

A Song from the Heart



Many people rely on that dam for irrigation, stock water and the restorative power of recreational water.

As she listened to the heartbreaking stories of friends and family she decided to pen a song. Sitting in the middle of Coolmunda Dam, she asked her Mum to film it and put it out to plead with the universe to listen. So far, the universe hasn't responded but many people have watched the video. Her song and gorgeous voice have "gone viral" on social media. She speaks for all those struggling through yet another dry and desperate day. We all hope it gets heard, especially by "Mr Raincloud", who doesn't seem to be answering anybody's calls!

ICPA's purpose is to ensure our children can make the most of all their talents. All the work we do is to give our kids the opportunities and confidence to achieve anything they want to in life. Southern Downs Branch is proud to announce they have a very talented mathematician who also sings very well.

Courtney Markey has spent her whole life on the land near Inglewood and is a great example of an ICPA kid. At 19 she is now at university studying mathematics, but a visit home tore at her heartstrings. In the grip of the worst drought ever seen in this district, she was devastated to see Coolmunda Dam almost dry (currently at 2.7%).

Courtney says she is "very grateful for what ICPA does for us bush kids" and as ICPA families we all know the struggles firsthand and thank her for putting into words what we feel. As the song rises in popularity, we hope her words will strike a chord . . . help listeners stay strong through their crises, and challenge those who can help to do so.

As I write these words, yet another crisis is underway, and I want to send best wishes to all those fighting fires in the current emergency. The pleas to Mr Raincloud are even more poignant now.

Bernadette Walker

See the words to Courtney's song on Page 23



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Dear Mr Raincloud, why don't you hear me out
 Don't be stupid, just think clearly, we can talk this out,
 These people down here are waiting for your word
 To join the world now they're hurt, this is getting absurd.
 Listen to me, yeah we're running out of time
 The dams are dry we've reached the end of the line.
 There's no more feed, the trucks are here, it's full-time
 Please tell me, it's gonna be alright .

Dear Mr Raincloud you haven't returned my calls,
 The whole town is praying for the next rainfall
 We can't hold on how much longer does this have to last
 The rain tanks are running out much too fast
 No where to go, not a bit of pick anywhere
 There's no hope, no joy, just despair.
 Can't you see we're struggling, we're dropping off like flies
 Please don't make this my last goodbye.

It's soo dry I can't even cry
 It's too hard to try when all my cattle have died
 There's death in the air, everywhere, don't you care?
 I'm getting tired must rest my eyes, for a while.

Dear Mr Raincloud things are getting really bad
 My neighbours farm that he bought from his greatgrandad
 It's going under, where's the thunder
 He needs a miracle, can't keep his kids in boarding school
 I'm sorry son, I failed you, this drought has won.
 There's only one more job that needs to be done.
 Be a stronger man, take care of everyone.
 There's only one more bullet in the shotgun

It's soo dry I can't even cry
 It's too hard to try when all my cattle have died
 There's death in the air, everywhere don't you care?
 I'm getting tired must rest my eyes, for a while.

Dear Australia where have you gone?
 The drought relief has stopped but this drought still goes on
 Can't you hear our cries from your office chairs?
 Our world is crumbling and you don't even care.
 Our blood, our sweat, our tears, our hearts,
 Have grown this land, yeah it's who we are.
 We need your help we can't do it alone.
 Please help us fight for our homes.
 For our homes, for our homes.

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