

7 May 2008

WEEDS PROVE WINNER FOR WESTERN CMA

Focusing on weeds proved a winner for the Western Catchment Management Authority, who won the title of Best Indoor Exhibit at Agfair held in Broken Hill last week.

The exhibit highlighted five weed species affecting the Broken Hill area: Mesquite, Bathurst Burr, Noogoora Burr, Paterson's Curse and Devil's Rope Cactus.

A weed identification competition attracted 150 participants, with locals Mary Jackson, Alison Palmer, Rex Andrews and Edwina Lord winning consolation prizes, while Paul McPherson of Victoria won the first prize of "Plants of Western NSW".

The exhibit featured the Western CMA's mobile plant nursery, which uses its automated watering system to produce 550 plants every three months. The plants were very popular when they were distributed free of charge when Agfair finished.

The winning entries of the 2007 Life and Light in the Western Catchment Photographic Competition were also on display with entry forms for the 2008 competition available for those interested in entering before July 11.

Western CMA Catchment Officer, Louise Turner, said they were delighted with the win.

"Agfair is a very important event on our calendar. We were very glad to see that local people were familiar with the weed species," she said.

"Providing advice on managing weed species is one of the services we offer and anyone concerned about a plant or wanting to learn more about the plants of Far Western NSW is encouraged to contact us on 08 8082 5200," Ms Turner said.

ENDS

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Captions:

Michelle Mannion of the Western CMA with the mobile nursery's creator and Broken Hill local, Peter Campigli, at the Western CMA exhibit.

