

12 August 2008

WESTERN CATCHMENT PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The winners of the 2008 "Life & Light in the Western Catchment" photographic competition were announced today.

Open Colour

Winner 'Life Line' – Andrew Barnes, Bourke
Runner up 'Changing Seasons, Changing Fortunes' - Andrew Barnes, Bourke
Highly Commended 'Time to go' – Helen Murray, Broken Hill
'Bush Orchid' – Helen Lavers, Millthorpe

Open Black and White

Winner 'On the road to change' – Jo Coleman, Walgett
Runner-up 'Prime' - Helen Lavers, Millthorpe
Highly Commended 'Faith in the Wool Job' - Jo Coleman, Walgett
'Kids Playing' – Debbie Symonds, Broken Hill

Secondary Student

Winner 'Life among the drought' – Brodie Nugent, Broken Hill
Runner-up 'Dog 2' – Chloe Howard, Ivanhoe
Highly Commended 'Road RIP' – Hayley Lawrence, Broken Hill
'Desert Rain' – Kellie Leaver, Broken Hill

Primary Student

Winner 'Reflect the beauty' – James Turner, Waverton
Runner-up 'The cracks of new life' – James Turner, Waverton
Highly Commended 'Cutting Edge' – James Turner, Waverton
'Barking Tree' – James Turner, Waverton

The Western Catchment Management Authority's (CMA) Communications Officer, Maree Barnes, said each photo was assessed for composition, suitability to theme, focus or sharpness of image, exposure and creativity.

"The judging panel took five hours to assess the 259 photographs submitted and make their decisions," Ms Barnes said.

"The judging took place in Cobar this year and was comprised of our Community Education Officer Lisa Crisp; Cobar-based professional photographer Mark Ingram; vice-president of the Cobar Arts Council Peter Rogers; and members of the Cobar Aboriginal Lands Council, Brenda Harvey and Sharron Olsen," Ms Barnes said.

Mark Ingram said he was impressed by the creativity some people used to convey the theme, "Embracing Change".

"Everyone has their own ideas and the photographs are all unique. In each case, we asked ourselves: 'what is this photographer trying to portray and does it work?'" Mr Ingram said.



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"The winning photograph of the open colour section, 'Life Line' by Andrew Barnes of **Bourke** was an aerial shot of an irrigated landscape near Bourke. It was very colourful and the lines and patterns made by the crop and the diagonal water channel gave it almost abstract quality," Mr Ingram said.

The photo also fitted the theme 'Embracing Change' well. Bourke has become synonymous with irrigated agriculture however drought conditions have meant that no cotton has been grown around Bourke in four of the seven years after 2001 and horticulture production has been reduced to a minimum.

"The weather changes as does people's ability to adapt to change, whether it's by embracing new crops or more water efficient technology and practices," Mr Ingram said.

Mr Ingram said judging the open black and white section was very tough and he was very complimentary of the winner, Jo Coleman of **Walgett** and her photograph, 'On the road to change'.

"This photographer obviously put a lot of thought into this photograph. The composition and balance of the shot was excellent. Having the younger generation, who will take on the challenges of the future, walking away from the camera, suited the theme perfectly.

"Unbeknownst to us, Jo won this section last year as well, so she obviously knows what she's doing.

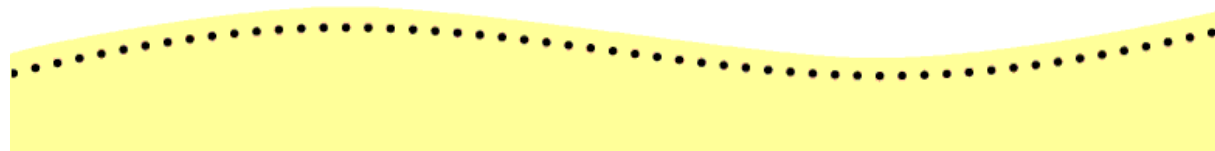
Mr Ingram loved the colour of 'Life amongst the drought' by Brodie Nugent of **Broken Hill**, which won the secondary school section.

"It contrasted the colourful dress of the young girl smelling the bright plants with the paving and sandstone buildings and really communicated that life and vitality can survive through a drought.

James Turner of Waverton in Sydney blitzed the primary school section, winning all four prizes. James is in Year 6 and took the photographs while visiting his relatives, Barry and Annette Turner, on Polpah Station near White Cliffs.

"James' talent is quite remarkable. The winning entry 'Reflect the beauty', which I believe is of a reflection in the rear window of a caravan, was extremely eye-catching and creative. The composition and depth in the photograph are excellent and it really shows the rich colours of Western NSW.

"Another of James' photos, "Cutting Edge" generated a great deal of discussion about the animosity towards and gradual acceptance of wide shearing combs over the past thirty years or so. It sums up the concept of embracing change in technology and work practices very well. The photograph itself is almost over-exposed in the area next to the window and very dark in the foreground but it works beautifully



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"In general, the standard of the photographs submitted was very high. My only advice to future participants is to think about the theme and consider being more creative in the way your photograph can match the theme," Mr Ingram said.

The photographs were displayed at the Western Catchment Landcare Forum, held in White Cliffs, last week and will be featured at various venues in the future.

The winning photographs from the 2008 competition will be on display at the Back O' Bourke Gallery in North Bourke from Friday 15 August and will be able to be viewed on the Western Catchment Management Authority's website at www.western.cma.nsw.gov.au

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For further information:

Maree Barnes, PR and Media Officer, Western CMA. Ph: 02 6883 3058/0427 256814

Captions:

'Life Line' – Andrew Barnes, Bourke

'Changing Seasons, Changing Fortunes' - Andrew Barnes, Bourke

'Time to go' – Helen Murray, Broken Hill

'Bush Orchid' – Helen Lavers, Millthorpe

'On the road to change' – Jo Coleman, Walgett (photo features: Sophie and Nick Hay-McKenzie)

'Prime' - Helen Lavers, Millthorpe (photo features: Dean Lavers)

'Faith in the Wool Job' - Jo Coleman, Walgett (photo feature: John Wheaton)

'Kids Playing' – Debbie Symonds, Broken Hill (photo features: Elijah, Oliver and Ellie-Rain Symonds, Emma Garter, Casey Algate and Brit Bloomfield)

'Life among the drought' – Brodie Nugent, Broken Hill (photo features: Hannah Curtis)

'Dog 2' – Chloe Howard, Ivanhoe

'Road RIP' – Hayley Lawrence, Broken Hill

'Desert Rain' – Kellie, Leaver, Broken Hill

'Reflect the beauty' – James Turner, Waverton

'The cracks of new life' – James Turner, Waverton

'Cutting Edge' – James Turner, Waverton

'Barking Tree' – James Turner, Waverton

