

6 April 2009

WESTERN CATCHMENT ENVIRONMENTAL CARERS DESERVE AWARDS

The Western Catchment Management Authority's (CMA) Community Education Officer, Lisa Crisp, today launched the Western Catchment Environmental Care Awards for 2009 and encouraged all residents involved in caring for their environment to enter.

Entries will be accepted until Friday, June 5.

"The Western Catchment Environmental Care Awards are held every two years and are an opportunity to recognise community groups, schools, business and individuals for their efforts," Ms Crisp said.

"I have just finished my first year working for the Western CMA and I am amazed by the wide range of people who are working hard to improve the land, vegetation, rivers, groundwater or biodiversity in the Western Catchment," Ms Crisp said.

"In the past twelve months I've seen schools involved in natural resource management, such as Goodooga Public School, who have fenced and are rehabilitating a section of the Bokhara River, the students from St Patrick's Primary School and Brewarrina Central School and students from five Bourke Schools who undertook tree-planting and Waterwatch activities, as well as Louth students who joined the Waterwatch program late last year.

"I've seen community groups, such as the Buckwaroon Landcare Group undertake projects including an educational program for the students of Cobar and the design and construction of a weed-seeking spray rig to enable them to improve their management of invasive native scrub.

"There are individuals who are implementing change on their property, such as encouraging groundcover by reducing total grazing pressure. Others are fencing waterways or embracing conservation farming techniques.

"These are just the people I come across through my work with the Western CMA. I know that there are many others who are also contributing to the goal of improving the health of the Western Catchment and the awards gives us an opportunity to recognise and also to learn from their experience.

"Whether they're part of an established Landcare group or not, I urge everyone to consider nominating themselves or people they know who are making a difference in our Catchment," Ms Crisp said.

There are eight categories:

- Business/Industry
- Community Group
- Environmental Education
- Indigenous Community Group
- Individual



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- Primary Producer
- Nature Conservation
- Rivercare

The winner of each category will receive a trophy and \$500 in prize-money. Runners-up will receive a framed certificate.

Entrants in the Western Catchment Environmental Care Awards are then eligible for the NSW Landcare Awards, to be held in Port Macquarie in September and the possibility of going on to become finalists in the National Landcare Awards.

Information packs and entry forms are available from all Western CMA offices and from the website www.western.cma.nsw.gov.au or by calling 1800 032 101.

ENDS

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Captions:

Alice, John and Grace Blore of Belmont Station near **Broken Hill**. John has designed and built a series of fences and traps to remove goats from the property.

Members of the Buckwaroon Landcare Group near **Cobar** inspect the weedseeking spray rig.

Members of the Kurnu-Barkindji Landcare and Cultural Management Group undertake revegetation works along the Darling River near **Bourke**.

Jaymie-Lee, Sophie, Lincoln, Mark, Bonnee, Meg and Kate from **Louth** Public School during a Waterwatch excursion to the junction of the Warrego and Darling Rivers.

