



Media Release

13 June 2006

Contest To Promote Understanding of Waterways

Show us how you feel about our waterways!

That's the challenge the Waimakariri District Council is sending to school students in the District.

The Council has today launched a still and moving picture competition with a view to encouraging young people to take a greater interest in their surroundings.

Chief Executive, Jim Palmer, believes the contest is a great way to encourage students to really explore their environment and their role in keeping it clean and green.

The competition will focus on the significance of waterways to our community.

By encouraging students to take a close up look at them, Jim Palmer says the Council hopes to promote greater understanding of the value of waterways to our community – and why we need to maintain and protect them.

The District contains a significant network of lakes, rivers, springs, streams, open races and stormwater drains.

Some of these systems provide the aquatic environment for fish and invertebrates and for the many variety of birds that live on or close to the waterways.

Others provide for recreation, irrigation and fire fighting, as well as channels for run-off from heavy rain and storm events when protecting properties from flooding.

Drainage Asset Manager, Murray Binnie, says the many and varied uses provide a number of opportunities for the photographers and moviemakers who choose to take part.

He suggests for example, a look at the stormwater reticulation at Northbrook Ponds, contamination in the Southbrook Stream, the value of a water race to a farmer for stock and irrigation, and even jetboating on the Waimakariri River – the District's largest waterway.

Many other examples can also be found throughout the Waimakariri District.

Students are being given free reign to present their work – it could be as a short video, a single photograph, a power point presentation, or a storyboard of photographs.

Younger students may simply wish to enter a hand-drawn poster.

The Council intends exhibiting the winning students work, which will be judged by industry professionals and Council staff. Councillor John Shivas will chair the panel.



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Entries to the inaugural Waimakariri District Council Still and Moving Picture Contest are open to all full-time students who currently reside or study in the Waimakariri District.

Collect an entry form from any Council Service Centre or Library or download one from our website www.waimakariri.govt.nz

Entries close at the end of July giving plenty of time for entrants to work some magic with their cameras.

Prizes will be awarded to both the students and, where they are currently studying in Waimakariri, also to their schools.

They will include cameras, cash, and vouchers.

Students are reminded to take care around waterways.

Note: While the competition is open to ALL full-time students who LIVE in the District, only students who are studying locally will be eligible to collect the School Prizes.

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