

PRESS RELEASE | Brisbane | 21 January 2020

Photographers rally behind bushfire victims

The Queensland photographic community is being called on to support fotoAID, a series of charity events for fire-ravaged communities and wildlife being held in conjunction with the Queensland Centre for Photography.

QCFP and The Maud Street Photo Gallery director, Irena Prikryl, says interest is strong amongst members of the local photographic industry, with the initiative also being supported by leading photographers from around the world.

“We are reaching out to the photographic community to donate their talent and expertise for a week-long series of curated events. Our intention is to assist devastated bushfire communities to help rebuild their lives,” she said.

QCFP has donated gallery space and support for the events, and added, “The quality of art donated, together with the standing of our speakers will be a valuable source for charity and community involvement.”

Driving the event is local professional photographer and filmmaker Damian Caniglia who says “It’s important for the photography community to come together with a show of support for victims of this tragedy, both in terms of financial assistance, as well as a community approach to understanding that the rebuild process doesn’t just include houses and buildings. Supporting people through their personal recovery after such difficult times is equally important and often takes a lot longer”.

Six-time Australian Professional Nature Photographer of the Year, Darren Jew, is encouraging photographers to become involved in the events in any way they can: “This ongoing tragedy is shared by all Australians.”

“Apart from the immediate desire to reach out and help those affected, the fact is that all our work as photographers is derived directly from nature and community, so it’s our collective responsibility to return the favour” says Darren.

PRESS RELEASE (Continued)

fotoAID events include:

- **fotoAID Print Swap Exhibition**, a week-long exhibition featuring the work of some of Queensland's leading photographers. Open to the public (Gold coin donation). Works for sale.
- **fotoAID Conference** A two-day conference "Responding to human and environmental tragedy through reportage and photoessay" will bring together all those interested in photo journalism to discuss the future of authentic visual story-telling into the future.
- **fotoAID Print Auction** of work by some of the world's leading photographers.

The fotoAID Print Swap Exhibition opens to the public on February 18th, and the conference will be held on the weekend of February 22nd and 23rd. The events will be held at The Maud Street Photo Gallery, located at 6 Maud Street, Newstead.

Funds raised through fotoAID bushfire recovery events will be distributed via the QCFP to the Red Cross Disaster Relief and Recovery fund, and to state-based wildlife rehabilitation organisations: WIRES (NSW); Wildlife Victoria; and Fauna Rescue SA.

For further information on how you can become involved, and for conference and exhibition updates please contact:

Irena Prikryl on 0432 798 820

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PRESS RELEASE (Ends)

The organisers and participants in fotoAID offer their condolences to the families and communities who have suffered such grievous loss in these horrific circumstances. We would like to thank in advance to all the emergency services, volunteer services, photographers, supporters and other members of the public who are helping to support the rebuilding of communities during such difficult times.

Brisbane fotoAID Events Program Outline

fotoAID 2020 Conference 22-23 February

Responding to human and environmental tragedy through reportage and photoessay

Photojournalism has long played a key role in communicating social and environmental issues. In the context of digital disruption, how can authentic photo story telling remain relevant?

The fotoAID Conference is a direct response to the tragedy of the Australian bushfire season of 2019-20. The event will draw on first-hand experiences of photographers sharing their thoughts on the scale of the tragedy and the methods they employ to cover such events.

The conference will also hear from photo curators and academics to gain an insight into ways of disseminating photojournalism in a digestible form for contemporary and future audiences.

Confirmed Speakers and their topics:

- **Elise Searson** In the Path of the Fires
- **Alison Stievsen-Taylor** The Visual Journalist as Entrepreneur
- **Doug Spowart** Photobooks and the story of tragedy
- **Earle Bridger** Nurturing future visual storytellers

Additional Speakers and Topics TBC

fotoAID Charity Print SWAP 18-23 February

Photographers are invited to contribute an image that will be printed and exhibited for one week at The Maud Street Photo Gallery in Brisbane. Participation in the event is by way of \$100 Donation.

fotoAID Print Auction 22 February

Prints by some of the world's leading photographers will be auctioned in support of Bushfire Recovery.

Details of speakers and contributing photographers will be updated through Social Media Channels as they are announced.

www.fotoaid.com.au