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Pictures of a dying river

Someone said a picture paints a thousand words. The Darling River Action Group (DRAG) hopes the same philosophy applies to photographs when it launches a mobile photographic display of what it calls 'the destruction of the Darling River'.

Silverton-based artist, Bronwen Standley-Woodroffe has donated a framed print of her painting 'Happy Maggie' to DRAG vice-president, Mark Hutton. The print will be raffled to raise funds for the construction of a mobile photographic display of the demise of the Darling, its catchments and tributaries.

When completed, the display will be located at various venues around Broken Hill and the region plus other major cities to impress on people the state of the river. DRAG blames over extraction of water from the Darling and it's catchments as the main reason for the present condition of the river.

Mr Hutton emphasised that DRAG is non-profit, non-funded organisation that relies on the generosity of the local communities and businesses for funding. He thanked Bronwen for her generosity.



A good cause: Mark Hutton and Bronwen Standley-Woodroffe with the 'Happy Maggie'

Scholarship to Menindee student

Sienna McInnes, Menindee, has been awarded the April Bottom Scholarship for 2007. Sienna is a young lady who has made the most from living and learning in the West Darling district for her whole schooling career.

Sienna was overjoyed when she was told the news. The selection panel agreed that she has worked hard to get where she is and will have a bright future if she is afforded the opportunity to extend her learning and training.

The scholarship is awarded annually to a young person from the Parish of the West Darling to undertake secondary or tertiary education outside the parish. A legacy from the late April Bottom of Menindee, the scholarship is administered by The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia, at April's request.

Before April lost her long and courageous battle with cancer in 2003, she and her husband, David, ran Wirryilka Station for many years and experienced first hand the difficulties of having their children educated.

This is the third year the scholarship has been awarded. Previous winners have been Brett Bonselaar from Windalle Station, via Menindee and Mitchell Foord from White Cliffs.

As the 2007 recipient of the scholarship, Sienna completes her final year of high school this year and will undertake tertiary education in a Certificate of Tourism at TAFE.

As a student at Menindee Central School since 1993 she has demonstrated an extraordinary level of achievement and a clear ambition to work in the tourism industry. As part of her senior studies, Sienna undertook a tourism course and is the only student in NSW to do so, by correspondence.

She has also undertaken work placements at tourism offices and travel agents. Her involvement in both school and community activities over the years

was recognised in 2006 when she was awarded the Australia Day Young Citizen of the Year by the Central Darling Shire Council.

The eldest of five children, Sienna

is very grateful for the opportunity the April Bottom Scholarship has provided for her to realise her dream of studying and ultimately working in the tourism industry.



Sienna McInnes: April Bottom Scholarship winner 2007