

10 December 2007

## SCREENSAVER CELEBRATES TEN YEARS OF SPECTACULAR PHOTOGRAPHS

A collection of the best photographs submitted to the *'Life and Light of the Western Catchment'* photographic competition over the past ten years is available as a commemorative screensaver and will be exhibited at three major Western NSW centres from mid-December 2007.

*The Light and Life of the Western Catchment Commemorative Screensaver* was produced by the Western Catchment Management Authority (CMA) to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the photographic competition. The screensaver is available free of charge by ringing the Western CMA on 1800 032 101.

The collection will be exhibited at the Western Plains Cultural Centre in Dubbo from December 7 – January 12, at the Broken Hill Regional Gallery from mid-December, and at the Cobar Museum from December 18, when it will be officially launched. The winning entries from the 2007 competition will also be exhibited in Cobar from December 18.

Western CMA Communications Officer, Maree Barnes, says the screensaver and exhibition features 115 images chosen from over a thousand submitted between 1998 and 2007 that capture the Western Catchment.

"So many spectacular images have been submitted over the past ten years that we wanted to mark the ten year milestone by compiling them into a collection that both residents and tourists could enjoy," she said.

"The photographs reflect the changing seasons of the Western Catchment: from droughts to flooding rains; good times and bad," she said.

"During good years the photographs often feature the life-giving nature of water while the prolonged drought years have prompted images of resilience and bush humour. Each year one or more themes is set, which have included: My Favourite Place; Year of the Outback; Life Goes On; and Biodiversity at its Best.

"During The Year of the Outback, entries came from all parts of Australia, reflecting the unprecedented number of tourists who visited Western NSW during 2002.

"The winning photographs have been exhibited at numerous local venues including council chambers, field days and shows as well as the Royal Easter Show in Sydney in 2000, where they successfully communicated the beauty and diversity of Western NSW to a national audience," Ms Barnes said.

Photographs are assessed by a judging panel on the basis of suitability to theme, composition, focus or sharpness of image, exposure and creativity.

The most successful entrant has been Sheree Bamforth of **Cobar** who has featured in all competitions since 2002, often winning both first and runner-up place in the black and white



section. Others who featured regularly on the winners list include Suzanne Mansell and Heather Buster of **Bourke**, Sue Currey of **Walgett**, Ruth Sandow of **Milparinka** and Kelsey Donally of **Cobar**. The youngest winner was kindergarten student, Jake Smyth of **Cobar**, who used the prize-money from the 2005 competition to purchase his own camera.

Researching the collection also provided an opportunity to catch up with previous participants. In 2002, Zanna Gale of Pincally Station, Broken Hill photographed her six-month-old daughter, Isabella, perched on a wool bale. In 2007, Isabella is now big sister to Millie and Lucy, and their woolbales show the family's switch to organic wool.

## Contributing Photographers

### **Bourke Area:**

- Suzanne Mansell (7 photos)
- Heather Buster (5 photos)
- Jessica Muir (2 photos)
- Gail Watson
- Julie Mahony
- Leon Wicks
- Lisa Smiles
- Zoe Meakim
- Elizabeth and Paul Marrett (Brewarrina)
- Lee-Anne Hughston (Wanaaring)

### **Cobar Area:**

- Sheree Bamforth (14 photos)
- Libby Willis (3 photos)
- M & J Fisher (Tilpa – 2 photos)
- Jamie Sloan (2 photos)
- Angela Webb
- Jose Palma
- Jake Smyth
- Kelsey Donally
- Russel Harland
- Paul Christison
- Paul Swainston
- Paul Theakston
- Dianne Roche (Nymagee)

### **Broken Hill Area:**

- Ruth Sandow (Milparinka – 12 photos)
- Debbie Symonds (5 photos)
- Paul Seager (3 photos)
- Garry Hannigan (2 photos)
- Linda McBride
- Alison Mead
- Annette Turner (Fowler's Gap)



# MEDIA RELEASE



- Barbara Gough
- Beth Garland
- Brent McLaughlin
- Ellie-Rain Symonds
- Sally Smyth
- Jenny Sandow (Milparinka)
- Wayne Pearce
- Zanna Gale

## **Walgett/Lightning Ridge:**

- Sue Currey (3 photos)
- Jo Coleman (2 photos)
- B.Moritz

## **Dubbo:**

- Jenny Johnson (2 photos)
- Renee Shepherd (2 photos)
- Anne Wise

## **Sydney/Other:**

- Abi Sawell, Sydney
- Duke Albada, Boganbar
- Gail Stewart, Telopea
- James Young, Kingston-on-Murray, SA
- Kath Boyd, Sydney
- Kelly McKay, Bayview Heights
- Peter Duffy, Sydney
- Phillipa Blythman, Ballarat
- Rebecca Fielder, Wee Waa

## **ENDS**

For further information:

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## Captions:

- Isabella Gale on the woolbale, by Zanna Gale of Pincally Station, Broken Hill 2002
- Isabella Gale with sisters, Millie and Lucy, on woolbales showing the family's switch to organic wool.
- West of Milparinka (shearer) by Ruth Sandow, Milparinka 2001
- Tree hug by Sheree Bamforth, Cobar 2006
- Nature's beauty at Mutawintji by Suzanne Mansell, Bourke 2007
- Georgie and Sophie playing on dirt road by Sue Currey, Walgett 2002

