Full Moon Hotel staff (from left) Aaron, Christine and Jeremy.

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A FEAST RAISING FUNDS FOR FARMERS

Story Philip Woods Story Paul Neil

Some of 4017's favourite local venues are stepping up to help support Australian farmers who are suffering through the drought, by taking part in the national 'Parma for a Farmer' initiative.

The initiative is a grass-roots campaign that has taken one of the country's favourite pub meals, the humble yet glorious Chicken Parmigiana, and turned it into a way to raise much needed money to assist farmers affected by severe drought.

A document released by the Climate Council of Australia in June shows that 16.4% of New South Wales and 57.6% of Queensland have now been declared as suffering from drought conditions.

Luci and Toby Black, proprietors of the Full Moon Hotel in Sandgate, have joined the widespread efforts to help those in need.

Each Friday, Saturday and Sunday throughout August and September The Full Moon are donating \$2 from every Parma sold plus 100% of sales of 'Karma Kegs', and all money raised will be donated to Drought Angels, a charity devoted to supporting our farmers affected by drought. Luci says, "We selected Drought Angels as they offer a personalised assistance to struggling farming families that provides not only feed hay, but so much more - fuel costs, food hampers, medical needs, care hampers and mental health support."

Jenny White, owner of The Bracken Ridge Tavern, is also proud of her venue's involvement.

"We want to do what we can to make difference. We were doing 'Parma for a Farmer' throughout all of August, and we are also donating an extra \$5000 ourselves towards the cause.

"We have drought relief donation buckets all around the [Bracken Ridge Tavern] premises, and we will be holding a major country music event in November to raise further funds," Jenny says.

The challenges faced by farmers in our current harsh conditions are significant; with this year following a 2016/17 summer that inflicted record-breaking temperatures on our land, and a winter characterised by record dry conditions.

So until the rains come, remember that helping out those most affected by drought can be easy and even tasty, so support our local businesses that support our nation's farmers!

Factsheet: Climate change and drought factsheet June 2018. Authors: Will Steffen, Martin Rice, Lesley Hughes and Annika Dean.