

CQLife

EXHIBITION LAUNCH



Drought... What Next?

» CAPTURED: Drought.. What Next? The exhibition, will display images like this one taken by Anne Smith.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

» A display of images captures the battle and hardship of the effects of drought

THE image of cattle returning from agistment to a destocked property is a sight too familiar for many struggling graziers and now the poignant pictures will be available for all to see in Drought... What Next?

The exhibition, is being launched at the Emerald Art Gallery on Friday, February 6, at the Emerald Art Gallery, 65 Egerton St, at 6pm.

Its striking images will tug at the heart strings of locals as they peer into the devastating effects of drought.

“The images are an important reminder of the life of our farmers and graziers as they battle through the worst drought this region has endured in three generations,” Centacare CQ diocesan director Dr Ricki Jeffery said.

Striking, heartbreaking and eye-opening describe the images in the distinctive photography exhibition, a social services organisation Centacare CQ project, aimed at keeping the ongoing issues of drought in the forefront of minds.

“The images are an important reminder of the life of our farmers and graziers as they battle through the worst drought...”

Featuring works by photographer Anne Smith, drought-affected landholders in the Central

West have come together to share their stories with the wider community.

“Centacare CQ received Federal funding to help drought-affected families,” Dr Jeffery said.

“When we asked the landholders how best we could help them, we heard overwhelmingly that they simply wanted the wider community to know their struggles were not over.

“This exhibition is a reminder to those on the coast, in the towns and cities, and to the politicians, that the effects of the

drought are devastating and long-lasting.

“The recent rain is not a magic fix and it will take a long time for seriously drought-stricken communities to heal and recover.”

First launched in Longreach in December, Dr Jeffery said the exhibition would also be shown in Barcaldine, before making its way to Brisbane.

“Eventually, we’d like to see these unforgettable photographs in Canberra’s National Gallery,” she said. Mayor Peter Maguire will

officially open the exhibition and encouraged the community to rally behind the event.

“I think this exhibition is a wonderful concept and an excellent way to demonstrate what drought really means to those people living through the experience,” Cr Maguire said.

“Our community is also suffering from a downturn, in terms of the resources sector, and I believe the locals can empathise with the farmers and graziers in the west.”

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