Water on the Land' - Paul Swainston, Cobar  
Highly Commended 'Mud Bashin' – Debbie Symonds, Broken Hill  
'Morning Beauty After the Rain' – Suzanne Mansell, Bourke  
Staff Selection: 'Regeneration' – Barbara Gough – Broken Hill

### Open Black and White

Winner 'Will Murray – The Right Direction' – Jo Coleman, Walgett  
Runner-up 'Driving the Future of the Western Division' - Jo Coleman, Walgett  
Highly Commended 'Murray on the Darling 1865-' - Jo Coleman, Walgett  
'Race Ya' – Debbie Symonds, Broken Hill  
Staff Selection: 'Will Murray and Turbo' – Jo Coleman, Walgett

### Secondary Student

Winner 'Water' – Hayley Lawrence, Broken Hill.  
Runner-up 'My Brother' - Hayley Lawrence, Broken Hill.

### Primary Student

Winner 'Learning how it's done' – Sally Smyth, Willandra Station, Broken Hill.  
Runner-up 'When I grow up' – Ellie-Rain Symonds, Broken Hill.  
Highly Commended 'Full Creek' - Ellie-Rain Symonds, Broken Hill.  
'Rose Water' – Kelsey Donally, Cobar.  
Staff Selection: 'Ready for Shearing' – Sally Smyth, , Willandra Station, Broken Hill

Competition was very strong with 130 entries submitted.

**Broken Hill** took out ten of the seventeen official selections. Alison Mead won the Open Colour section, Debbie Symonds received a highly commended in the Open Black and White, while Sally Smyth and Ellie Symonds took out all but one selection in the Primary Student section. Competition veteran, Hayley Lawrence, took out both winner and runner-up of the Secondary Student section. Hayley has appeared in the winners list in every competition since 2002.

Jo Coleman of **Walgett** dominated in the Black and White section, winning four of the five official selections. Her portraits featured Will Murray and Dermot Murray, family members on either ends of the age spectrum.

**Bourke** local and competition veteran, Suzanne Mansell, received a highly commended in the Open Colour section for her entry "*Morning Beauty After the Rair*".



# MEDIA RELEASE



**Cobar** resident, Paul Swainston, was runner up in the Open Colour section, while Kelsey Donally received a highly commended in the Primary Student section.

The Western Catchment Management Authority's (CMA) Catchment Coordinator and member of the judging panel, Andrew Hull, said each photo was assessed for composition, suitability to theme, focus or sharpness of image, exposure and creativity.

"Some images would score highly in one area, but lose points in another. You can never be certain which images will rise to the surface when they are scored objectively," Mr Hull said.

Judges were impressed by the variety of images and interpretations on this year's theme, "Our Country, Our Life, Our Future".

"The photos demonstrated in a very graphic format, the diversity of landscapes within the Western Catchment and also the way in which people respond to them," he said.

"There were a lot of entries showing images of water or a lack of water, which emphasises how strongly the drought and water related issues are perceived throughout the Catchment.

"On behalf of the judging panel, I'd like to commend entrants on the high standard of photographs submitted and to encourage them to continue to look at life through the lens," Mr Hull said.

A number of photographs from the 2007 competition will join a selection of others from the previous nine years to be collated into a screensaver which will be available later in the year.

The screensaver, which will be available free of charge, will commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Light and Life of the Western Catchment Photographic Competition.

The winning photographs from the 2007 competition can be viewed on the Western Catchment Management Authority's website at [www.western.cma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.western.cma.nsw.gov.au)

## ENDS

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Captions:

1<sup>st</sup>\_OC\_Shearing Time by Alison Mead of Broken Hill

2<sup>nd</sup>\_OC\_The Importance of Water on the Land by Paul Swainston of Cobar

HC\_OC\_Morning Beauty After the Rain by Suzanne Mansell of Bourke

1<sup>st</sup>\_BW\_Will Murray: The Right Direction by Jo Coleman, Walgett

HC\_BW\_Murray on the Darling 1865- by Jo Coleman, Walgett

1<sup>st</sup>\_Secondary\_Water by Hayley Lawrence of Broken Hill

1<sup>st</sup>\_Primary\_Learning how it's done by Sally Smyth of Willandra Station, Broken Hill.

