

15 April 2008

'EMBRACING CHANGE' IN PHOTO COMPETITION

The 2008 "Life & Light in the Western Catchment" Photographic Competition was officially launched today and people have until the July 11 deadline to enter their photographs.

This is the competition's eleventh year and its theme is "Embracing Change". It is free to enter and open to anyone, including children, whose photograph is taken within the Western Catchment.

Western Catchment Management Authority (CMA) Communications Officer, Maree Barnes, says this year's theme reflects the changeable nature of far-western NSW and people's ability to adapt to changes.

"Some parts of our Catchment have enjoyed significant rainfall for the first time in seven years and the country has changed dramatically. It has sprung back to life and we expect that many people have taken photographs that celebrate those improvements, Ms Barnes said.

"People in the far-west of the Catchment who are still very much drought-affected have had to be responsive to the continuing effects of dry times, which can also be shown in their photographs.

"The theme also recognises the ability of people to embrace change in the way they manage our natural resources: the land, water, vegetation and the variety of plants and animals in the Catchment.

"This may include stocking to conditions, managing weed and animal pests, fencing their waterways or converting machinery to minimum till," Ms Barnes said.

The theme is shared by the Western Catchment Landcare Forum, which will be held in White Cliffs during August, and will feature a range of speakers and activities focused on changes occurring in the semi-arid rangelands of NSW. An exhibition of the winning photographs is planned for the Forum.

The competition has four sections: open colour, open black and white, secondary student (colour or black and white) and primary student (colour or black and white).

Entry to the competition is free and people can enter as many photographs as they would like. Entries will be accepted until July 11.

Photographs, including digital images, should be supplied as a 10 x 15 cm print. Digital photographs must also be supplied on a CD. Photographs of recognisable people should include a completed consent to use form, which is included in the entry information pack.

Photographs should have been taken no earlier than 2006, must be unpublished and should not have won any other competition.

Winners receive cash prizes of \$250 for first place and \$50 for runners-up. Many entries are used in Western CMA promotional material, so photographs may be seen by thousands of people.



MEDIA RELEASE



Information packages, including entry & consent to use image forms, will be available at Western CMA and local council offices, by visiting www.western.cma.nsw.gov.au, calling 1800 032 101 or emailing western@cma.nsw.gov.au.

ENDS

For further information:

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Captions:

Cathy Finlayson of Bokhara Hutz, **Brewarrina**, is ready to start snapping in the 2008 Light and Life of the Western Catchment Photographic Competition.

'Mud Bashin' by Debbie Symonds, **Broken Hill**: a prize-winning entry in the 2007 competition.

'Morning Beauty After the Rain' by Suzanne Mansell of **Bourke**: a prize-winning entry in the 2007 competition.

'Regeneration' by Barbara Gough of **Broken Hill**: a prize-winning entry in 2007 competition.

'The Importance of Water on the Land' by Paul Swainston, **Cobar**: a prize-winning entry in 2007 competition.

